

brother surprises senior Chyna Blackmon as escort

kristina grant, chandni amin

Even when thousands of miles apart, they remained closer than ever.

Chyna Blackmon, senior, and her brother, Jason Blackmon, never let the distance come between them.

"It was hard, being so far away from him because we were so close growing up,"

Blackmon said. "When he left I was the only child in the house, so I missed him a lot. Our relationship didn't change though, because we still talked [frequently]."

Being only six years apart, Chyna and Jason had always been inseparable.

"We're the type of siblings that always picked on and teased each other,"

Blackmon said. "On the other hand, I knew I

could vent to him for advice and tell him anything without judgement, which was what truly made him such a good brother."

After graduating in 2010, Jason left to go to basic training before being stationed in

Italy for a couple of years.

"Even when he was sent off to basic training, I still really missed him; so when he went to Italy, it was hard to get used to," Blackmon said.

After entering high school, Chyna kept herself busy by participating in extracurriculars. Despite being so involved, the nomination for Homecoming Queen was completely unanticipated.

"I had no idea that Ms. Rebholz was going to nominate me," Blackmon said.

"Homecoming Queen was something that would've been an honor to have but I didn't originally want it until after being nominated."

However, becoming a candidate wasn't the only surprise coming to Chyna. Since her brother was stationed in Abilene, TX, Chyna's mom was going to be her escort. But right before halftime, she realized her mom had left. It was then that her unexpected guest made his appearance.

"I just glanced back and my brother was running behind me," Blackmon said. "I was immediately in tears and hugged him, and all he did was smile at me and said, 'Come on, don't you need an escort?'"

Although she didn't win the title of Homecoming Queen, Chyna received something just as, or perhaps even more, memorable.

"His being home to see me for something like Homecoming was the best feeling," Blackmon said.



For a class competition at the homecoming pep rally, junior Jekima Hibbert dances in a sumo suit. "The suit was hot and awkward, but I had fun dancing in it," Hibbert said. Photo by Katrina Gainey



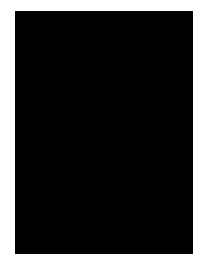
From left to right: Reese Bates, second runner up; Sabrina Suber, principal; Shayla Phillip, Homecoming Queen; Alorah Bell, first runner up. Photo by Jenny Proctor

JUST A BIT OF RAIN

The rain came pouring down, yet these students kept going.



"We were in the middle of a song when it started raining and saw people start running, so we finished the song and we ran too," junior Will Land, band member, said. Photo by Jordan Watkins



"The rain affected my accuracy and my footwork. I bobbled the ball a little bit. So we just ran the ball the rest of the game," Eric Brown, football player, said. Photo by _____



"All the cheerleaders were thinking the same thing - 'our hair and makeup will get messed up,'" junior Jasmin Crawford, cheerleader, said. Photo by Jordan Watkins

DON'T
RAIN
ON MY
PARADE

After being announced as one of the Homecoming Queen nominees, senior Chyna Blackmon stands smiling with her escort, Jason Blackmon. "His being home to see me for something like Homecoming was the best feeling," Blackmon said.

Photo by Jenny Proctor

During the pep rally, varsity cheerleader senior Aminah Anderson performs in a routine. "It [performing] was cool to be in front of the school and give it your all," Anderson said. Photo by Katrina Gainey



Led by seniors Zach Crumlich and Hamilton Matthews, the flag runners celebrate after a touchdown. "Being a flag runner was a tradition that was passed down to me and I hoped to pass it down and continue the tradition," Crumlich said.

At the pep rally, senior James Etheridge plays the Alma Mater with the band.



Pictured: singer Mila J., sophomore Jabrie Drakes, senior Jhordan Kinloch, freshman Catherine Gochett, senior Brea Clark
Photos by Casey McCardell, Tamia Heard, Bernise Cohen, Terri Washington, and Katrina Gainey