

**Preview the season:**

Your #1 source for local high school football

**AUGUST 2017**

POWERED BY  
HILL COUNTRY NEWS  
& GOTXSPORTS.COM

# KICKOFF

## 2017

**FIND IT INSIDE:** DISTRICT

BREAKDOWNS, TEAM PROJECTIONS,

IMPACT PLAYERS AND STATISTICS

**PLUS** PREVIEW OUR LOCAL RIVALS,

STADIUM INFORMATION

AND MUCH MORE!

# JAYELEN GRAY

*High School Hero*

*Jayelen Gray is a fighter on and off the field. After facing his toughest opponent yet — cancer — he's back and ready to play.*





**COME ENJOY!**



**Monday-Thursday 11:00AM - 10:00PM**

**Friday-Saturday 11:00AM – 12:00AM**

**Sunday 11:00AM – 10:00PM**



**1821 S. Lakeline Blvd.**

**Cedar Park, TX 78613**

**737-300-2736**

**HookdCedarPark.com**

**SIDELINES**

**SPORTS GRILLE**



**200 Buttercup Creek Blvd.**

**Cedar Park, TX 78613**

**512-331-2091**

**SidelinesCedarPark.com**

**Sunday-Wednesday 11:00AM - 12:00AM**

**Thursday-Saturday 11:00AM – 2:00AM**



A woman with dark hair, smiling, holds a copy of Hill Country News. The newspaper's masthead "HILL COUNTRY NEWS" is visible. Below it, a headline reads "named the heart of the city" above a photo of a bridge. Other headlines include "Police honored", "PROUD TO BE A PART OF BUSINESS", and "hospital saves lives". In the foreground, a white cup of coffee sits on a saucer with a spoon. The background is a warm, yellowish-gold gradient.

# Start the morning off right with the News

The *Hill Country News* was founded in 1967.

We are proud to remain *your* community newspaper.

To advertise or subscribe, call 512-259-4449.

Our knowledgeable staff will be glad to assist you.

**HILL COUNTRY NEWS**  
[www.HillCountryNews.com](http://www.HillCountryNews.com)  
**(512) 259-4449**



**FREE**  
REPAIR ESTIMATE!



- Collision Repair & Paint
- Collision Mechanical & Frame Straightening
- Excellent Color Match Using PPG Paint
- Limited Lifetime Warranty
- Locally Family Owned & Operated Since 1986

2315 S. Bell Blvd., Cedar Park  
**512 258-7594**

2505 Hwy 183 S, Leander • **512-528-9233**

11111 RR 2222, Austin • **512-257-1885**

12952 Pond Springs, Austin • **512-331-1399**

***HeritageBodyAndFrame.com***

# KICKOFF

## ABOUT THIS SECTION

Publisher **SCOTT W. COLEMAN**

Editor **ZACH SMITH**

Sales **ROGER MUNFORD**

Design **CAROLINE BREWTON**

Advertising

**GINNY BROCK**

**RICARDO BENAVIDES**

**JEREMIE BOURCY**

## KICKOFF

Is powered by  
HILL COUNTRY NEWS  
hillcountrynews.com  
and gotxsports.com



Your source for high school football information on Leander ISD, Round Rock ISD, Georgetown ISD and Lago Vista ISD schools.

### HILL COUNTRY NEWS

715 Discovery Boulevard  
Suite 324  
Cedar Park, Texas 78613



### CENTRAL TEXAS KICKOFF

Copyright © 2017  
No material, including  
advertising and editorial  
content, may be repro-  
duced without prior written  
permission of the pub-  
lisher. Photos by Scott W.  
Coleman and Zach Smith



# KICKOFF FIND IT INSIDE

## GAMES TO WATCH

If you had to pick one game each week to see in person, here's where we think you'd be.

08



## TIEBREAKER, TIEBREAKER...

Only four teams from each district will make the playoffs. What happens when there are ties in district games?

60



621

## STADIUM STANDINGS

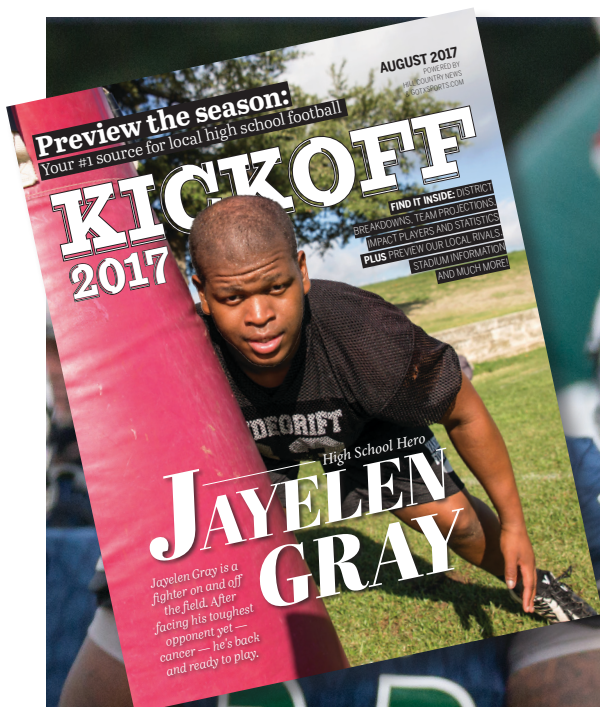
Where are your favorite teams playing this season?

## 53 HIGH SCHOOL HERO

VANDEGRIFT'S JAYELEN GRAY HAS BATTLED ON AND OFF THE FIELD, FIGHTING CANCER BETWEEN PRACTICES, TO BE ABLE TO PLAY HIS FINAL SEASON OF HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL. THIS IS HIS STORY.







## Leave Your Legacy Your Way



### Customized Estate Plans For You & Your Family

Estate Planning  
and Probate  
Administration

Call for a **FREE** consultation.

**(512) 655-2141**



**John M. Lane Law, PLLC**  
SIMPLIFIED SOLUTIONS

13785 Research Blvd.,  
Suite 125  
Austin, Texas 78750

O: (512) 655-2141  
C: (409) 550-0269  
john@johnlanelaw.com

www.JohnLaneLaw.com



### QUESTIONS ABOUT COLLEGE?

ACC enrollment advisors have  
answers about majors, college costs  
and university transfer. Start now!



**START NOW**  
austincc.edu/startnow  
512-223-7747



# GET LIVE GAME UPDATES!

follow @HCNsports on Twitter  
and visit hillcountrynews.com for daily updates

## A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

### DEAR READER,

Here in Texas, we love our high school football. In Central Texas, we are blessed to have some of the best high school football anywhere in the state. In the last five seasons, seven teams from our expanded coverage area have reached the state semi-finals or better. This season promises to be just as competitive.

The Hill Country News has been covering football in the north and northwest Austin suburban area since 1968. Earlier this year, we asked readers and area residents

to tell us what they like and don't like about our coverage, and perhaps more importantly, what they'd like to see more of. The result of that survey launched this magazine, which improves upon our traditional newsprint football preview sections and provides expanded coverage to all teams that our local programs will face in district competition.

While we've long covered Leander ISD programs and some of the Round Rock ISD schools, this year marks the launch of our new website and an even further expansion of our coverage of Texas' favorite fall pastime. Based on the results of our reader survey, we're launching gotxsports.com,

which we hope will become your top source for news and information about the 14 high school programs in Leander ISD, Round Rock ISD, Georgetown ISD and Lago Vista. Gotxsports.com will also provide coverage of college and NFL football in the state, which we hope will provide added value to our readers.

For now, please enjoy our look at the upcoming season and what we've learned about some of the teams and players that should make headlines this fall.

**SCOTT W. COLEMAN**, publisher



### CONNIE'S CAR WASH

- 310 Crystal Falls Parkway  
Leander, Texas 78641\*
- 400 Old Hwy. 183  
Cedar Park, Texas 78613
- 700 S. University  
Georgetown, Texas 78626
- 5509 Salem Walk  
Austin, Texas 78745

**CONNIE'S**  
**RV, BOAT & CAR WASH**  
Built Especially for Rv's & Boats  
• 1402 W. Whitestone Blvd (1431)  
Cedar Park, Texas 78613\*

Fleet Cards  
Available

Ask about your  
Connie's Card!

- Self Service
- Spot Free Rinse
- Covered Vacuum Area
- Touchless Automatic

(512)249-6867

[www.ConniesCarWash.com](http://www.ConniesCarWash.com)

\*Touchless Automatic



### N.E.W MINI STORAGE

- Outside and Covered Boat/RV Parking
- Storage Units – from 5x5 to 10x30
- Climate Controlled Storage Units Available



401 Horseshoe Drive, Leander, TX 78641  
(512) 259-2464



# 10

## GAMES TO WATCH

**E**very game means something when it comes to Texas high school football. Whether it's a rivalry game, a push for the playoffs, or simply for pride, Friday nights bring the best out of everyone. There are more than 3,700 high schools in the state with countless football games hosted filling the calendar. With more than 200 games in Central Texas alone, here's a quick look at 10 of the most mouth watering matchups with postseason, rivalry, or pride implications:

### 1. SEPT. 1 - VANDEGRIFT AT ODESSA PERMIAN, 7 P.M., RATLIFF STADIUM

The Vipers travel to West Texas to face off with the historic Panthers. Permian got the best of Vandegrift last season, winning 21-20 at Monroe Stadium. Vandegrift went on to reach the playoffs for the fourth straight year, while Permian missed out. The game will have live look-ins as part of FOX Sports Southwest's Football Day in Texas.

### 2. SEPT. 8 - LAKE TRAVIS VS. CIBOLO STEELE, 7 P.M., CAVALIER STADIUM

Two teams that were both playing on championship weekend face off in a mouth-watering non-district matchup.

Lake Travis won the state title with a dominant win against The Woodlands while Steele lost to DeSoto. In the reverse game last season in Cibolo, Lake Travis outlasted the Knights, kicking a field goal in the second overtime to come away with a 59-56 win.

### 3. SEPT. 23 - STONY POINT VS. ROUND ROCK, 7 P.M., KELLY REEVES STADIUM

The Dragons have won the rivalry game in each of the last six meetings dating back to 2010. The closest the Dragons have gotten was in 2014 when they lost 17-14. Round Rock scored 20 points in the first quarter last season and pulled away with 10 unanswered in the final quarter to win 38-17 last season.

### 4. SEPT. 29 - CEDAR PARK VS. ROUSE, 7:30 P.M., GUPTON STADIUM

Rouse has never beaten Cedar Park in its six-year history. The Timberwolves shut out the Raiders 31-0 last season in which they had 368 yards of offense and held Rouse to just four passing yards and 101 yards on the ground. Both teams are replacing players at key positions which, by this point in the season, should be well established.

### 5. OCT. 6 - EAST VIEW VS. GEORGETOWN, 7:30 P.M., BIRKELBACH FIELD

Since the rivalry began in 2012, the Eagles have dominated the Patriots, winning four of the five meetings, including a 56-29 win last season. Georgetown



ond-ranked offense, while East View returns most of its starters on both sides of the ball. The average margin of victory in the last two games has been 30 points. This season, that number should be much closer.

**6.** OCT. 13 - WESTLAKE VS. LAKE TRAVIS, 7:30 P.M., CHAPARRAL STADIUM

Not only one of the biggest rivalries in Central Texas, but in the entire state. Seemingly every season there are multiple Division I players on both side of the ball in this historic Austin matchup. Lake Travis has won 10 straight in the series dating back to 2007. The Cavaliers beat the Chaparrals 49-7 in district play and 51-3 in the quarterfinals en route to their seventh state tile last year.

**7.** OCT. 20 - CEDAR PARK VS. GEORGETOWN, 7:30 P.M., GUPTON STADIUM

The top two teams from District 19-5A last season face off. They both have district title aspirations and are sure to be reloaded on both sides of the ball. A matchup of Timberwolves' dominant defense against the Eagles' No. 2 offense from a season ago. This is sure to be a Texas shootout. Cedar Park beat Georgetown 41-20 last season and have won the last four games in the series.

**8.** OCT. 20 - ROUND ROCK VS. CEDAR RIDGE, 7 P.M., DRAGON STADIUM

Cedar Ridge went undefeated and won a district title and handed Round Rock its only loss of the district year last year. It was the first win of the series for the Raiders, who had lost the first four meetings. The top two teams in the district meet with new quarterbacks but the same playoff expectations.

**9.** NOV. 3 - WESTWOOD AT PFLUGERVILLE, 7 P.M., THE PFIELD

Things got crazy towards the end of last season in District 13-6A. Westwood beat Pflugerville 35-24 in the penultimate game of the season and both the Warriors and Panthers ended the year at 2-4 in district play in a five-way tie for third place. Neither team made the playoffs, but this is a must-win for either team looking toggged back there this time around.

**10.** NOV. 11 - LEANDER VS. LEHMAN, 7:30 P.M., BIBLE STADIUM

All eyes were on this game a season ago. A win by the Lions would have clinched them a spot in the playoffs thanks to a three-way tie in the district. Despite a late game run, Leander lost 23-21 and missed out on the playoffs. This game could once again decide postseason berths for multiple teams in the district.





Kick off the Fall right with a  
Fall System Check with Cool Atmosphere

TACLB44082E



Call before 12/01/2017 and mention  
"Fall Kick Off" and receive a 15% off a  
seasonal system check.

This is for one system.

Each additional system is \$45.00.

Office: 512-260-2962

[www.CoolAtmosphereHeatingAndAir.com](http://www.CoolAtmosphereHeatingAndAir.com)

A photograph of a football game in progress. A player in a dark jersey with the number 80 is in the foreground, facing away from the camera. Other players in white and gold jerseys are visible in the background.

**CAN'T MAKE THE  
BIG GAME?**

**It's okay.**

**We have your back.**

CHECK OUT OUR LIVE GAME COVERAGE:

**@HCNSports**

A map of Cedar Park, TX, with a red background. A large yellow McDonald's arch is superimposed over the map. Three black dots indicate the locations of McDonald's restaurants. The map shows major roads: Crystal Falls Pkwy, Bell Blvd, Whitestone Blvd, Lakeline Blvd, and Highway 183A.

**McDonald's**

**3 Delicious  
Locations:**

1103 N. Bell Blvd  
Cedar Park, TX 78613

1445 U.S. Highway 183 S.  
Leander, TX 78641

1410 Cypress Creek Road  
Cedar Park, TX 78613

Now available on the UberEATS app.





## BASTROP

2016 Record: 1-9 overall, 1-7  
District 19-5A

The Bears missed the playoffs last season for the first time after back-to-back postseason appearances. They scored the second-fewest points in the district last season and are will begin the year with a new quarterback and new offensive quarterback. The majority of a young defense returns for a unit that allowed more than 35 points a game.



