

# KATY AREA 2020 FALL SPORTS

# PREVIEW

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**Katy Times**



KATY TIMES — SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

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# THE JORDAN ERA BEGINS

*Newest high school hits the field, looks forward to competition*

By COLE McNANNA

Jordan head football coach Mike Rabe said it's been a challenge to navigate through the adversity of taking over a completely new program amidst a pandemic, but he was pleased with the effort put forth by the Warriors ahead of the team's first scrimmage last week.

"They've done a good job with their work ethic, they had a quick summer but we're really at that point where it's time to go play someone else," Rabe said. "We've done a lot of practicing against each other; it feels like we've done it for - it's been months that we've been able to go against each other so it'll be nice to go compete against another program."

The newest high school in Katy ISD opened to start this school year and features only a freshman and sophomore class which allows individual sports like tennis and golf to join the varsity ranks right away. Although team sports like basketball and baseball will compete at the varsity level starting in the fall of 2021, football teams cannot join in the middle of a biennial realignment of the University Interscholastic League so the Warriors won't be aligned to play in a varsity football district until the 2022 season.

Rabe's plan for these next two seasons was to compete against varsity teams from lower-classification schools and sub-varsity teams from higher-classification schools but after the UIL delayed the season for larger schools, the smaller programs hit the field before Jordan did and the schedules no longer lined up.

"There were three other programs that we were going to play multiple times throughout the year that are in the exact same boat that we're in," the head coach said. "Then everything got pushed back so we've been scrambling a little bit. We've got more of a JV football schedule for this year, and then going into next year we anticipate getting back to that schedule that we had originally put together."

Either way, the Warriors will have two years to continue to develop camaraderie but for the mix of student-athletes Rabe has on the roster, he's already seen team unity developing.

"As we've been through this process and with football getting fired up and getting closer playing games, it's been neat to watch them start to bond as a team and start to build that respect for each other so they've done a really good job with it," Rabe said.

Rabe said that, while the team is in its infancy, he's already seen players assume leadership roles and contribute early on.

"Just from what we've seen practicing against each other, we've got some guys that we're real pleased with. Brayden Franklin - he's playing on both sides of the football for us right now - he's a sophomore, he plays slot receiver and defensive back and I've been really impressed with him," Rabe said. "Ryan Miller plays wide receiver and defensive back as well and he's done a really good job."

One freshman that has stood out is Warrior linebacker and running back Ifeanyi Monye, Rabe said.

With some solid skill positions filled, Rabe looked to the trenches where sophomores Tosin Odulate and Eli Fullerton will likely lead the offensive and defensive linemen groups.

"I think we're hanging our hat right now on our big guys up front, I feel real comfortable with our offensive and defensive line," the head coach said. "They've picked up our scheme so well that we're multiple on offense and we're really sound on defense. I've been really pleased with where they're at on that so I think we'll be able to be real balanced on offense being able to throw and run the football a bunch and our defense has done an outstanding job through this time."

While some coaches staunchly predict championships for their teams regardless of the year, Rabe's expectations for the first season are focused on weekly improvement and the coach hoped by the end of the season a winning tradition is instilled in the locker room.

"I would like to see us improve each week and I know that's kind of cliché but I think if we can get more consistency out of our guys as we move through to where we don't have any mistakes and we're showing up and practicing with the right mentality every single day, that's really what I'm looking for," Rabe said.

COLE McNANNA

The Jordan Warriors have been hitting the practice field ahead of their inaugural football season beginning this Friday against Lake Belton. The newest high school in Katy ISD features only freshmen and sophomores and will not play in a varsity football district until 2022.



