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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

### Lancaster High School Homecoming King Continues Legacy

**Lancaster, TX/Lancaster ISD** – When Taiyoun Nichols was announced as the 2016 Lancaster High School Homecoming King on October 14, his father, Lancaster High School graduate Torey Nichols, stood in the stands in amazement and watched history repeat itself.

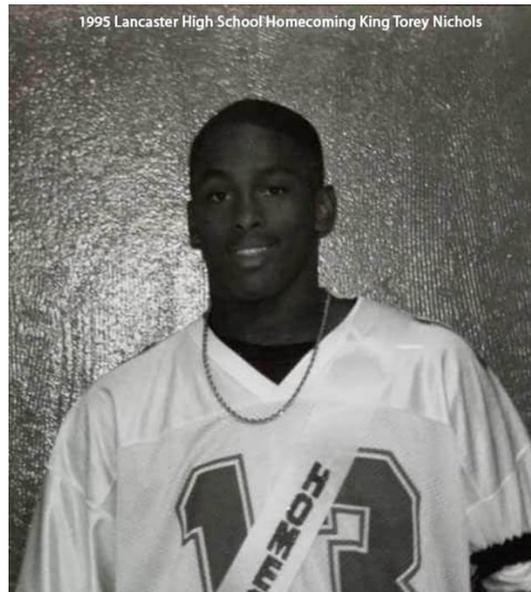
“It really felt surreal to watch my son be crowned the LHS Homecoming King,” Torey Nichols said. “I attend all of his games, but the Lancaster Homecoming game is special. My high school friends were here with me celebrating our 20-year reunion and they had the chance to witness my son be crowned just like I was my senior year.”

Twenty-one years ago, Torey Nichols was the starting running back and defensive

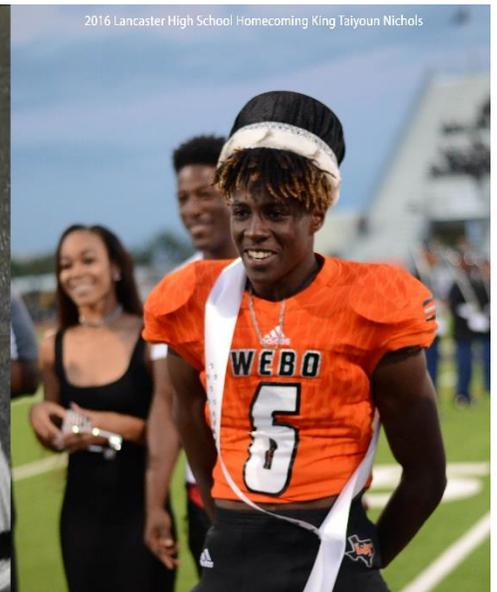
back for the LHS football team. He served as team captain for the Tigers during the 1995 season and was named to the UIL First Team All-District team for offense and defense. Fast-forward to the present and his son Taiyoun Nichols is now following in his footsteps as an LHS football team captain, an explosive defensive back and now the 2016 LHS Homecoming King.

“It makes me feel proud to be Homecoming King. I know my mother [Quolanda Burleson] was happy and it really meant a lot to my dad for me to win,” Taiyoun Nichols said. “My dad is the person who suggested I go out for it and I believe I was able to win because I had the support of my football team.”

Team support is very important to the 6’ 1” senior who has been selected as the team’s Defensive Player of the Game twice this season and ranks in the top five of players with the most team tackles on defense. LHS Football Head Coach Chris Gilbert believes Taiyoun’s father’s football influence has played a role in the type of player and team leader Taiyoun is on and off the field.



1995 Lancaster High School Homecoming King Torey Nichols



2016 Lancaster High School Homecoming King Taiyoun Nichols

“Taiyoun is a good player who is committed to this team and represents the Lancaster Football program well,” Gilbert said. “His dad has been around him on the football field and has definitely passed along his love for LHS Football to his son. Taiyoun is the guy that loves his teammates, always echoes what the coaches say and protects the brand of the team.”

Continuing the legacy of LHS football is important to Taiyoun.

“I really look up to my dad when it comes to football. What he did in high school motivates me to do my best on the field,” he said. “He’s told me all the stories about him playing for Lancaster and wearing the number six jersey and that has stuck with me throughout the years. Now, I wear the number six jersey to carry on what he started.”

As a proud father, Torey Nichols is excited to continue to watch his son mature as a football player and young man. He is also confident that his son will make his own way and represent his alma mater well.

“I have always preached to him that it’s more than a game and I want my son and his teammates to make the most of their time playing for Lancaster High School,” he said. “I hope they enjoy their time in Lancaster like my teammates and I did, get their education and remain positive young influences for the younger kids in the Lancaster community. I am truly proud of my son and the Tigers and that will never change.”

The LHS Football team will host its last home game of the season against Waxahachie on October 28, 2016 at the Beverly D. Humphrey Tiger Stadium. Kick-off time is 7:30 PM and tickets are \$8 at the gate. For more information, please contact the Lancaster ISD Athletics Department at 972-218-1837.