## CEDAR CREEK

2016 Record: 1-9 overall, 0-8  
District 19-5A

Last year was a struggle on both side of the ball for Eagles as they scored just 31 points in district play while allowing 386. They replace their starting quarterback and lose their top three tacklers. Cedar Creek won a program-high four games in 2014. And while that number might be hard to archive in a talented district this season, it should be an improved team on both sides of the ball.



## CEDAR PARK

2016 Record: 12-1 overall,  
8-0 District 19-5A

The Timberwolves ran into a talented Manvel team earlier than they would've liked in the playoffs last year. Mak Sexton won a state title as a sophomore two seasons ago and will throw the ball more than ever this season. The Timberwolves' top defense returns two of their top three tacklers. Cedar Park once again figures to be the team to beat in the district.



## CONNALLY

2016 Record: 9-3 overall, 6-2  
District 19-5A

The Cougars have a wide receiver converting to quarterback in Earnest Musse, who was a second-team selection last season, and a stable of unproven running backs. They'll be behind an offensive line with one returning starter. Connally made the playoffs last year and made it to the second round.



## EAST VIEW

2016 Record: 3-7 overall, 2-7

# FIRST DISTRICT 19-5A LOOK

### District 19-5A

The biggest things the Patriots have been working on in the off season has been the defense, which allowed the second most point in district play last season. East View will run the ball and control the clock on offense behind senior Torrie Davis. If the defense can take a step in the right direction with many returners and a newfound confidence, the Patriots will challenge for a postseason berth.



## ELGIN

2016 Record: 3-7 overall, 3-7  
District 19-5A

The Wildcats have missed out on the postseason for two years after making the playoffs for three straight years. Jens Anderson is the new man in charge and he's replacing starters at all three offensive skill positions. If Elgin wants to make any noise in the district, it will ride the experience of its defense.



## GEORGETOWN

2016 Record: 8-3 overall, 6-2  
District 19-5A

The Eagles feel they can push for the district title this season and have the talent to back it up. Cooper Bell takes over the reigns at quarterback, but he has a wealth of talented receivers around

him and a big offensive line. The defense is no joke led by a talented group of linebackers featuring Boise State commit Brandon Hawkins.



## HUTTO

2016 Record: 7-4 overall, 5-3  
District 19-5A

The Hippos reached the playoffs for the third straight year a season ago. They're young and had sophomores contribute at all three offensive skill positions and have nine returning starters on that side of the ball including quarterback Chase Griffin, who threw for more than 3,000 yards. Hutto has eight returning defensive starters. Senior Jakobe Davidson is a two-way returning starter.



## ROUSE

2016 Record: 6-4 overall, 5-3  
District 19-5A

The Raiders missed out on the postseason via tiebreaker last year. If they want to challenge for a playoff spot, it will be on the back of the huge offensive line. Rouse lost first-team players at wide receiver, tight end, and running back and will have a new quarterback in Ethan Moore. As long as everybody stays healthy, the Raiders will again push for the postseason.



# STARTING AT THE TOP

SEVERAL KEY PLAYERS  
DEPARTED AFTER LAST  
SEASON. CAN CEDAR  
PARK RELOAD AND  
REACH ANOTHER  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
WEEKEND?

*By ZACH SMITH*









**L**ooking at Cedar Park's roster, it's really hard to find a huge weakness.

Sure, some of the top players are gone.

But part of the reason why the Timberwolves have lost just one game over the last two seasons is the ability to be deep at nearly every position year after year.

Carl Abseck begins his third year in charge at Cedar Park. After winning a state title in his first season in 2005, the only blemish on his record is last season's 47-35 loss to Manvel at Kyle Field in the regional quarterfinals.

Mak Sexton has been at the heart of it all during Abseck's tenure, not missing a game over the last two seasons. His passing numbers have improved every year, throwing for 936 yards and 11 touchdowns as a sophomore before setting a school record with 2,266 yards and 18 scores last year.

The Timberwolves have always leaned on their running game, but Abseck was clear this summer after a state 7-on-7 appearance that the passing game would be a bigger part of the offense.

Three of the top four receivers from last season will return. Drew McDaniel leads the bunch with 435 yards. Carson Neel caught 15 passes for 330 yards and four touchdowns, and Payden Sawicki had 304 yards and two scores.

Cedar Park's running game was led last year by district MVP Tyler Levine, who now plays at Army. Brady Welch and Brant McDonald are the only two returning players that scored a touch-

”

The Timberwolves are the area's highest ranked team, starting the season at No. 5 in 5A in the AP Poll.

down on the group last year.

The line in front of them is once again one of the deepest in the area. Offensive Lineman MVP Jonathan Kelly headlines a group that had two other players named to the all-district list in Mason Brooks and Trajan Chase.

The rest of the defense is led by three all-district returners at linebacker. Defensive Newcomer of the Year Jackson Buckingham led the team with 57 tackles last year as a junior. Keegan Nichols (50 tackles, six sacks) and Zach Taylor (30 tackles, three sacks) were both first-team honorees.

The Timberwolves are the area's highest ranked team, starting the season at No. 5 in 5A in the AP Poll.

They kick off the season on Sept. 1 against Waco Midway at Gupton Stadium and face off with former LISD rival Vandegrift in Week 2. The district slate begins against Bastrop on Sept. 15 and the battle of the top two teams in the district is Oct. 20 when they host Georgetown.

## IMPACT PLAYERS



**QB**

**Mak Sexton, Sr.**

He might not have the biggest arm or put up the most head turning numbers, but nobody else in Central Texas, let alone the district can boast the experience the senior has. With a revamped passing game, expect a big season from the quarterback inches final high school season under center.

**OL**

**Jonathan Kelly, Sr.**

The offensive line is far and away the most experienced and deep group on the team. Kelly was the best lineman in the district and he's joined by three more returners to protect an experienced quarterback and a rotating cast of running backs.







28

# 2

Number of touchdowns scored by returning running backs. The Timberwolves had a successful running game a year ago, going for 44 touchdowns. But the vast majority of the points put on the board by the running game came from seniors. The departed Tyler Levine tallied 25 touchdowns last year.

**\$99 SPORTS INJURY  
CHIROPRACTIC EXAM**

**\$39** **SPORTS  
MASSAGE**

**Not valid with any other offer. Must present coupon. Expires 10/31/17.**



**R**ouse was one win away from the playoffs last season, finishing in a tie for fourth place after winning their last two games. To get back to the postseason for the first time in two seasons, they replace a lot of important players at important positions.

## IN A TOUGH DISTRICT, WHERE WILL THE RAIDERS END UP?

By ZACH SMITH





# ***Raiding Party***





The Raiders finished last season 6-4 overall and 5-3 in district play. They won three of their first four district games, including an impressive 60-27 win at home against Georgetown. But back-to-back losses to Connelly and Hutto dug them too deep of a hole to climb out of.

Michael Forster graduated and is now laying basketball at UT-Dallas. Three of their top four running backs are gone and of the 102 receptions last season, players still on the roster accounted for just seven of them.

Both literally and figuratively, the biggest piece of the Rouse offense re-tuning is the offensive line. The district's Offensive Lineman MVP Johnathan Kelly leads the way and Alex Baley, Owen Kelly, and Zach Pelt round out the returning starters.

Sanquintin McFarlan had a solid junior year, rushing for 405 yards and four touchdowns. His best game of the season was in the win against Georgetown when he had 101 yards and a score, his only 100-yard game of the year.

Junior Ethan Moore takes over at quarterback. He threw just one pass as a sophomore last season, but worked with the other skill players during 7-on-7 in the offseason. Plus, with a talented running back and huge offensive line, the learning curve is sure to be steep.

Rouse gave up more than 31 points per game last season. On defense, the Raiders have one player in each key position that will need to have a massive impact if they hope to get back to the playoffs.

Alejandro Salazar was a second-team

”

Both literally and figuratively, the biggest piece of the Rouse offense retuning is the offensive line. The district's Offensive Lineman MVP Johnathan Kelly leads the way and Alex Baley, Owen Kelly, and Zach Pelt round out the returning starters.

all-district pick last year, with 96 tackles and a pair of sacks. The rest of the Rouse linebacking corps are relatively young, but Salazar, a three-year starter, has more than enough experience to spread around.

Connor Canaday is the only returning starter on the defensive line. He was a second-team pick last season and, like Salazar, needs to help the inexperienced players around him.

Hayden Thomas was fourth on the team in tackles as a sophomore and third as a junior year ago.

Rouse travels to face Manor and hosts Westwood in the first two non-district games of the season. The district year begins at home against East View and against LISD rival Cedar Park, who they have never beaten in their seven-year history, on Sept. 29.

## IMPACT PLAYERS

**RB**

**Sanquintin McFarlan, Sr.**

With an inexperienced quarterback and big offensive line, McFarlan will get all the touches he desires this season. He is the only returning player listed as a running back that carried the ball at least once last year.

**OL**

**Ayden Sharp, Sr.**

The offensive line is far and away the most experienced and deep group on the team. Sharp was one of the best linemen in the district and he's joined by three more returners to protect an inexperienced quarterback and a rotating cast of running backs.

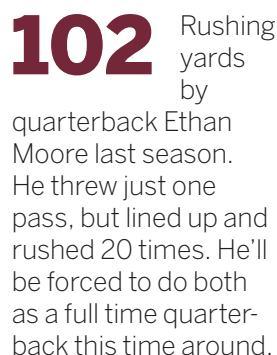
**LB**

**Alejandro Salazar, Sr.**

The Raiders made some strides on defense last season, dropping their points allowed per game number from 36.3 to 31.5. Salazar was a starter on both of those teams and can help drop that number even lower this season.

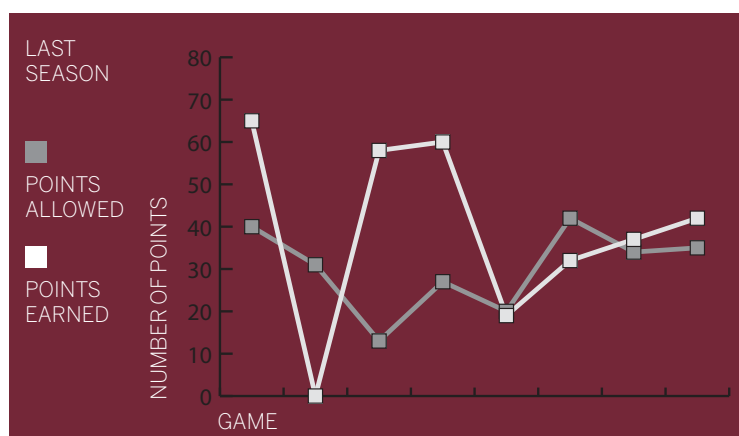






**34** Wins by Josh Mann since Rouse played its first game in 2009. The Raiders had two hugely successful years, reaching the state semifinals in 2012 and the state quarterfinals the following season.

Number of catches out of 102 made by returning wide receivers. Isaiah Poston had five catches for 60 yards in four appearances, while Taye Biele caught two balls for 21 yards in five games.



ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATES  
OF CENTRAL TEXAS

**Saturday Morning Injury Clinic**



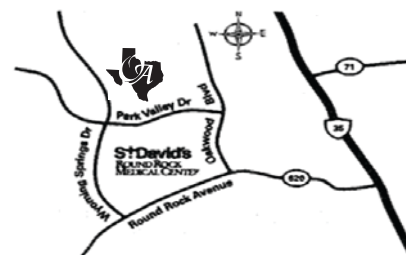
**What:** Free Evaluation\* of a sports-related injury sustained by a student athlete during a school sponsored event. Orthopaedic physicians, athletic trainers and physical therapists will be available. This TEAM of healthcare professionals are trained to work with athletes and put them back on the field.

**When:** *Every Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> - Nov 18<sup>th</sup>*  
**8:30am-10:00am**

**Where: Orthopaedic Associates of Central Texas**

16020 Park Valley drive  
Round Rock, TX 78681-3573

More Information  
(512) 244-0766



### Requirements:

- First Come Basis
- Attend with parent, coach or athletic trainer
- Wear appropriate clothing (shorts and t-shirt/sports bra)

**Always remember, if your injury stays the same or worsens over time, consult a physician and go to the emergency room as soon as possible**

*\*The clinic includes an initial evaluation and assessment for acute injuries only. X-rays are provided if deemed appropriate by provider. However, follow up visits for the same injury are not provided. Further treatment may require payment.*





BUY ONE, GET ONE

**FREE**

**COMBO MEAL**

Valid on item of equal or lesser value. Excludes beverages with salads or bowls.

One time use only. Not valid with any other offers.

Valid at PDQ Cedar Park and PDQ Austin: Lakeline locations ONLY.

Expires: 11/30/17 CODE: 190-880-878



**PDQ**

**fresh TENDERS**  
SALADS • SANDWICHES

JUST MADE, BETTER

DINE-IN OR DRIVE-THRU  
WE CATER TOO.

**PDQ CEDAR PARK**  
4501 I83A Toll Road

**PDQ AUSTIN: LAKELINE**  
2920 South Lakeline



@PDQFreshFood

Visit us online:  
eatPDQ.com



# HILL COUNTRY NEWS

*Serving the Cedar Park and Leander area since 1968 with the same commitment to community journalism.*



*Get the latest updates  
from us on  
Facebook and Twitter*



Daily Updates at [hillcountrynews.com](http://hillcountrynews.com)

Weekly Pages, Daily News

512-259-4449

**HILLCOUNTRYNEWS.COM**



# EAST VIEW PATRIOTS

**E**ast View has thrown everything it has at getting better defensively this offseason.

The Patriots had no problem scoring points last season but struggled at keeping opposing teams off the scoreboard. They finished the year with two district wins and three overall, missing the playoffs for the second straight year.

"We feel we have an opportunity to compete for a playoff spot because of the kids we've got," East View head coach Robert Davies said. "We competed every week last year, we just didn't get over the hump. The majority of our kids are back from that team and we had a good offseason and a good summer."

East View scored 292 points in district play, averaging just over 36 points per game, good for fourth in the district. But they allowed the second-most points in the area, allowing 313 points over the eight-game district schedule. Three of the seven losses last season came by one possession or less and in three of the other four games, East View either led or trailed by less than one score during the second half. The 20 points the Patriots scored against district champions Cedar Park was tied for the most the Timberwolves allowed in a game during the regular season.

"I really like this team because of the returners and the way we competed," Davies said. "We were in every football game, we just didn't close the games with wins. The



maturity over the offseason will carry us. We played a lot of sophomores last year, so we're still a relatively young football team."

