

## 064 DANCE



**WHAT YOU DON'T SEE** These student athletes spend lots of time and energy training beyond what you may see at the high school. Various activities ranging from dance to rodeo to swimming to gymnastics were unable to compete in their full seasons due to COVID-19, but the athletes involved continued to keep their heads held high in hopes to get back to doing what they love as soon as they could.

**BETTER WHEN I'M DANCING** TDC's Premiers document their very first day of dance for the 2019-2020 season. The group was ready to get their season started and had no clue what was to come due to the coronavirus pandemic. "My favorite part of dance is getting to have such an amazing family and competing all of our dances together. It is really sad that we had to stop our competition season in the middle, and I miss every single one of my teammates so much," said Junior **Meredith Binder**.

# DANCE

**1. THE LAST DANCE** Seniors **Haley Foster**, **Grace Larson**, **Harper Kopriva**, and **Jesslyn Messerly** squeeze in tight for a picture at their very last dress rehearsal. Little did they know their season would be cut short due to the coronavirus and connected closures. "My fave part of dance is competing and seeing all of our hard work pay off. It sucks that the virus came around when it did and messed with our competitions because we worked really hard for them, but I am thankful we were able to compete at least one. I will miss just being at the studio with my amazing team because we always have fun when we are together. The studio will forever be my second home," said **Foster**.

**2. STRIKE A POSE** The Dance Connection's premier small group takes a goofy picture backstage before they performed. Freshman **Gabbie Larson**, Senior **Haley Foster**, Sophomore **Cydney Schmidt**, Junior **Ashtyn Decoster**, and Senior **Grace Larson** performed two small groups at their first—and last—competition of their season. "I was very happy that I got the opportunity to dance in a small group this year with some of the older high school girls. We all became super close this year, and I will miss dancing with the seniors next year. I am super sad that our competition season has been impacted by the coronavirus because all of us have worked so hard for many months, and all of our hard work does not get to be shown off. And although this season has been impacted, the competition that we did get to go to was very successful, and we placed really well," said **Gabbie Larson**.

**3. SIDE-BY-SIDE** The Dance Connection's second premier small group of Junior **Emily Lovelace**, Seniors **Harper Kopriva** and **Jesslyn Messerly**, and Juniors **Jenna Geopfert**, **Gemma Borer**, and **Meredith Binder** hold hands as their ending pose in their lyrical small group at their dress rehearsal. "My favorite part of dance is watching all of the work and passion we put into our dances pay off when we compete. I'm disappointed that our season isn't going as expected due to the coronavirus, but I'm excited to get back in the studio with my dance family," said **Borer**.

SPREAD BY: **CYDNEY SCHMIDT, ERIN BAILEY, & KENDYL FELTS**





# RODEO



**GIDDY UP** Senior **Tatum Goings** (pictured above) and Freshman **Maddie Teague** (pictured right) usually spend their spring and summer competing on the rodeo team. Due to COVID-19 they have been unable to compete, but they hope to get back to riding as soon as they can. "Being a part of rodeo is like having a whole other family; everyone supports and wants the best for each other. Due to the coronavirus, I have not been able to compete in the last spring season of my high school career. We hope to still be able to have our state finals in June and our national finals in July. I really hope to be able to compete with all of my friends one last time this spring," said **Goings**. "What I love most about rodeo is being with my friends and family and meeting new people who have the same passion for the sport as me. I also love the encouragement from experienced athletes towards me and my peers," said **Teague**.



# GYMNASTICS



**FLIPPING OUT** Junior **Bryar Henderson** (pictured above left) and Senior **Peyton Hilpibre** (pictured above right) are sad to see their gymnastics season come to a close due to COVID-19, and they took the time during the closure to appreciate everything their teams have taught them. "I love the challenges gymnastics brings to me, the people I get to meet, and traveling for competitions," said **Henderson**. "My choice to be a part of USTA tumbling has been the best decision I've made during my school years. It has left me with the best memories, and I wouldn't trade them for the world. However, the coronavirus closures took away my last state and nationals, which was hard to accept as I wouldn't get recognized for this year as a senior and for my accomplishments I have made being a part of USTA tumbling," said **Hilpibre**. **JUST KEEP SWIMMING** Sophomore **Kyzer Stanley** was unable to have his swim season due to COVID-19. "What I love about swimming is no one can limit your success. You're in control and there are no judges, just a simple time. Just like track, you either qualify or you don't. I couldn't swim without my teammates. They are the real reason I love to swim," said **Stanley**.



# SWIM