# FOOTBALL WHO TO WATCH



**NAME**  
Braden Franklin  
**GRADE LEVEL**  
10  
**AGE**  
16  
**POSITION**  
WR/DB



**NAME**  
Oluwatosin Odulate  
**GRADE LEVEL**  
10  
**AGE**  
15  
**POSITION**  
DL/OL



**NAME**  
Ryan Miller  
**GRADE LEVEL**  
10  
**AGE**  
15  
**POSITION**  
WR/DB

*“At Jordan High School we have a great group of young football players. They have done an outstanding job of buying into our schemes and begun to execute them very well. I am excited to watch their progress throughout this year and into the future.”*

— JORDAN HIGH HEAD FOOTBALL COACH MIKE RABE

## CROSS COUNTRY

Jordan Cross Country kicked off their inaugural season by running in their first meet on Sept. 12. Coaching staff said Xhimena Lopez de Escalera ran in her first formal race at that event. Results of the meet were not available in time for press. Lopez de Escalera has proven herself to be a hard worker and trained hard throughout the summer and has demonstrated competitive times in pre-season time trials. Jacob Wyman received similar accolades from his coach who said he is expected to set the standard for cross country during his time at Jordan.



**NAME**  
Ximena Lopez de Escalera  
**SPORT**  
Cross Country  
**AGE**  
16



**NAME**  
Jacob Wymann  
**SPORT**  
Cross Country  
**AGE**  
15

# SCHEDULES

## JV VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
09/25	Waller High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
09/26	Cy Lakes	Home	10 p.m.
09/29	Mayde Creek	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/02	Morton Ranch High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/03	Cinco Ranch High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/06	Seven Lakes High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/09	Katy High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/10	Tompkins High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/13	Taylor High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/16	Mayde Creek High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/17	Morton Ranch High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/20	Cinco Ranch High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/23	Seven Lakes High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/24	Katy High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/27	Tompkins High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/30	Taylor High School	Home	5:30 p.m.

## CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
09/25	Paul D. Rushing Park		8 a.m.
10/3	Caldwell Invitational	Davidson Creek Park, Caldwell	8 a.m.
10/10	Seven Lakes Showcase (tentative)	Seven Lakes High School	TBD
10/17	Run the Dog Pound Invitational	Magnolia High School, Magnolia	7 a.m.
10/21	Memorial Maverick Invitational	Pasadena Memorial High School, Pasadena	9:30 a.m.
10/22	Memorial Maverick Invitational	Pasadena Memorial High School, Pasadena	7:30 a.m.
10/29	District 19-5A Championships	Paul D. Rushing Park, Katy	8 a.m.
11/10	Region III Championship	Kate Barr-Ross Park, Huntsville	TBD
11/24	State Cross Country Championship	Old Settlers Park, Round Rock	TBD

## FOOTBALL

OPPONENT	DATE	PLACE	TIME
Lake Belton	09/25/2020	Away	7:30 p.m.
Paetow High School	10/01/2020	Away	TBD
Taylor High School	10/08/2020	Home	TBD
Lake Belton	10/23/2020	Home	7:30 p.m.
Tompkins High School	10/29/2020	Away	7:30 p.m.
Davenport-Comal	11/07/2020	Away	2:00 p.m.
Cinco Ranch High School	11/11/2020	Away	TBD
Katy High School	11/19/2020	Away	TBD
Ridge Point High School	11/25/2020	Home	TBD

## TENNIS

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
09/25	Magnolia High School	Home	4 p.m.
09/29	Magnolia West High School	Away	4 p.m.
10/06	Paetow High School	TBD	4 p.m.
10/13	Waller High School	Away	4 p.m.
10/20	College Station High School	Home	4 p.m.

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
09/24	Magnolia High School	Away	4 p.m.
10/01	Magnolia West	TBD	TBD
10/08	Paetow High School	Away	4 p.m.
10/22	College Station High School	Away	4 p.m.

All schedules subject to change due to COVID-19 and other issues.



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# COUGARS EAGER TO WRITE THEIR OWN HISTORY

By COLE McNANNA

Coming off a winless season, this year's brand of Cinco Ranch Cougars is excited to pave its own legacy in 2020.

"We started with our offseason last November and really made some good strides in terms of our offseason strength development and speed development and also just the culture part of things," head coach Chris Dudley said entering his second year at the helm. "They've got a fresh perspective on things and they understand that there's no carryover unless you let it be a carryover, so our struggles last year don't need to define this year's team."

Dudley said the Cougars have some returning starters, but underclassmen may step into lead roles on the field.