Offensively, East View is determined to establish the run with a pair of bruising rushers that both had more than 1,000 rushing yards last year. Torrie Davis led the team with 1,008 yards and scored nine touchdowns. Zion Hester had a team-best 15 rushing touchdowns to go along with 1,001 yards. Hester, who will be a junior this season, also had two interceptions. But the Patriots' defensive backfield is led by Jaden Selucky, who led the team with four takeaways last season.

The Patriots begin the season with an away game at Hays on Sept. 1 and have their only own non-district game at home against Waco University on Sept. 8 before beginning the district season on the road against Rouse the following Friday. The rivalry game against Georgetown is Oct. 6 at Birkelbach Field.

## IMPACT PLAYERS

**RB**

**Torrie Davis, Sr.**

The leading rusher from a season ago, Davis will again be the lead back in the two-man backfield. He started several games as a sophomore before taking over as a junior last season and ran for 1,008 yards and nine touchdowns.

**RB**

**Zion Hester, Jr.**

Hester did a little bit of everything as a sophomore, scoring a team high 15 rushing touchdowns with 1,001 rushing yards and finishing second in receiving yards, catching 27 passes for 372 yards and one score. Played on both side of the ball and had two interceptions as a defensive back.

**CB**

**Jaden Selucky, Sr.**

As the Patriots try to revamp their defense, Selucky, who led the team with four interceptions last season, will be a key cog in the East View defensive backfield. East View allowed 313 points, the second-most points in district play, the second straight year they've allowed more than 300 yards.

## BY THE NUMB3RS

**10**

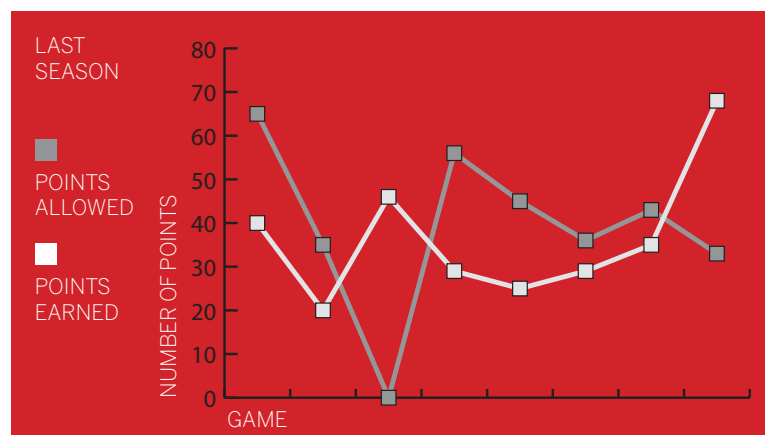
Number of 100-yard rushing games between Torrie Davis, Zion Hester, and Nate Hines IV. The trio combined to score 26 times last year.

**2,524**

The number of rushing yards by East View players last season. Four of the top five rushers are back for the 2017 season.

**36.7**

Points allowed per game by East View last season. The Patriots are focusing on the defense to get back to the postseason.





# REPORTERS, EDITORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS CREATE **REAL NEWS**. JOURNALISM YOU CAN TRUST.

Follow the conversation at  
[#SupportRealNews](#)

Help show your support for the journalists - in local communities and across the country - who are working tirelessly to bring you real news.

Subscribe to your  
local newspaper  
today.





# GEORGETOWN EAGLES

**F**or Jason Dean, there are just a handful of teams that could talk about a state title. Georgetown is one of them.

He'll begin his 13th season with the Eagles this year, and was part of the staff that took the school from mediocrity in the early-2000s to a perennial power challenging for district and state championships.

"With our guys, we've been around and we're established and we've been there before," he said. "Our players understand we know what it's like as coaches to get there and we've been wound and seen players get there. We haven't won one yet, but it's certainly something we can visit about with our players."

Behind the arm of now-Texas A&M quarterback Jake Hubenak, Georgetown got closest in 2012, advancing to the state title game before falling to Denton Guyer. The Eagles advanced to the third round of the playoffs the next season. The continuity of the staff has led to raised expectations by families and players, some of which were in kindergarten when Dean first started.

Beau Corrales became the first Georgetown player to relieve a full Division I scholarship when he signed to play at North Carolina last season. Two more players have Division I offers this season and another is most likely headed to the Ivy League.

Brandon Hawkins committed to play at Boise State next season and was an all-state selection last season after leading the team



with 132 tackles (13 for loss). Returners Kyle Urbanovsky and Drew Barfield anchor a linebacking corps that has the chance to be as good as any team in the area.

2016 District 19-5A Utility Player of the Year Kaden Leggett leads the receiving corps. He caught 53 passes for 979 yards and nine touchdowns, trailing only Corrales in both categories. Nic Crombie was third with 333 and seven scores, but will be moving from strictly wideout to an H-back role.

Cooper Bell will start under center after spending most of last season with junior varsity and finishing 8-1 overall. He did get called up to varsity for one game and impressed, tossing four touchdowns and running for another two in a 47-3 win against Cedar Creek.

Georgetown opens the season against Fort Worth Brewer on Sept. 1 at Waco Midway and begins district play when it hosts Hutto on Sept. 15. The Eagles meet rivals East View on Oct. 6.

## IMPACT PLAYERS



**Brandon Hawkins, Sr.**

Set to become the Eagles' second straight full scholarship Division I commit. He had 132 tackles as a junior last season and 28 as a sophomore. He was a first-team all-district and all-state selection and is committed to play at Boise State.



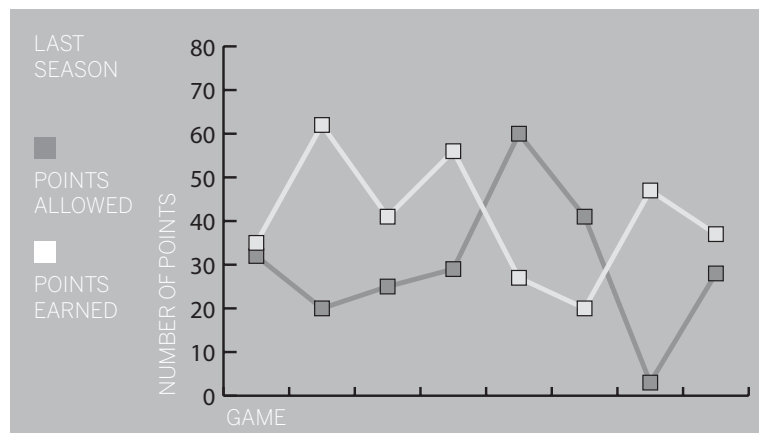
**Kaden Leggett, Sr.**

Did a little bit of everything for Eagles last season, catching 53 passes for 976 yards and nine touchdowns, ran for 122 yards and six scores, returned punts and kickoffs, and took three snaps at quarterback. Was named District 19-5A Utility MVP.



**Tace Glanville, Sr.**

A three-year starter for Georgetown, he was third on the team with 65 tackles last season. Also finished with two interceptions and forced one fumble.



## BY THE NUMB3RS

**442** Points scored in 11 games last season. The Eagles averaged just over 40 points a game. Their season high came in a 62-20 win at home against Elgin.

**1** Varsity games played by quarterback Cooper Bell. He impressed in his one game under center, but a full year is different from one game while resting a quarterback at the end of a season.

**282** Combined tackles of Brandon Hawkins, Kyle Urbanovsky, and Drew Barfield. They all finished in the top four in tackles last year and are the most experienced group on the team.



★ WE'RE VELOCITY CREDIT UNION! ★

*Come for the*

# FREE CHECKING

## STAY FOR THE AWESOME.

1230 E. NEW HOPE DRIVE | VELOCITYCU.COM

**HOWDY, NEIGHBOR!  
HAVE WE MET?**

**VELOCITY  
CREDIT  
UNION**

is a local banking alternative  
that's been in the Austin area  
since 1947 and now, we're at  
**1230 E. New Hope Drive,**  
right next to The Parke!

As a Velocity member, you'll find banking with us is unique and personalized. Open a savings account with just a \$5 deposit. Then, take advantage of all that we offer, including:

- Totally Free or interest-bearing Checking
- Velocity Mastercard credit card with a 0% APR intro rate\* and no annual fee!
- Debit Mastercard with rewards
- Free online banking, bill pay, an app and mobile deposit\*\*
- More than 300 free ATMs in the greater Austin area†
- Access to more free ATMs in Cedar Park than any area bank
- Other convenient northern locations in Round Rock and on Braker Lane in Austin



\*Intro rate for first six months and first-time Velocity cardholders. Rate subject to change; other restrictions apply.

\*\*Some eligibility criteria will apply.

†Through ATM Alliance of Austin Credit Unions

NCUA



**Velocity**  
CREDIT UNION





**IT'S  
COMING**





**N**athan Hatter spent his first year at Glenn learning. But now that the base is set, he's ready to get the ball rolling and help take the program to another level.

The Grizzlies will play their second full football season this year as the school and players continue to grow. Two rosters of freshman and sophomores have expanded to four rosters with advancing juniors and incoming freshmen.

"The unknown is gone," head coach Rob Schoenfeld said. "When you start a new campus, not just the football team, there is a lot of unknown. There is a familiarity that wasn't here last year and we don't have to start from ground zero."

Glenn has a roster they're calling varsity that consists of juniors and a few sophomores. They have a junior varsity roster with sophomores and a few juniors, and there are two new freshmen teams. Four new coaches also joined the staff.

The schedule for this season is a mashup

”  
As football  
players, you want to  
be in the lights and  
have the people  
here, but we know  
it's going to  
take time.

of junior varsity and varsity squads. But the competition is stiff, as the first four teams the Grizzlies face are against playoff teams from a year ago.

Hatter, a junior linebacker that went to Rouse for his freshman year, said they could look at other schools and the size of the teams and crowds in the stands. It's just a matter of staying patient before they experi-

ence full blown Friday night lights.

"We're new and you have to understand it's going to take a little while before we have more people and we have the bigger games," Hatter said. "As football players, you want to be in the lights and have the people here, but we know it's going to take time."

Junior quarterback Khorin Thompson didn't come in with any expectations and would rather go with the flow and take things as they come. The coaches and principal have set the goal of raising the expectations to the next level, and Thompson is embracing the role.

He did a little bit of everything last season, playing quarterback, running back, receiver, and even little in the defensive backfield and said he doesn't mind playing many different positions because he loves to play — because if you play it, you can't be a soft person.

"There's not really pressure, it's just that all eyes are on us," Thompson said of playing significantly as a sophomore. "Whatever we do, they're going to be following us. I love it."



# CONSTRUCTION UNDER CONSTRUCTION



The growth on the offense and defense is to be expected. Another year in the system with bigger bodies and more cohesion breeds improvement. But Schoenfeld said the biggest improvement has come on special teams.

When kids are in middle school and even as freshmen, the focus on special teams is less about how to scheme and block efficiently and more about just making sure they have 11 players on the field.

When he was a coach at Cedar Park, the Timberwolves took pride in their special teams. Cedar Park head coach Carl Abseck put Schoenfeld in charge of the group when the school won a state title in 2015 and they were phenomenal.

"I had to take a step back last year and understand where they were and build from the ground up," Schoenfeld said. Last year, we were awful on special teams. I take great pride in it and I know the coaching staff takes great pride in it. To see them kind of get it on special teams is a very

good surprise."

Schoenfeld has been in coaching for more than 20 years. He had a 34-39 record as a head coach at Boling and Edna and was an assistant when with the Bay City team that won a Class 4A state title in 2000.

He joined the Timberwolves as the running backs coach in 2012 and was in that role for three seasons. He was promoted to offensive coordinator in 2015 and helped Cedar Park win the Class 5A state title.

"Being a coach and teacher at Cedar Park changed my outlook on how great this job could be," he said. "We don't coach at Glenn how they do at Cedar Park because it's a different place. But there are some consistent things across all coaching. One thing I learned is that you don't have to have the most DI talent on your team to compete at a high level."

LISD has been hugely successful when

opening new high schools. Vandegrift and Rouse are the two newest schools in the district other than Glenn, and both made a state semifinal appearance within their first five seasons.

When Glenn is in an official UIL district for the first time in 2018, it will most likely enter at the 5A level. That classification will be split into Division I and Division II and Schoenfeld expects to firmly be in Division II.

The school is built for 2,400 students and he said they expect to hit that number in the next eight years because of the rapid expansion in the North Leander.

"For us, it's really simple, we want to go to the playoffs in 2018," Schoenfeld said. "That's our goal and that has been the goal since January 2016 when I got the job and there was nobody else here other than me and the principal. Everything we talk about is geared towards being great."





901 S. Hwy. 183  
Leander, TX  
512-528-0341

400 Round Rock Ave.  
Round Rock, TX  
512-255-0950

1103 W. Pecan  
Pflugerville, TX  
512-251-3648

2500 Williams Dr.  
Georgetown, TX  
512-863-7230

1010 Austin Ave.  
Georgetown, TX  
512-863-5451

11620 IH 35  
Jarrell, TX  
Coming Soon!

**DON'T MISS  
A THING**

Follow The Hill Country  
News on Twitter and you'll  
always know what's  
happening in town.

 **@HillCountryNws**



SEE GEORGE FOR  
*Stunning Jewelry*

FINE JEWELRY • ENGAGEMENT RINGS  
ESTATE JEWELRY • REPAIRS • CUSTOM DESIGNS  
COINS • LUXURY WATCHES • DIAMONDS  
• ROLEX WATCH SERVICE & REPAIR •



*Whitestone*  
FINE JEWELRY

601 E. WHITESTONE BLVD  
CEDAR PARK • 512-259-9430  
[www.WhitestoneFineJewelry.com](http://www.WhitestoneFineJewelry.com)





## HAYS

2016 Results: 3-7, 2-4 District 25-6A

The Rebels have eight starters returning on offense and another eight on defense. The strengths of the team will be in the offensive and defensive lines, which will help the running game, led by senior Cade Powell, who led the team with 714 yards and 10 touchdowns and was first-team all-district.



## LAKE TRAVIS

2016 Results: 15-1 overall, 6-0 District 25-6A

The defending state champions reloaded on offense and hand the keys over to Colorado State commit Matthew Baldwin who has a few talented receivers, most notably Offensive Newcomer of the Year Garrett Wilson to throw to. Defensively, the Cavaliers have a pair of returners on the line, but have question marks at linebacker after their top returning player, Will Lisenby, moved to Round Rock.



## LEANDER

2016 Results: 2-8 overall, 1-5 District 25-6A

If the Lions want to reach the playoffs for the first time in two seasons, it'll be the offense that gets them there. Rashad Carter returns at quarterback and Dalton Flowers, a second-team receiver last season, will be his main target. Leander has a few players that could play on both the defensive and offensive line. Leander was close to a playoff berth last season and they return enough talent to help them get over the line.



