Were You There?

Were you there for the pep rally in the gym on Friday afternoon, where the entire student body of Roslyn High School – nearly 1,000 strong – cheered boisterously and without prompting for their school? Did you get goosebumps too each time the students erupted in spontaneous cheers for the band, the step team, the cheerleaders, and all their teammates and classmates?

Were you there on Friday evening in the cafeteria, where the Bulldog Boosters hosted the Homecoming dinner for all of the high school's student athletes? Did you see all the food generously donated by more than two dozen local businesses in support of our athletes? Did you see all the parent volunteers working in the kitchen and behind the counter?

Were you there on Saturday morning when hundreds of Roslyn alumni returned to the high school for the Homecoming breakfast in honor of the district's centennial celebration? Did you see them all joyously greeting one another? Did you see them walking through the halls of the school, quietly reliving a thousand memories and recollecting every minute detail of their alma mater? Did you see them in the gallery next to the Commons, viewing the photographic exhibit of the history of our district, and poring over the collection of yearbooks? Did you see all of the members of the Class of 1964 who had held their 40th reunion a week before? Did you hear William A. Hickson, Jr. of the Class of 1937 speak of his father, one of the first two RHS graduates in 1907, and thereby weave a thread of our history right back to the origins of the school district?

Were you there at the parade at midday as it wound its way through Roslyn's spectacular autumn streets by the duck pond, the clock tower, the Bryant Library? Did you hear the echoes of marching bands past as the drums beat the rhythm of the years? Did you see students, parents and staff from each one of our schools, and each of our four current high school classes, and all of our alumni, proudly carrying their own banners in the procession? Did you see the fire fighters and police officers so graciously participating, as they do each year, in this ritual of memory and tradition?

Were you at the game? Did you see the stands full to overflowing? Did you see the Marching Bulldog's brilliant halftime show, and the large crowd on its feet to catch every beautiful note and choreographed movement? Did you watch the step team and cheerleaders, too? Did you see the shirtless boys at the top of the bleachers with R-O-S-L-Y-N emblazoned on their chests, a team effort of cheering reflecting the teamwork on the field? Did you see how our varsity football players gave their all in a game that got away from them early, and how the crowd stayed to the end to applaud and dignify a courageous effort?

Did you see the banner hanging from the press box atop the grandstand, proclaiming 2004 as the 100th anniversary of the school district? Did you see among the hundreds watching the game the many faces of alumni also cheering for Roslyn – not a Roslyn despoiled by scandal, but a Roslyn that lives in their indelible memories, a Roslyn that signifies the permanence of achievement and the wonders of childhood, a Roslyn very much alive and thriving and unstolen?

Homecoming - October 16, 2004



























Photo key (by row from top left):

1 Cheerleaders get ready for the introduction of the student athletes at the pep rally.
2 The Marching Bulldogs' show at halftime.
3 The crowd on its feet.
4 Visitors loved the yearbooks in the historical exhibit in the gallery (still on display).
5 A banner proclaims the 100th anniversary of the Roslyn Public Schools.
6 The ubiquitous mascot (a k a Lisa Stern).
7 Alumni from many decades as well as retired faculty joined students and staff for the breakfast.
8 The parade makes its way back to the high school.
9 The varsity bulldogs in action again Island Trees.
10 Ray Jacobs & William A. Hickson, Jr. both of the Class of 1937, at the breakfast. Mr. Hickson's father was in the Class of 1907, one of the first two RHS graduates.
11 Enthusiasm grips the fans.
12 Honoring senior athletes and their families.
13 Mr Frey leads the Chamber Singers in the national anthem.

Photo credits: John Meehan (10); Yearbook student photographers (1), (6).