## LEHMAN

2016 Results: 3-7, 1-5 District 25-6A

The Lobos have a new coach and a lot of ground to make up. They had seven players named to the all-district teams and all but one of them have graduated. They have a proven quarterback in Ethan Roach and a few receivers led by second-team honoree Braden Sullins. Defense will be the biggest question

# FIRST DISTRICT 25-6A LOOK

with just four returners, including one along the defensive line.



## VANDEGRIFT

2016 Results: 6-6 overall, 4-2 District 25-6A

Offensively, the Vipers return their top two receivers and two proven running backs. However, they will have a new man under center and a few new faces along the line. Vandegrift features possibly the best defensive front in the district with two returners on the defensive line and three at linebacker. The Vipers will push to improve upon their third place finish last season.



## VISTA RIDGE

2016 Results: 3-8 overall, 2-4 District 25-6A

The cohesion of the Vista Ridge offense will carry the load for the Rangers this season. Quarterback Jacob

Taute threw for 1,934 yards and 16 touchdowns. Receiver Jamil Pittman had more than 1,000 yards of offense in eight games, catching 33 passes for 602 yards and 5 touchdown and running for 414 yards and four scores. The Rangers' defense allowed nearly 40 points a game last season.



## WESTLAKE

2016 Results: 11-3 overall, 5-1 District 25-6A

The Chaps are strong in the trenches and have a talented running back in Nakia Watson, who ran for 1,648 yards and 22 touchdowns, to back it up. Westlake's biggest question is at quarterback after Sam Ehlinger went to Texas. Eight starters return on defense for a team that gave up just 13.2 points per game in district play last season.







# LEANDER LIONS



WITH THE LIONS  
LOOKING FOR A  
REBOUND, CAN  
THEY MAKE  
POSTSEASON PLAY?

By ZACH SMITH



**L**eander is the only LISD school with any history past 1998. And even if the most recent results haven't been noticeably improving, Tim Smith can feel the momentum building.

The Lions are looking to rebound from back-to-back seasons without a postseason appearance. They finished 2015 4-8 overall and went 2-8 last year, missing out by just one game after a loss in the season finale.

Smith has been the head coach at Leander for the last two years and served as the team's offensive coordinator the two years prior to that. He helped Cedar Park win a state title in 2012 when he was the quarterbacks coach.

He will be relying on his quarterback quite a bit this season in Rashad Carter. He played a few games under center last season, passing for 513 yards with one touchdown and running for 320 yards and three scores.

His top target is returning receiver Dalton Flowers, who caught 53 passes for 883 yards and three touchdowns a year ago.

Smith and the Lions will be more focused on establishing the run with Carter's dual threat capabilities. There are more inexperienced options in Latavius Brown and Riley Wells as well.

Jeremy Krcy was a stalwart on both the offensive and defensive lines and joins a plethora of Lions that play on both sides of the ball. Flowers and senior Jake Egelsee play some cornerback as well as receiver.

Alex Hensley is the leader of the

”

Smith and the Lions will be more focused on establishing the run with Carter's dual threat capabilities.

There are more inexperienced options in Latavius Brown and Riley Wells as well.

defense. He is a two-time all-district selection that had a team-best 167 tackles a year ago. He also joins the two-way player list after taking some snaps at running back last year.

Noah King had 60 tackles and one interception to lead the defensive backfield last season. Riley Harkelroad also picked off one pass, while Brown also saw time on the defensive side of the ball and had one fumble recovery.

Leander opened the year on the road against Belton on Sept. 1 and returns home to face Killeen Ellison in Week 2. The district season begins with two games against LISD opponents in Vista Ridge and Vandegrift and the regular season ends at home against Lehman in a game that could once again decide postseason berths for multiple teams in the district.

## IMPACT PLAYERS



Rashad Carter, Jr.

For the first time in his high school career, Carter will be handed the keys to the offense. He played in five games, joining a rotating cast of quarterbacks on a Lions team that missed out on the playoffs by one win. The consistency will do him well and he's expecting a big junior season.



Dalton Flowers, Sr.

Leander doesn't throw the ball too much, but when they do, Flowers is one of the biggest targets in the district. He also played some cornerback last season.



Jeremy Krcy, Sr.

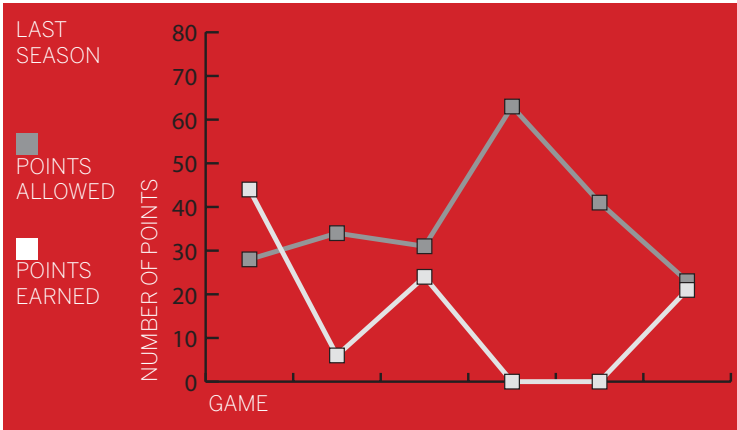
The senior is talented enough to stand out on both sides of the ball. Started at center last year while also showing up on the defensive line. Depth is an issue to of the Lions and Krcy will need to continue to play well if they want to push for the playoffs.





# LEANDER

## BY THE NUMB3RS



# 2

Number of all-district players returning to the Lions this season. They had six players named to the season-ending lists after finishing last year one game out of a playoff spot.

# 35.2

Points allowed by the Leander defense last season. This season's squad is the deepest part of the team. If the Lions are going to push for a postseason berth, it's going to be because of the strength of their defense.



# 4

District wins in the last three seasons for the Lions. They haven't made it to the playoffs in that time and will be relying on a lot of young, key players to make step up and push for the playoffs this time around.



# HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

100 E. South Street, Leander  
512-259-3843







ALL THE PIECES ARE  
IN PLACE FOR A  
GREAT SEASON.  
HOW WILL THE  
RANGERS FARE?

# VISTA RIDGE ON THE MARCH

By ZACH SMITH





Vista Ridge has all the pieces to the puzzle it needs. Now it's a matter of putting them together in the right order.

The Rangers snuck into the playoffs last season via tiebreaker, finishing 3-8 overall and 2-4 in district and tying for fourth place with Hays despite losing the final two games of the regular season. It was their third straight postseason appearance.

Offensive playmakers Jacob Taute and Jamil Pittman might be the best quarterback-receiver combo in the area. They're certainly the most experienced. Both were named first-team all-district as juniors last season.

Taute, a true dual threat quarterback, threw for 1,934 yards and 16 touchdowns and ran for another 369 yards and nine scores.

Pittman had 602 yards receiving and was the team's No. 3 rusher with 327 yards and two touchdowns. Devin Walker caught four passes for 85 yards, while Dylan Leach had three catches for 16 yards as the only other returning receiver.

Taute and Pittman figure to again play a big role in the running game, but Joe Goodwin was the fourth rusher on last year's squad, going for 286 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Kevin Bastow also had one rushing touchdown.

Connor Higgins and Luis Portillo highlight the offensive line. Both will be counted on to bring in the new wave of offensive line talent after the unit's only all-district player, Sean Freeman, left via graduation.

Defensively, the strongest part for the

”

Offensive playmakers Jacob Taute and Jamil Pittman might be the best quarterback-receiver combo in the area. They're certainly the most experienced. Both were named first-team all-district as juniors last season.

Rangers is at linebacker. Bastow had a team-best 109 tackles last year and was named to the second-team list. He is joined by junior Darien Carter, who had 49 tackles.

Vista Ridge lost its last two games of the year last season by a combined score of 115-7 to Lake Travis and Westlake. The Rangers put a fight in the first round playoff game, falling to San Antonio Churchill in 41-38.

The Rangers' season begins with a neutral site game against Corpus Christi Flour Bluff in San Antonio. The district opener is on the road against Lehman on Sept. 29. They again have the brutal closing games going to Lake Travis on Nov. 3 and hosting Westlake on Nov. 10.

## IMPACT PLAYERS



Jacob Taute, Sr.

QB

One of just two returning quarterbacks and the only consistent starter coming back. He has built up a rapport with his receivers over last season and the Rangers' 7-on-7 schedule over the summer. A big year is on tap for the first-team all-district quarterback.

WR

### Jamil Pittman, Sr.

Pittman did a little bit of everything on offense last season, but made the biggest impact at receiver with his 602 yards. He can line up in the backfield, and if the Rangers want to try some

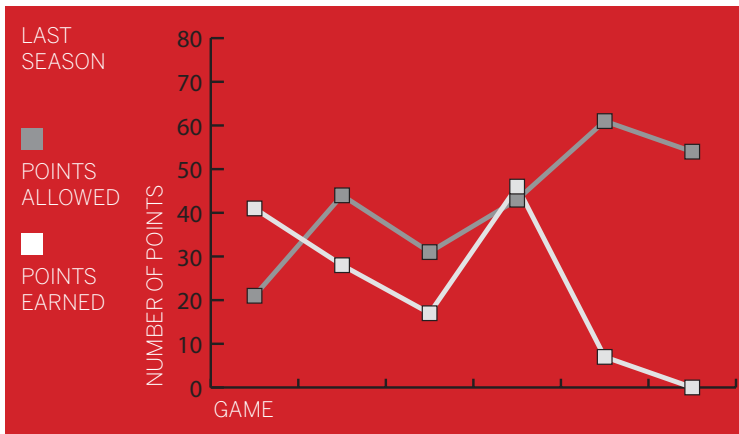
LB

### Kevin Bastow, Sr.

The senior led the team with 109 tackles and also took snaps at running back. The best part of the Vista Ridge defense is the linebackers, and Bastow is the cog that makes the whole clock tick in the middle.







# 33

Wins for Vista Ridge head coach Rodney Vincent since he took over the program in 2009. He helped the Rangers make the state semifinals for the first time in 2014 and has been to the playoffs three years in a row.



# 42.3

Points per game allowed in district play last season. It was the second most behind just Lehman. If the Rangers want to continue their play-off streak, that number will need to improve this time around.

## YOUR SKIN PROTECTS YOU

### PROTECT YOUR SKIN!



As specialists in skin health, we can help treat athlete related conditions including:

- Skin Cancer Screenings
- Skin Infections
- Fungus
- Acne

If you or your child develops a skin problem this school year, U.S. Dermatology Partners is here to help.

Jessica Dorsey, MD | Aubrey Chad Hartmann, MD | Laura Lester, MD  
Weilan Johnson, MD | Monica Madray, MD  
Kevin Miller, MD | Elizabeth Morris, MD | Russell Peckham, DO  
Josh Embry, PA-C | Kelly Webb, PA-C | Sheryl Lucier, PA-C

✓ Medical Dermatology ✓ Skin Cancer Surgery ✓ Cosmetic Dermatology



### Convenient Locations in ...

**Cedar Park** | (512) 260-5860  
1401 Medical Parkway  
Building B, Suite 300  
Cedar Park, TX 78613

**Georgetown** | (512) 819-9910  
700 San Gabriel Village Blvd.  
Suite #105  
Georgetown, TX 78626

**Round Rock** | (512) 910-8800  
7200 Wyoming Springs  
Suite #300  
Round Rock, TX 78681

Visit your dermatologist annually: Call to schedule an appointment!

WWW.USDERMATOLOGYPARTNERS.COM









# V YEAR OF THE VIPER

**ALREADY A PERENNIAL  
PLAYOFF FAVORITE, CAN  
THE VIPERS TAKE THAT  
FINAL STEP AND REACH  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
WEEKEND?**

*By ZACH SMITH*

**I**f Vandegrift has been one thing since its first season in 2010, it's consistent.

No matter how many key players the Vipers lose, they're always pushing for a playoff spot. They've missed the playoffs just twice since then, in the first year of existence and in 2015 after a 5-5 season.

Vandegrift again has a good mix of returners and talented fresh faces to push for a playoff spot.



The Vipers have never been afraid to throw the ball, but this season the most experienced offensive group is at running back with returners Mack Parker and Isaiah Smallwood. Smallwood led the team with 586 yards and nine touchdowns, while Parker had 571 yards and five scores.

Parker also contributed to the passing game, catching 14 passes for 169 yards.

Justin Florence was the go-to receiver a year ago, catching seven touchdowns for 667 yards. And Peyton Ausley lined up on the other side of the field and contributed 384 yards and two scores.

Justin Moore takes over at quarterback for two-year starter Alex Fernandes, who now plays at UTEP. In three appearances last season, he went 15 for 35 passing for 159 yards and no touchdowns.

Vandegrift's offensive line will need to develop quickly around senior Lucas Webb, the only returning starter of the group. The Vipers lose two all-district caliber linemen in Holton Greenfield and Jake Helton.

Defensively, senior safety Cole Walther leads a talented secondary. He was one of four Viper defensive players on the first team all-district list after racking up 71 tackles and a pair of interceptions.

Osorachukwu Ifesinachukwu is the only other returning all-district defensive player. He had 57 tackles and eight sacks. Jayelen Gray, who battled cancer for the better part of three years, looks to have a breakout senior season on the other side of the line.

”

Vandegrift's offensive line will need to develop quickly around senior Lucas Webb, the only returning starter of the group. The Vipers lose two all-district caliber linemen in Holton Greenfield and Jake Helton.

Vandegrift travels to legendary Ratliff Stadium to meet Odessa Permian in the opening game of the season on Sept. 1. It will feature live cut-ins as part of FOX Sports Southwest's first ever Football Day in Texas.

The Vipers have a tough district opening game against Westlake on Sept. 29 and have one of the most brutal closing stretches to the season, playing games at home against Vista Ridge, traveling to Hays and closing at home against defending state champion Lake Travis. More than likely, two wins in the final three games would clinch a playoff spot.

## IMPACT PLAYERS

**R.B**

**Isaiah Smallwood, Jr.**

With a new man under center, the passing game will most likely take a few games to develop. Smallwood already played a big role in the backfield along with Mack Parker and both had a good summer with the 7-on-7 team. Another big year is in store for the junior.

**WR**

**Justin Florence, Sr.**

Despite a down year in the passing game last season by Vandegrift's standards, Florence was the top receiver in a wide open offense. There may be some more hiccups in the passing game with a new quarterback under center, but the consistent staff will ease that tradition and Florence's experience can only help.

**DE**

**Osorachukwu Ifesinachukwu, Sr.**

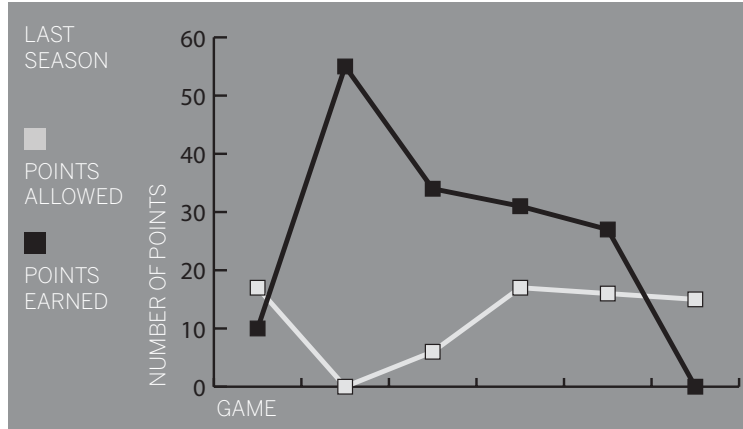
The Vipers allowed 18.7 points a game last season and made it to the playoffs for the fourth straight season. While there are holes to fill with younger players, Ifesinachukwu is one of the key pieces returning for a reloaded defense.





# 13

Points allowed by the Vipers in the loss to Cedar Park last season. It was the fewest the Timberwolves scored all year. The Vandegrift defense allowed fewer than 20 points a game and will again prove to be a strength this season.



# 54

Wins for Vandegrift head coach Drew Sanders. He's the only coach the school has ever known and has built a consistent playoff contender.

# 1,157

Combined rushing yards of returning running backs Mack Parker and Isaiah Smallwood. The running game figures to play an important role in the Vandegrift offense for at least the first part of the season. The duo is one of the most talented and proven in the area.



**2017-18 AUSTIN SPURS**  
 season coming  
**THIS NOVEMBER**

[www.austinspurs.com](http://www.austinspurs.com) 512.236.8333



# LAKE TRAVIS CAVALIERS

One of the hardest things to do in sports is repeat, but Lake Travis has the talent and pedigree to do just that.

The Cavaliers won their seventh state title last season in dominant fashion and had another big crop of payers leave to play at the collegiate level. Much of the weight of their reloaded roster will fall on senior quarterback Matt Baldwin, who is already committed to play at Colorado State.

The junior saw limited time last season, passing for 673 yards and 10 touchdowns but saw time in 13 of the team's 16 games. His biggest performance was in a big win against Hays in Week 5 when he completed 16 of 18 passes for 208 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Lake Travis rolled on both sides of the ball last year, scoring a district-most 830 points and allowing a district-least 201 in 16 games.

But a huge chunk of that team is gone via graduation. The leading passer, the top three rushers, top three receivers, six of the seven leading tacklers, and the three sack leaders all need to be replaced.

Of the 4,651 receiving yards and 66 touchdowns Lake Travis had last season, seniors accounted for 3,723 and 50 touchdowns.

Still, the receiving corps is still strong



with returners Alec Fuentes and Garrett Wilson. As a sophomore last season, Wilson caught 53 passes for 699 yards and 12 touchdowns and Fuentes had four scores on 227 yards.

Defensively, Jake Foster led the team with three interceptions to go along with 15 tackles.

Lake Travis kicks off the season against the only team that blemished their record last season when they travel to Converse to face Judson on Sept. 1. The game kicks off at 8:30 p.m. and will be shown live in full on Fox Sports Southwest as part of Football Day in Texas.

The Cavaliers begin the district season Sept. 29 against Hays and have a bye week before traveling to face rival Westlake on Oct. 13. Lake Travis has beaten the Chaparrals 10 straight times, including twice a year ago.

## IMPACT PLAYERS



WR

### Garrett Wilson, Jr.

Had a coming out party as a sophomore in the Week 2 win against Cibola Steele, catching seven passes for 144 yards and two touchdowns. The 2016 District 25-6A Offensive Newcomer of The Year will be a go-to target this season.

QB

### Matt Baldwin, Sr.

The next in a long list of talented Lake Travis quarterbacks, the Colorado State pledge impressed in limited time under center last season, throwing for more than 600 yards in 13 games.

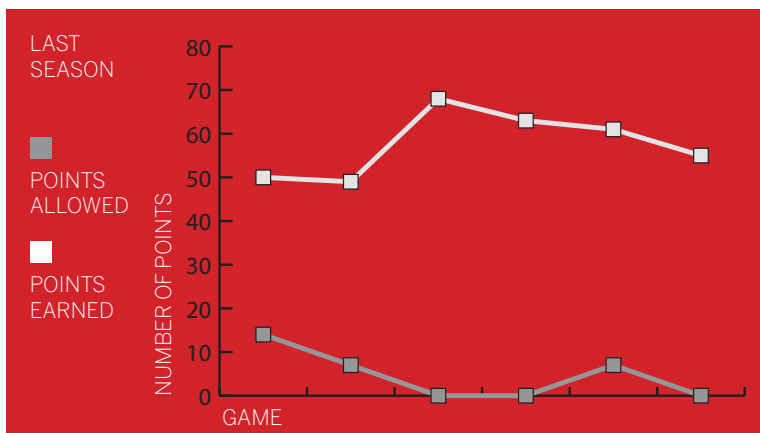
## BY THE NUMB3RS

4.6

The number of points allowed per game in district play. Much of the dominant defense is gone, but with Lake Travis it's more about reloading than rebuilding.

8

Numbers of quarterbacks in a row that have committed to a college program after Matt Baldwin committed to join Colorado State next season. Last year's quarterback, Charlie Brewer, is playing at Baylor this season.





# WEST LAKE CHAPARRALS

Since Westlake and Lake Travis were realigned in the same district in 2011, the Chaparrals have failed to get the upper hand. That might all change this season.

Westlake brings back an experienced roster on both sides of the ball and has the added motivation of 10 straight losses to the Cavaliers, including one in the regular season and another in the elite eight of the playoffs last season.

The Chaps have 12 returning starters, six of which were named to the all-district team.

Without question, the defense and its seven returning starters will be the strongest area of the team this time around. They gave up less than 20 points per game last year and allowed 21 points in three of 14 games a year ago.

David Neal was the district's Defensive Newcomer of the Year as a sophomore, racking up 62 tackles and a team-best 4.5 sacks. Braden Cassity (56 tackles, four sacks) joins him on the defensive front while David Dickerson (107 tackles, one sack) leads the linebackers.

Matthew Sams was a first-team defensive back last season, boasting 69 tackles and one interception. Cary Andreo and Keaton Jones combined for 60 tackles and four interceptions and will be expecting big senior seasons.

Wisconsin-bound running back Nakia Watson leads the Chaparrals on offense. At 6-foot, 223 pounds, he powered his way to 1,648 yards and 22 touchdowns on the ground, earning first-team honors in the process.



The biggest question for Westlake is at quarterback. Sam Ehlinger missed nine games last season and threw for just 850 yards and seven scores. The battle is coming down to two underclassmen.

Taylor Anderson saw the most action as a backup. In seven games, his 819 yards and four touchdowns trailed just Ehlinger. But then-freshman Kirkland Michaux caught lighting more often, showing five touchdowns for 2260 yards in just five games.

The Chaps travel to face powerhouse Katy, which has won double-digit games for 15 straight seasons, to start the season on Sept. 1. The game will be one of 10 featured games with live look-ins for Football Day in Texas on FOX Sports Southwest. They then host an out of state team from Niceville, FL in Week 2. The district season begins on Sept. 29 at home against Vandegrift and Westlake will attempt to snap its ten-game losing streak against Lake Travis at home on Oct. 13.

## IMPACT PLAYERS



**Nakia  
Watson,  
Sr.**

The big running back carried the load for the Chaparrals with a rotating cast of quarterbacks handing off to him over the course of the season. He's headed to Wisconsin next season and has three returners on the offensive line to block for him.



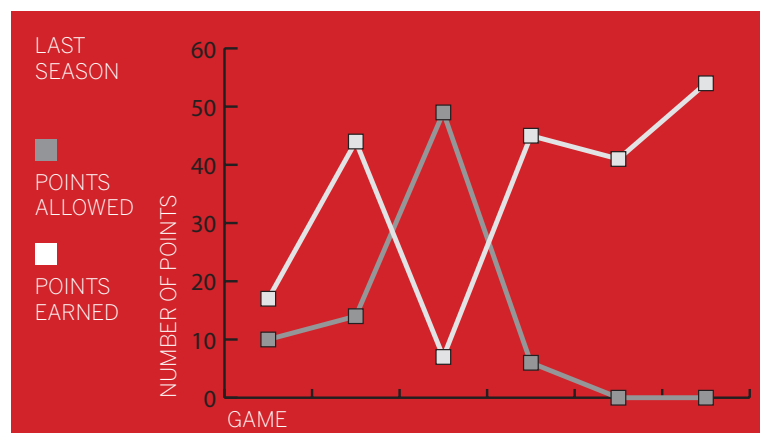
**David Dickerson, Sr.**

Led the team in tackles a season ago. The defense is stacked with returning starters, but not at linebacker. The senior will be counted on to lead a young group against some of the best offenses in the state.



**Taylor  
Anderson,  
Jr.**

The battle for starting quarterback is still ongoing at a school known for producing elite talent. Anderson impressed in more appearances last season, but Kirkland Michaux showed some skills in limited appearances as a freshman.



## BY THE NUMB3RS

# 17.1

Points allowed per game by the Westlake defense last season. With seven returners coming back on defense, it's more like the Chaps are reloading than rebuilding.

# 2007

The last year

Westlake beat Lake Travis. The Chaps forced four turnovers that year and rallied from a 21 point deficit to beat the Cavaliers. Since then, they have lost 10 straight games to their rivals.





**OUR  
COVERAGE  
IS FIT TO  
BEAT THE  
BAND.  
(JUST KIDDING,  
BAND.)**





## CEDAR RIDGE

2016 Results: 11-1 overall,  
6-0 District 13-6A

The Raiders, who won the district title outright for the first time in school history last season, have a team full of players that are ready to prove themselves after sitting behind talented seniors. Zeke Coss spent most of his time at Cedar Ridge at wide receiver by will take over at quarterback despite missing last year with an injury. Defensively, they're replacing seven starters but are led by Tahj Williams and Jaimon Byers.



## HENDRICKSON

2016 Results: 3-7 overall,  
2-4 District 13-6A

The Hawks will look to run the ball again with senior D.J. Jackson, who ran for 735 yards and six touchdowns last season. However, there is just one returning starter on the offensive line for him to run behind. Hendrickson should have no trouble stopping the run with a deep group of linebackers and an up and coming defensive line.



## MCNEIL

2016 Results: 4-6 overall,  
2-4 District 13-6A

The Mavericks will run the ball one way or another this year despite the top five rushers from last season's squad gone via graduation. Leo Dugue is the only one left and will carry the load, but he'll be helped by last season's Offensive Newcomer of the Year Jordan Kerley. McNeil has just one first-team defender in safety Will Kohman and two second-team returners in defensive end Logan Clifton and linebacker Branden Broadhead.



## PFLUGERVILLE

2016 Results: 3-7 overall,  
2-4 District 13-6A

The Panthers have a large group of players that will get a chance to prove themselves at the skill positions this year. Senior Bryce Arsenault looks to carry the load for the run-first offense with Damon Tamez handing off to him.

# FIRST DISTRICT 13-6A LOOK

The defense allowed less than 25 points a game last season and will be anchored by a big and talented defensive line.



## ROUND ROCK

2016 Results: 10-4 overall,  
5-1 District 13-6A

The Dragons got an infusion of talent with the transfer of Lake Travis linebacker Will Lisenby, who joins a group of three starters at linebacker. The Dragons have an experienced offensive line and a pair of talented running backs in Marquis Brown and Malik Pena to propel the offense which should help when a new quarterback takes the reins under center.



## STONY POINT

2016 Results: 4-8 overall,  
2-4 District 13-6A

The Tigers have a handful of players that can play all over the field on offense, but the offensive line will leads

that side of the ball. Donovan Rybachek is slated to start at quarterback with Tyler Cleveland, who ran for 682 yards rushing and six touchdowns last year, behind him. The Tigers are stacked on the defensive line with Cole Zeno, a first-team all-district tackle, anchoring the squad.



## WESTWOOD

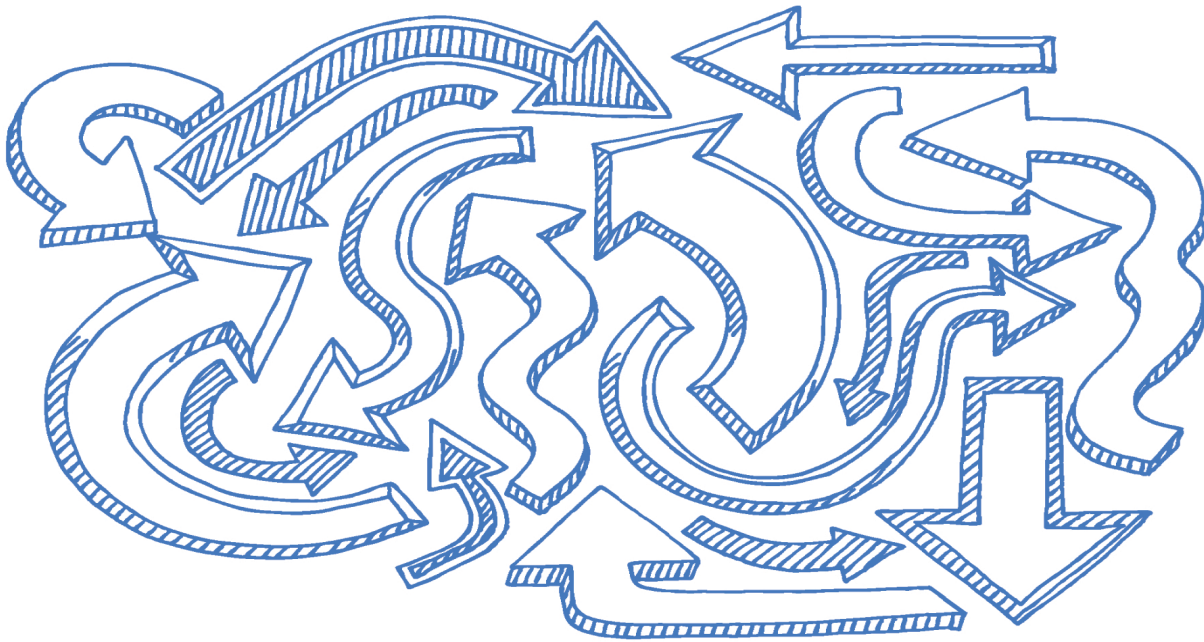
2016 Results: 5-5 overall,  
2-4 District 13-6A

The only team in the district with a returning quarterback, Westwood needs to keep Will Jennings upright to content for a playoff spot. The rest of the offensive skill positions are set and two returners on the offensive line help their case for a playoff berth. The question for the Warriors is defense. After allowing a district-high 237 points last year, a young and unproven unit will need to step up to keep them in contention.



# WHEN PUBLIC NOTICES REACH THE PUBLIC, EVERYONE BENEFITS.

Some officials want to move public notices from newspapers to government-run websites, where they may not be easily found.



**9 OUT OF 10**

U.S. adults ages 25-60 read newspaper media content each at least monthly.



No government website can ensure the public has access to notices like newspapers.

Why try to fix something that isn't broken?

**Keep  
Public  
Notices in  
Newspapers.**

**HILL COUNTRY NEWS**  
[www.hillcountrynews.com](http://www.hillcountrynews.com)



# ROUND ROCK DRAGONS

**R**ound Rock ran over its opponents last season and once again hopes the ground game carries it further.

The Dragons combined to run for 3,570 yards and 49 touchdowns last year and finished the year 10-4 overall and 5-1 in district play, with the only loss coming to undefeated district champions Cedar Ridge.

Two of their top three running backs are returning. As a sophomore, Marquis Brown was a second-team all-district player, rushing for 948 yards and 13 touchdowns on 158 carries. Malik Pena was third on the team with 829 yards and nine scores. The duo combined to top 100 yards six times.

Round Rock lost Offensive MVP Marc Reed, who threw for 2,462 yards and 21 touchdowns and ran for 1,275 yards and another seven touchdowns and as a senior last year.

The Dragons won 10 games in a season for the second time in three years, advancing to the third round of the playoffs before running into eventual state finalists from The Woodlands and losing 41-18.

Who throws the ball to him will change, but Collin Sullivan leads the Round Rock receiving corps after catching 22 passes for 420 yards and six



touchdowns last year. Brown also had 136 yards and a touchdown through the air.

Will Lisenby started for Lake Travis at linebacker last season and the Cavaliers won a state title. Now, he's a Dragon and will add to what was already a strong group of seniors including Brent Hitchcock and Devin Sakahara, who both had at least 20 tackles last year.

Ryan O'Keefe was a second-team safety last year as a sophomore, picking off two passes and racking up 46 tackles. He was also the No. 4 receiver, with 203 receiving yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Round Rock begins the season at home against Schertz Clemens on Sept. 1 and kicks off the district schedule against Stony Point at Dragon Stadium on Sept. 29. The rematch against Cedar Ridge, the top two teams from last year, is on Oct. 20.

## IMPACT PLAYERS



**RB**

### Marquis Brown, Jr.

One of the two dominant running backs for the Dragons. With Round Rock's do-it-all Marc Reed playing in college, Brown will carry the brunt of the rushing load. He'll have talented help, but the junior will push for a 1,000-yard season.

**RB**

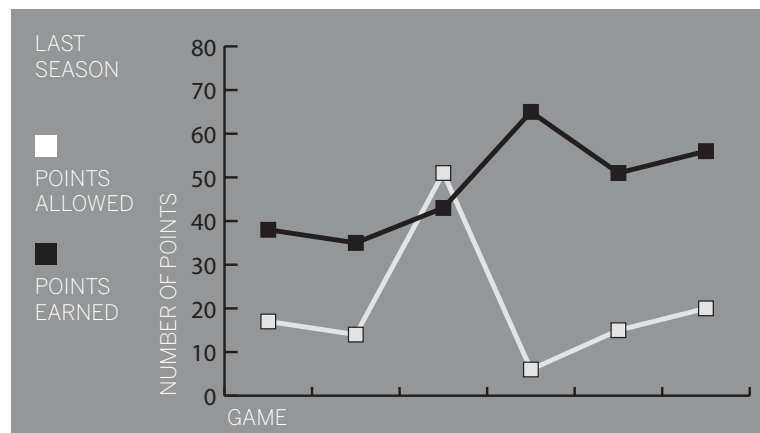
### Malik Pena, Sr.

Pena is the speed to his backfield partner's strength. Was third on the team in rushing yards last season and still topped 800 yards. With even more pressure on the two runners, another big season is in store for the senior.

**SS**

### Reagan Doss, Jr.

Is the team's leading returning tackler after picking up 66 tackles a year ago as a sophomore. Was tied for fourth with one interception and recovered one fumble for a defense that gave up just over 20 points a game.



## BY THE NUMB3RS

**74**

Total touchdowns scored last year. The Dragons weren't nearly as prolific as Cedar Ridge offense, but they knew how to put up the points.

**255**

Average yards per game on the ground last season for the Dragons. Two running backs and a dual threat quarterback led the way. expect more of the same this time around.

**20.4**

Points per game given up by the Round Rock defense last year. The most points they allowed in a single game was 51 against Cedar Ridge.



# CEDAR RIDGE RAIDERS

**C**edar Ridge is a team full of players who can't wait to get their chance to shine.

The Raiders had the best year in school history last season, going undefeated in district play and winning an outright district title for the first time ever. The team set records on offense and defense and made it to the playoffs for the fourth straight season.

"A lot of the starters last year were backups last year as juniors," Cedar Ridge head coach Sam Robinson said. "Not because they were bad, we just had a good senior class. They're eager to get on the field. We're excited to see how much we've grown."

Robinson, who was the defensive coordinator last year, is especially excited about the defensive side of the ball this season.

Cedar Ridge gave up less than 20 points a game last year and was led by linebacker Jaimon Byers, who had 80 tackles a year ago. He will be joined by defensive end Victor Winston on the weak side.

Tahj Williams, a second-team all-district selection last year, is the only other returner on the defensive line.

Baylor commit Jaylen Ellis leads the receivers. He caught a touchdown on every other pass last year, scoring 10 touchdowns on 20 receptions for more than 600 yards. Zeke Coss was moved to wide receiver after a starter broke his ankle during the first series of the first game a year ago but will be a full-time



quarterback the year.

Simi Bakare will be the lead back after taking a back seat last season despite rushing for 674 yards. The line blocking for him is one of the best in the district with returners Tommy Smith and Downie Grim anchoring the group.

After the school's all-time winningest quarterback Garrett Sharp graduated, the Raiders turn to Coss who moved to the area from Laredo before last season. As a sophomore with Laredo Alexander, he threw 3,127 yards and 29 touchdowns.

"We're excited about him," Robinson said. "Nobody really knows about him around here. Everybody thinks we lost Sharp and we're done. Yeah, we're going to miss him, but Zeke is pretty good too."

Coss' dad joined his son in Round Rock before last season and was promoted to defensive coordinator ahead of this season when Robinson was moved to head coach.

## IMPACT PLAYERS

**QB**

**Zeke Coss, Sr.**

Had an impressive season

starting for a 6A playoff team in Laredo as a sophomore before transferring to Cedar Ridge before last year. Spent most of the year at wide receiver and will get the chance to lead the Raiders full time.

**WR**

**Jaylen Ellis, Sr.**

Committed to play college football

at Baylor next year, caught 20 passes a year ago, 10 of which went for touchdowns. With a stout offensive line and a quarterback that has proven he can throw the ball, it should be a big year for the senior.

**LB**

**Jaimon Byers, Sr.**

The Raiders had the best defense in the district last year, allowing less than 20 points a game. Byers led the way with 80 tackles and will need to step up as the leader of an otherwise unproven linebacking group.

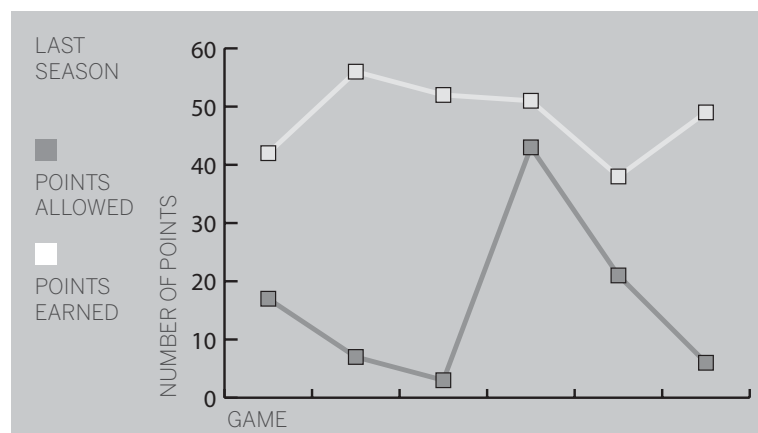
## BY THE NUMB3RS

**1**

Outright district titles in school history. Cedar Ridge went undefeated in the district a year ago and is aiming to break through to the second round of the playoffs for the first time ever this season.

**5**

Returning all-district players from last season. The school set records on offense and had the top defense in the district. Despite a huge senior class leaving via graduation the new crop of players don't have lowered expectations.





# MCNEIL MAVERICKS

**M**cNeil's Jordan Kerley is kind of a do-it-all player on offense. He was the district's Offensive Newcomer of the Year a year ago, taking snaps at quarterback, running a few times from the backfield, and made a big impact as the team's top wide receiver.

The Mavericks and head coach Howard McMahan are determined to run the ball this season and improve on their 2-4 district season a year ago, and Kerley will play a huge role in the offense no matter where he lines up on the field.

Three of the top four McNeil running backs graduated after last season. The only returner is Leo Dugue, who at more than 200 pounds, will fill a hammering role. Donovan Brown is the only other returner that saw consistent backfield time last season.

Joining Kerley at receiver is second-team honoree Alex Richardson, who started slow last season and picked up as the year went along. Elliot Holmes figures to see time on the outside as well.

The Mavericks had two offensive linemen named to the all-district list, but just one of them is returning. Second-teamer Erik Hill will be joined by a pair of other returning starters to protect whoever is in the back field.

McNeil returns three all-district players



on the defensive side of the ball. Logan Clifton had 61 tackles last year and is joined by fellow second-team member linebacker Branden Broadhead on the defensive front.

The lone first-team member was Will Kohman at safety. He also contributed as a receiver on offense.

Since McMahan took over at McNeil in 2014 after spending time as the head coach at Connally, the Mavericks have improved. They finished 3-7 in his first season and have had back-to-back 4-7 in the two years since and were within one game of making the playoffs last season.

The regular season begins downtown as they travel to face off with Austin High on Sept. 1. They open the district season at Pflugerville on Sept. 29 and face off with rival Westwood on Oct. 13. The Mavericks needed overtime to beat the Warriors 27-24 last season.

## IMPACT PLAYERS



**WR**

**Jordan Kerley, Sr.**

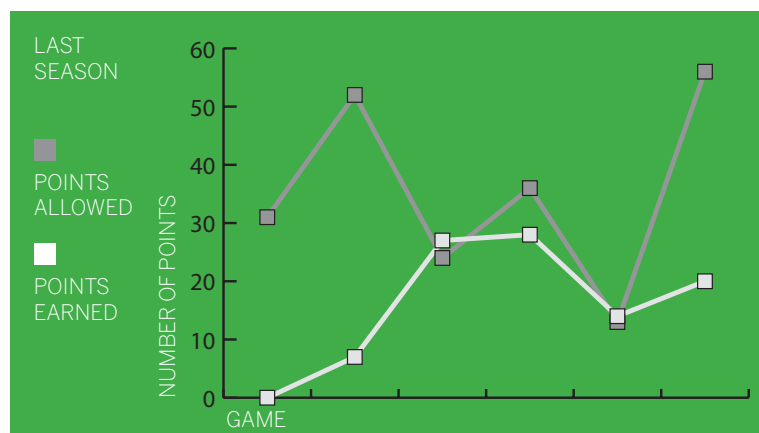
Was named the district Newcomer of the Year last season and did a little of everything for the Mavericks. Took snaps at quarterback and running back, but made the biggest impact at wide receiver.

**LB** **Branden Broadhead, Sr.**

The Mavericks allowed less than 30 points a game last season and missed the playoffs by one game a year ago. Broadhead is one of three all-district returners on defense and will be key if they want to get back to the playoffs for the first time since 2004.

**RB** **Leo Dugue, Sr.**

With three of the top four running backs gone via graduation, the carries will be there for Dugue to churn up the yardage. McNeil will be looking to establish the run early and the senior could be in store for a big year.



## BY THE NUMB3RS

**11**

Wins for the Mavericks in Howard McMahan's three-year tenure at the school.

**29.4**

The number of the points allowed per game by the McNeil defense. The group is the oldest, most experienced one on the team and if they want to get back to the playoffs for the first time since 2004, that number will most likely need to improve.

**6**

Number of all-district players returning to the Mavericks this season.



# STONY POINT TIGERS

**C**raig Chessher looked at his team after the final game of the regular season, heads down, the playoffs seemly lost. Stony Point lost by one point to McNeil and needed help if it wanted to make the playoffs.

They got that help. Despite starting the season 1-6, the Tigers made the playoffs thanks to a tiebreaker when Henderson beat Pflugerville on the same day.

"It was the happiest I've been without winning a game," said Chessher, the Stony Point head coach for the last 14 seasons. "Last season was kind of a frustrating year, but it ended up being a good one. Our kids could've easily given up and we found a way to make the playoffs."

The Tigers went on to beat San Marcos 40-35 in the first round of the playoffs before traveling to Houston to face off with Westfield at NRG Stadium. The Mustangs were riding an eight-game winning streak and averaged more than 36 points a game. Stony Point held them to just 24 points in the loss.

Tyler Cleveland will be the lead back after leading the team as a sophomore last season with 682 yards and seven touchdowns. He had seven games of at least 100 rushing yards and averaged 68.2 yards per game.

Defensively, Stony Point loses its top four tacklers via graduation. Second-team



cornerback Treshon Pickett was fifth with 33 tackles and was tied for team lead with a pair of interceptions. First-team defensive lineman Cole Zeno had four sacks and forced one fumble.

Stony Point was one of the largest schools in Central Texas just five years ago, boasting an enrollment of more than 3,400 students. With the opening of Cedar Ridge, the population was reduced to just over 2,000 and the football team felt the effects.

Chessher said it's been a slow comeback since the numbers were cut. He hopes the trip to Houston to play NRG Stadium is something that the team can build off this year.

Stony Point opens the year on the road against Killeen on Sept. 1 before hosting its finals three district games against Killeen Ellison, Belton, and Leander. The Tigers start the district schedule against Round Rock on Sept. 29.

## IMPACT PLAYERS



**QB**

### Donovan Rybachek, Sr.

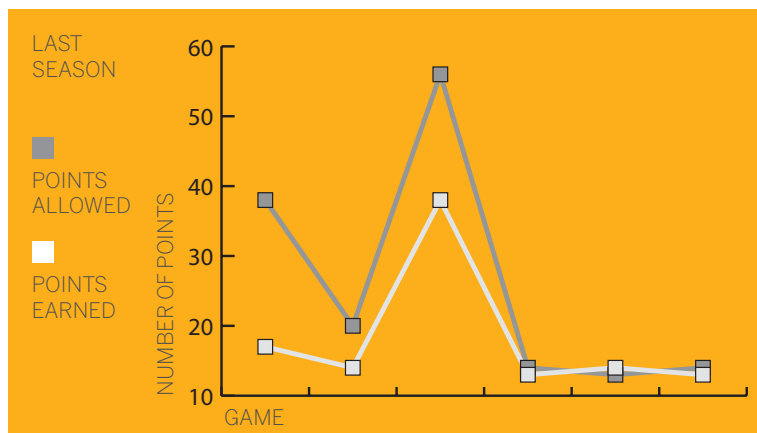
After splitting time with two other players last year, the junior will have full control his time around. He threw for 435 yards and a pair of touchdowns and ran for 203 yards and three touchdowns on the ground.



**WR**

### Treshon Pickett, Sr.

Pickett will again play on both sides of the ball this season. He didn't record a reception last year but was an all-district cornerback after trying for the team lead with two interceptions and recording 33 tackles.



## BY THE NUMB3RS

**1** The number of wins through 7 weeks of the season last season. They won two of their final three games to make the playoffs.

**79.8** Average total yards of offense per game by Donovan Rybachek. The mark was ninth best in the district.

**34** Years Craig Chessher has been in coaching. He's spent the last 14 at Stony Point since coaching at his alma mater Sam Houston State, Catawba, a Division II school in North Carolina, and helped North Shore win a state title in 2003.



# WESTWOOD WARRIORS

**A**nthony Wood describes the Westwood play style as basketball on grass. The pass-happy Warriors just missed out on the playoffs last season, finishing in a five-way tie for third place and missing out via tiebreaker. They bring back an experience, although not too deep team, that hopes to break this time around.

"Our vision for this year is to build on last season," Wood said. "We've got people in the right spots coming back with experience. Now we need to create good backups and the young players need to step up. We want to be playing past Thanksgiving."

The point guard of the offense is quarterback Will Jennings, the only returning starter in the district. He threw for a whopping 1,967 yards (218.6 per game) in just nine appearances and account for 21 touchdowns through the air and two on the ground.

The Warriors were 5-1 in games Jennings started and 0-4 when he didn't start.

He's helped by a loaded receiving corps bolstered by a talented newcomer to the area. Dillon Frazier was a first-team All-district receiver last year, catching 43 passes for 480 yards and three touchdowns. Matt Pravednikov played in eight games as a sophomore and the Warriors added Cameron Thomas, who transferred in from Louisiana.

Proven senior Riley Dale, who started for the last two seasons, and junior James Jarmon are Westwood's only returners on the offensive line.



Jaikeem Murphy was a three-year starter at linebacker and led the team with 113 tackles last season. The 225-pound senior will shift to running back this year and see his offensive numbers (10 carries, 40 yards) jump from a year ago.

Murphy was the focal point of the defense and will again see snaps on that side of the ball with a relatively inexperienced defense, other than safety Reese Green, who is the second leading returner in tackles and was a second-team safety.

But Westwood is will have a few reinforcements. Ra'shon Bates missed his entire junior season with a torn ACL and we anchor the cornerbacks, while Chad Dixon and Reid Harrington return after taking a year off to focus on baseball to join the defensive backfield.

Last year was already an improvement after a winless season in 2015 and Wood knows what the fans and alumni expect of the school since it was opened in 1981. He's preaching to make the most recent class the best class while making the best out of the opportunities they're given.

## IMPACT PLAYERS



**Will Jennings, Sr.**  
QB

The only returning starting quarterback in the district has a loaded arsenal at wide receiver to throw to. If he can stay healthy unlike he was a year ago, he'll have no problem eclipsing 2,000 yards and leading one the most potent passing offenses in the area.



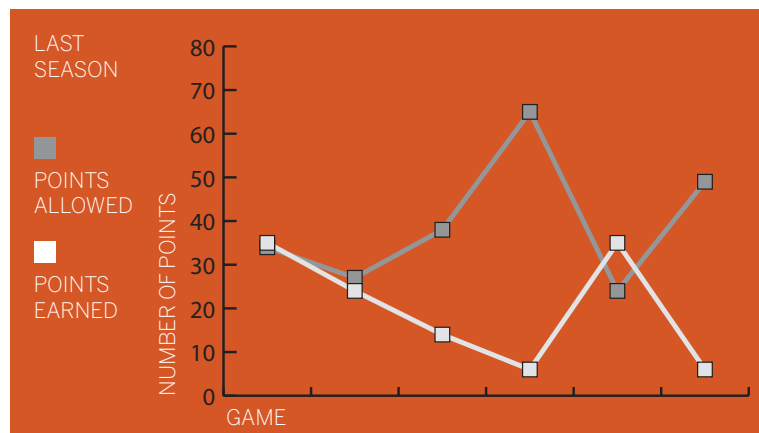
**Riley Dale, Sr.**

For the Warriors' offense to work, the quarterback needs solid blocking. Dale is a two-year starter at center and will be counted on to help teach a young offensive line.



**Jaikeem Murphy, Sr.**  
RB/MLB

Was the team leader in tackles with 113 and tied for the same lead in sacks with three. Only carried the ball 10 times but will play a larger role in the offense this season.



## BY THE NUMB3RS

**14**

Tackles by Chad Dixon as a sophomore in

2015. He took last year off to play baseball and will be a key part of the Warriors defense during the return to the football field this season.

**0**

Number of wins the Warriors had when starting

quarterback Will Jennings didn't start the game last season. They finished in a three-way tie for third place and missed out on the playoffs for the third straight year.



# LAGO VISTA VIKINGS

If 2015 was a wakeup call, 2016 was a resurgence for Lago Vista.

The Vikings returned to their true form and made the playoffs after a 8-3 overall and 4-1 district season. Before then, 2015 was the first time they had missed out on the pay-offs for six straight seasons.

Quarterback Jared DeFelice was the district's offensive MVP last season. Head coach Craten Phillips, in his second year in charge at Lago Vista, was named the co-coach of the year, joining the 20 other names on the list.

DeFelice has two of his nicest game in the 54-27 win against Ingram Moore, tossing five touchdowns for 274 yards, and the 35-3 win against Universal City Randolph when he went for 232 yards and three scores.

The Vikings need to replace Isaiah Flaherty after his strong end to the season. He ran for 426 yards and seven touchdowns in the final three games of the regular season and one playoff appearance.

Six-year NFL veteran Brad Kasell took over as defensive coordinator before the season and improved the unit immediately, helping the Vikings drop their points allowed per game number from 35 in 2015 to 32 last year.

They did a good job in the non-dis-



trict schedule, winning four of their five match-ups, with the only loss coming against eventual state semifinalists from Wall. And the uses continued into the district schedule as the Vikings won their first five games and would've had a perfect district season had it not been for a loss to Luling in the regular season finale.

Lago Vista's return to the playoffs matched them up against Altair Rice Consolidated. DeFelice ran for a score and threw touchdowns to Covey Wright and Tyler Emanuel in the 57-47 first-round shootout.

The Vikings kick off the with a road game against Comfort on Sept. 1. They have a chance to pick up a win against Wall when they travel to face the Hawks in Week 3 and begin the five-game district slate at home against Cole on Oct. 13.

## IMPACT PLAYERS

**QB**

**Jared DeFelice, Sr.**

The senior was the district's most valuable player a season ago. Threw for more than 500 yards and eight touchdowns in a two-game span that put the Vikings back in the playoffs after one year on the outside looking in.

**WR**

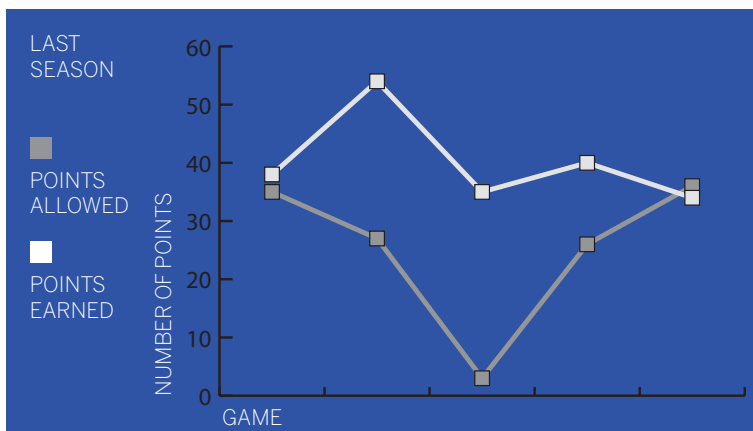
**Tyler Emanuel, Sr.**

The senior caught three touchdowns last season. With a proven quarterback throwing to him, Emanuel and the other two retuning seniors should be due for a gigantic year in the receiving game.

**OL**

**Will Robinson, Sr.**

The 6-foot-4 center will be one of the leading pieces in a line needed to help protect their pass-happy quarterback. The Vikings lost two key seniors on the front line in Daniel Babyak and Russell Sweet. Robinson will also play a key role on the defensive line.



**BY THE NUMB3RS**

**14** Wins in the three-year span of head coach Craten Phillips. He went to the playoffs with the Vikings in his first season in 2014.

**32** Points per game given up by the Lago Vista defense last season. They improved from the season before, but the defense under second-year defensive coordinator Brad Kasell will need to take another step in the right direction if another playoff appearance is in the cards.

**6**

Number of touchdowns caught by Tyler Emanuel, Covey Wright, and Caleb Roach last season.





# HIGH SCHOOL HERO

By ZACH SMITH



His face told the story. A passionate mix of joy, relief and excitement was all that remained when the burden was finally lifted.

Jaylen Gray was cancer free.

After fighting a rare form of soft tissue cancer for the better part of three years, the senior Vandegrift linebacker announced the disease had subsided this July and he would be attacking his final year on the field with extra vigor.

"It was one of the most memorable moments of my life," he said. "I was really excited. I just wanted to get back into football shape right away."

Leading up to the scan this summer, Jaylen's uncle, Barry Gray, didn't even want to talk about the possibilities. If the second round of chemo didn't work, he didn't have any idea what the family would do next.

The whole process had roughed Jaylen up. First, it was radiation, which reduced the size of the mass in his right wrist. Then, after the cancer cells spread to his biceps, it was chemotherapy which again helped with the healing. Finally, a second wave of chemo with a different drug finally sent the cells in remission.

The family walked out of the hospital together, smiling and high-fiving, encouraged at what the upcoming football season might hold.

"I probably should've taken a picture," Barry said.


Jaylen will have scans every six months to make sure the cancer has not returned. If those go well, the length between check-ups will expand to every couple of years, and then every five years, and so on until he doesn't have to go anymore.

Jaylen holds his parents close to his heart. His mother passed away at birth due to complications with the delivery. His father, Anthony, died six years ago after suffering a stroke, which struck the then-middle schooler to his core.

He moved in with his aunt Nicole and uncle Barry after his seventh grade year, and they have been with him every step of the way.







*"My teammates helped me get through it and they were motivating me to push through everything. If it wasn't for them I wouldn't be in this situation right now."*

Jayelen was a promising player from the moment he walked on to the Vandegrift football field for the first time. After a successful first season with the Vipers, head coach Drew Sanders and his staff suggested he try shot put to work on strength and conditioning for the rest of the school year.

The first time he ever threw the heavy metal ball, a bruise formed on his right wrist. Since there was no pain and he had full range of motion, At first, Jayelen tried ice, heat and other general treatments thinking it would go away over time.

It didn't.

After a few trips to the doctor, the family went to St. David's and the first surgery was performed to get a biopsy. Epithelioid sarcoma accounts for less

than one percent of all soft tissue cancers and most commonly shows up in young adults.

"I cried that whole night," Jayelen said. "The doctor told me that I couldn't play football and that just made me tighten up like a ball. My teammates helped me get through it and they were motivating me to push through everything. If it wasn't for them I wouldn't be in this situation right now."

The surgeon at MD Anderson Cancer Center first took out the cancerous muscle. He then removed a muscle from Jayelen's back and put it in his wrist before pulling a skin graft from his thigh to get it functioning again.

At first, the surgeon had problems getting blood to flow back to the arm.

But more than 12 hours later, Jayelen emerged with full range of motion.

The surgery forced Jayelen to miss most of his sophomore year, but after the surgery, he returned for his junior season and played in nine games and made 27 tackles, good for sixth amongst underclassmen that season.

After more scans and more tests, doctors noticed spots on his lungs and advised a more aggressive approach with chemotherapy. For six months, from January to June, Jayelen had treatments through a port in his right shoulder.

"The only good thing was I got to miss school," he said.

With football on the horizon as his junior year trudged on, he still had his eyes firmly fixed on the field. Chemo be damned.



“In the spring, he went through chemo and practiced 80 percent of the days with the chemo port in his shoulder,” Drew Sanders said. “You see another guy over there complaining about his ankle and you’re like ‘I don’t want to hear about it.’ We all just kind of pointed at Jayelen. His leadership is amazing.”

Sanders said the coaching staff pretty much let Jayelen decide what he was up for on a daily basis. But he stayed positive and he had his teammates encouraging him on a daily basis to help him get through the tough days.

Barry can’t put a price tag on what the community, without prompting, did to help the family through the entire process. There was a car wash that raised a lot of money. People would drive Jayelen back and forth from the doctor’s office and hospitals for check-ups.

The week of the first diagnosis was the same week Vandegrift hosted LISD rival Cedar Park. The Timberwolves pulled out a gut wrenching fourth quarter win, but it was what happened after that Barry will remember.

Then-sophomore quarterback Mak Sexton approached Jayelen after the game and the two teams joined together at the center of the field for a postgame prayer.

“It kind of transcended the game,” Barry said. “After the kids battled so hard on the field, they had the kindness in their hearts to take it back to someone who was struggling with a much bigger battle.”

Football has been a stabilizing beacon of hope for Jayelen. It was one of the first things he thought about after his diagnosis and has



kept him grounded through the whole process with the motivation that he would eventually continue his high school career.

“People haven’t seen it as much because he played last year with cancer, but he’s a really good player,” Sanders said. “There are just a lot of people that bash kids these days. This is our hope for the future. It’s in great hands with young men like this and young men like Jayelen.”

Jayelen has been through more adversity before high school graduation than many people face in a lifetime. He understands the pressure of being an inspiration and is honored that some of his younger teammates look up to him.

His message to them is one that, like his journey, transcends the football field.

“I want to inspire them to do better things,” he said. “When I go through stuff, I try to push through it and I want them to push through it too.”

## PHOTOS

*Photos provided by Jayelen and his family represent his battle on and off the field over the much of the last three years, as his teammates and the community at large have supported him throughout the fight with epithelioid sarcoma.*



# CEDAR AUTOMOTIVE & *Kwik Kar*

AUTO REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE • STATE INSPECTIONS • OIL CHANGES



**FAMILY OWNED  
AND OPERATED**



**FREE  
LOANER CAR WITH  
AUTO REPAIR**

3115 E. Whitestone Blvd.  
@ Parmer (across from Sonic)  
Cedar Park TX 78613  
512-260-3131  
[www.kwikkar1431.com](http://www.kwikkar1431.com)



Monday-Friday 8AM – 6PM  
Saturday 8AM – 5PM  
Sunday Closed



## Hill Country

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL *of Austin*



*Preparing for College. Preparing for Life.*

OFFERING PRESCHOOL THROUGH 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

12124 RR 620 N, Austin, Texas 78750 | [HillCountryChristianSchool.org](http://HillCountryChristianSchool.org) | 512.331.7036



# HILL COUNTRY CHRISTIAN KNIGHTS

By PETE CRAYCROFT

After several years of running multiple formations and looks on offense, 2017 promises a wholesale return of the “Hill Country Spread,” the unique twist on 6-man football’s Diamond Spread that Philip Hudgens has been using to torment opposing defensive coordinators for most of his 16-year tenure as the Hill Country Knights’ head football coach.

The revival of the spread at TAPPS 3A Division 1 Hill Country has everything to do with personnel – both in quality and quantity. The quality is good, with four veteran skill position players to handle the intricate timing and exchanges required to make Hudgens’ version of the spread run seamlessly. The quantity? Hill Country has just 11 athletes out for football, but according to Hudgens, those 11 players are all in. “I’m delighted that I have 11 kids who want to be here and play football,” Hudgens said. “We’ll meet them where they are and help them take the next steps to get better.

Effective execution of the spread offense is dependent initially on a quality snap from center: a 7-yard-deep snap that has to be crisp and hit a very precise spot that varies, depending upon which play has been called. Those duties this fall will belong to sophomore center Evan Read, who will also play on the defensive line. Read will also be a strategic receiving option in the middle of the field within the 6-man game’s center-eligible rule.

The next critical exchange falls to the two “up backs,” seniors Zane Jackson and Nate Neumann. With two exchanges required before a team may attempt a legal rushing play, either Neumann or Jackson – both elusive speedsters with great hands – takes the center snap and either pitches or hands the ball to each other, or to sophomore “spread back” Tanner James. At whatever point there have been two exchanges in the backfield, whichever player ends up with the ball then has the run/pass option.

While all this is going on in the middle of the field, two wide receivers are occupying two of the defensive players either by blocking them or streaking downfield in receiving routes. Likely candidates for those receiver roles are sophomore Will Pryor and freshman Kali’i



Horvath. Sophomore Hayden Jackson and freshman Brady Horne will provide some offensive line brawn for the occasions when the Knights line up in one form or another of the “tight” formation, and both should see action along the defensive front. Neumann, Jackson, James, and Read will also see frequent action on defense in a variety of roles. Rounding out the Knights’ roster are three freshmen: Braden Smith, Blake Yeary, and Brendan Melancon.

The Knights’ non-district schedule, for the second consecutive year, boasts a parade of recent state champions, as Richland Springs, San Marcos Hill Country, Austin Veritas, and Abbott have all won titles in one or both of the last two seasons in TAPPS or UIL. In addition, Fredericksburg Heritage is a perennial title contender.

“We’re going to honor our two-year agreements,” Hudgens said of what is almost certainly the toughest 6-man schedule in the state, and resulted in a 4-7 record in 2016, “and just concentrate on trying to eat the elephant one bite at a time.”

The Knights’ TAPPS district opponents include Waco Vanguard, Round Rock Concoridia, and long-time rival Round Rock Christian Academy. Hill Country finished second in district play last year to Vanguard, earning a first round playoff rematch with non-district opponent Austin Veritas.

Hill Country plays its home varsity 6-man football games at the on-campus stadium at Cedar Park High School and opens the season there on Sept. 1 against Giddings State School at 7:30 p.m.

”

The Knights’ non-district schedule, for the second consecutive year, boasts a parade of recent state champions, as Richland Springs, San Marcos Hill Country, Austin Veritas, and Abbott have all won titles in one or both of the last two seasons in TAPPS or UIL.



# SUMMIT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**N**ew head coach, Dewey Hargraves says he and the Summit Christian Eagles are excited for the upcoming season.

"This team is a young team and a very hungry team," Hargraves said. "They had a rough season last year, only winning three games. They have been working hard all summer lifting weights and conditioning."

Complimenting the work ethic of his athletes, Hargraves said, "They are a hard working group of kids. They have worked very hard to learn a new offensive and defensive system (and) they have given 100 percent every day in practice."

"Our motto this year is 'Stay Humble, Stay Hungry,'" explained Hargraves, adding, "As a staff, we have set the bar high for them this season because we have seen the talent that is on the Eagles."

This Eagles team has a number of players that should make an impact on the field this fall.

Sam Wood, Garret Rothans and Christian Fisher are all expected to have outstanding seasons.

After the rough 2016 season, the school's new head coach said that the Eagles are looking to make a splash and return to the playoffs, and that the entire coaching staff is on board with the plans and expectations.

"The Coaching staff has been really amazing. Coach Mason Taylor

has taken over the strength and conditioning program and has pushed the kids every day to get better," said Hargraves.

Having a new head coach take over a program can be challenging for everyone involved, but Hargraves said the team has welcomed him and the group has "begun to come together as a family."

"I am looking forward to this season as offense looks to be a very explosive offense, and the defense has been flying to the football every day in practice. I hope that will continue into the scrimmages and regular season. It has been fun to see just how much these players have grown from the first day of practice to now and how smart they are by picking up on the terminology and the different things we are doing on offense and defense. I am very thankful that God has allowed me to come to to pour into these young men become better young men off that is what it is about for me young men leave school and go make an impact on it."

*Junior Christian Fisher is expected to be a big-play receiver for the Eagles this season.*

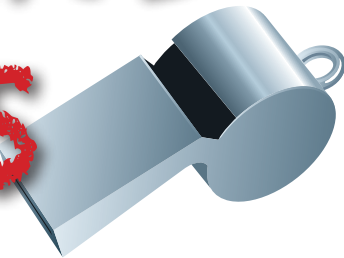








# PLAYOFFS AND TIEBREAKERS



## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THINGS GET CRAZY?

**S**an Marcos, Lockhart, Alamo Heights were locked into a potential three-way tie headed into the final week of the regular season two seasons ago.

Alamo Heights was facing off with the already crowned district champions, while San Marcos and Lockhart met in the season finale. Alamo Heights has been a perennial playoff contender in the district since the early 2000s.

Lockhart topped Alamo Heights 44-36 and Alamo Heights beat San Marcos 63-53 during the regular season to set up the situation.

San Marcos needed to win by more than 13 points, which would eliminate the Mules and give Lockhart the fourth playoff spot. If San Marcos lost by seven or fewer points, the Rattlers would be eliminated.

So with the game winding down and San Marcos leading by seven points, Lockhart intentionally moved backward down the field. On the second to last play of the game, a Lockhart player handed the ball to a San Marcos lineman in the end zone, giving the Rattlers a 35-17 win and eliminating Alamo Heights.

Tiebreakers in football are not a UIL rule. Every district, which changes every two seasons, is in charge of coming up with their own way to settle ties.

When the districts meet, one of the biggest things is how each district comes out in the event of a tie. Normally when there are two teams tied, it comes down to a simple head-to-head, but when three or more teams are tied it gets more complicated.

Westwood, McNeil, Stony Point, Pflugerville, and Hendrickson all finished 2-4 in district play last season.

Westwood was eliminated because three of their losses were against Stony Point, Henderson, and McNeil. The Mavericks missed out because they lost to both Pflugerville and Hendrickson.

The regular season hung on the Hendrickson vs. Pflugerville game in the season finale, one that the Hawks won to advance to the playoffs and take Stony Point, which beat Hendrickson and Westwood, to the postseason.

It's like a pretzel that seemingly never ends. And it gets even more confusing in District 19-5A.

For two-way ties, it's as simple as a head-to-head choice.

For three-way ties, the team that beat the other two will be awarded the higher position and the other two will determine who gets in based on the two-way tie regulations. The opposite will happen if one of

the three teams has two losses against the group.

Four-way ties are where things differ the most district to district. In District 19-5A, the point differential is 17. That is the maximum amount of points a team can use to add up to create the biggest difference.

The net scores of the four teams' head-to-head matchups are added up. The teams in order of best differential against each other to determine an order. If the points system doesn't work, then least amount of district points would be used.

If that's tied, the teams flip a coin.

This happened near Dallas in 2015. Despite winning three of its final four games, it came down to a coin flip to see if Waxahachie would get in. After the season finale, the coach headed to Whataburger and the Indians missed out.

It's rare tiebreakers come down to more than head-to-head outcomes, but when they do, things can get crazy.

”  
It's like a pretzel  
that seemingly  
never ends. And  
it gets even more  
confusing in  
District 19-5A.





follow @HCNsports on Twitter  
for can't-miss moments at these locations

# WHERE STADIUMS STAND



## KELLY REEVES ATHLETIC COMPLEX

**Address:** 10211 West Parmer Lane,  
Austin, TX 78717

**Capacity:** 11,000

**Year Opened:** 2003

**Playing Surface:** Artificial

**Home Teams:** Round Rock, Stony  
Point, Cedar Ridge, Westwood,  
McNeil



## DRAGON FIELD

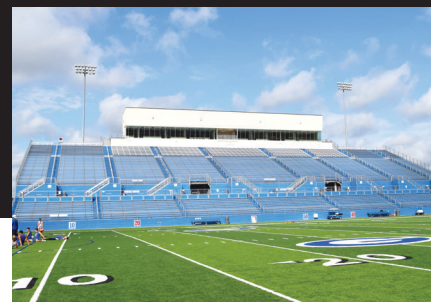
**Address:** 300 North Lake Creek  
Dr., Round Rock, TX 78681

**Capacity:** 8,800

**Year Opened:** 1974

**Playing Surface:** Artificial

**Home Teams:** Round Rock, Stony  
Point, Cedar Ridge, Westwood,  
McNeil



## BIRKLEBACH FIELD

**Address:** 2275 North Austin Ave.,  
Georgetown, TX 78626

**Capacity:** 12,442

**Year Opened:** 2008

**Playing Surface:** Artificial

**Home Teams:** Georgetown Eagles,  
East View Patriots



## JOHN GUPTON STADIUM

**Address:** 200 Gupton Way Dr.,  
Cedar Park, TX 78613

**Capacity:** 10,200

**Year Opened:** 2010

**Playing Surface:** Artificial

**Home Teams:** Vista Ridge, Cedar  
Park, Glenn



## A.C. BIBLE STADIUM

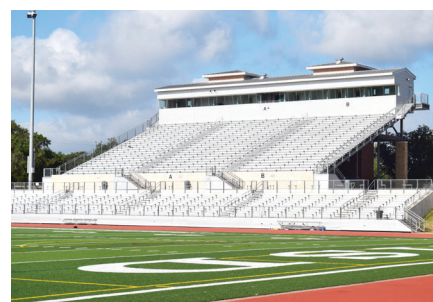
**Address:** 3301 S Bagdad Rd., Le-  
ander, TX 78641

**Capacity:** 10,200

**Year Opened:** 2009

**Playing Surface:** Artificial

**Home Teams:** Leander, Rouse,  
Glenn



## ED W. MONROE STADIUM

**Address:** 9500 McNeil Dr., Austin,  
TX 78750

**Capacity:** 5,000

**Year Opened:** 2010

**Playing Surface:** Artificial

**Home Teams:** Vandegrift



**GOOD LUCK TO ALL  
OUR ATHLETES  
THIS SEASON.**



**THREE  
CHEERS  
TO YOU.**



# Proud to Support Texas High School Football!



*Your one stop shop for all your  
Tailgating & Post Game needs!*

Cedar Park	Round Rock	North Austin	South Austin
551 W. Whitestone Cedar Park TX 78613	1410 Round Rock Ave Round Rock TX 78681	12336 Ranch Rd 620 N Cedar Park TX 78750	9816 Brodie Ln Austin TX 78748
(512) 250-1245	(512) 246-0343	(512) 219-9078	(512) 280-1600

**\$2.99** Limit 2  
8 Crispy Livers or Gizzards, Gravy & Roll  
Only good at Cedar Park, Round Rock & Austin Locations Exp 10/15/17

**\$1.99** Limit 1  
10 Warm Rolls  
Only good at Cedar Park, Round Rock & Austin Locations Exp 10/15/17

**\$19.99** Limit 1  
10 Tender Roll Sandwiches  
2 Family Sides & Gallon of Bush's Famous Tea  
Only good at Cedar Park, Round Rock & Austin Locations Exp 10/15/17

**\$2.50 OFF** Limit 1  
#9 - 10 pc. Family Chicken Meal  
10 Pieces Chicken, 2 Family Sides & 5 Rolls  
Only good at Cedar Park, Round Rock & Austin Locations Exp 10/15/17

**\$2.50 OFF** Limit 1  
#11 - 8pc Chicken & 12pc Tender Meal  
Family Gravy, 2 Family Sides & 10 Rolls  
Only good at Cedar Park, Round Rock & Austin Locations Exp 10/15/17

**\$2.50 OFF** Limit 1  
#7 - Family 20 pc Tender Meal  
Family Gravy, 2 Family Sides & 5 Rolls  
Only good at Cedar Park, Round Rock & Austin Locations Exp 10/15/17

**\$9.99** Limit 2  
2 Value Meals  
4 pc Tender Meal or 2 pc Chicken Value Meal  
Only good at Cedar Park, Round Rock & Austin Locations Exp 10/15/17

**\$3.49** Limit 1  
Chicken Tender Salad  
Warm Crispy or Baked Chilled, Roll & 32oz Drink  
Only good at Cedar Park, Round Rock & Austin Locations Exp 10/15/17

32oz Tea **Free** OR  
2 Gallons for **\$3.99**  
Sweet, Un-Sweet or Half&Half  
Only good at Cedar Park, Round Rock & Austin Locations Exp 10/15/17