"On the offensive side of the ball, we have some good skill players. They're a little young, we got some underclassmen that are going to be put into some positions right off the bat, but they're very talented," Dudley said. "We got some big offensive linemen in some key spots too. We got Ethan Onianwa he's a Rice commit and really got a lot of attention during the recruiting season from a lot of different power five schools but he's set on going to Rice."

Dudley said defense is similar with key returners and newcomers creating a solid team.

"We got one of our top players back in Kasey Murry, he was a starting linebacker as a sophomore and he's back for his junior season. We got some new pieces on the defensive back end of things along with a couple returners, and then the same thing with defensive line there's a couple returners there, Increase Oputa was a starter for us and he's coming back as a defensive end," the coach said.

The coaching staff will get to see how things play out for real when Cinco Ranch opens the season with non-district games against College Park (Sept. 25 at Legacy Stadium) and Channelview (Oct. 2 on the road) before district play starts Oct. 9 with



ALLEN SCARROW

Cinco Ranch junior linebacker Kasey Murry, 33, is part of a new brand of Cougar football that's ready to create its own legacy in 2020 despite a delayed start to the season. Pictured is Murray making a tackle in a non-district game against Cy Ranch at Legacy Stadium on Aug. 31, 2019.

a contest against the Tompkins Falcons at Rhodes Stadium.

Dudley said although College Park finished 5-5 last year, he felt they're ready to take the next step to becoming a playoff team with a number of key returners and looked forward to the challenge right off the bat. Channelview, he said, is coached by the father of Jalen Hurts who had college careers at the Universities of Alabama and Oklahoma before being chosen by the Philadelphia Eagles in the most recent NFL Draft.

"Our Week Two game, we were supposed to be playing Aldine Davis but with the change in the Aldine ISD school year, they had to cancel that game so we picked up Channelview and they're a team that, through the years, they light it up offensively," Dudley said.

Dudley felt the non-district games will prepare the Cougars for District 19-6A games but explained how this year's mantra will help the team focus on their next step as opposed to 20 steps down the line.

"Our team motto this year is win the day.

We picked that for a couple different reasons," Dudley said. "It keeps you focused on what you can control, which is that particular day, and probably this season, more than ever, with all the changes that can happen on a daily basis you really don't know what's going to get thrown your way. From a scheduling perspective, from practices and things of that nature, with the amount of uncertainty, you really can't do a whole lot of looking ahead, you really do have to concentrate on what you can control that particular day."

Altogether, he thinks this team's focus is on point and looks forward to seeing how they develop over the season.

"The thing that has encouraged me is their mindset each and every day where they get along with each other and they're competitive," Dudley said. "They're eager to write their own history. One, they're proud of the tradition of our program but at the same time, they want to make their own mark and not be compared to other teams whether it's more recent teams or the teams from years ago."

## SCHEDULES

### FOOTBALL

09/25	College Park	Home (LS)	6:30 p.m.
10/02	Channelview	Away	7 p.m.
10/09	Tompkins High School	Home (RS)	7:30 p.m.
10/16	Mayde Creek High School	Home (RS)	7:30 p.m.
10/31	Katy High School	Home (RS)	12 p.m.
11/06	Taylor High School- Home (LS)		6:30 p.m.
11/12	Morton Ranch High School	Home (LS)	6 p.m.
11/20	Seven Lakes High School	Home (RS)	7:30 p.m.
11/20	Brazoswood High School	Away	7 p.m.
12/04	Clear Falls	Home (LS)	6:30 p.m.

### VOLLEYBALL

09/26	Ridgepoint High School	Home	12 p.m.
09/29	Tompkins High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/02	Mayde Creek High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/06	Katy High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/09	Taylor High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/10	Morton Ranch High School	Home	12 p.m.
10/13	Seven Lakes High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/16	Tompkins High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/17	Mayde Creek High School	Home	12 p.m.
10/23	Katy High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/24	Taylor High School	Home	12 p.m.
10/25	Clear Falls High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/27	Morton Ranch High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/30	Seven Lakes High School	Away	5:30 p.m.

### CROSS COUNTRY

10/03	The Woodlands	Bear Branch Soccer Complex	7 a.m.
10/10	Seven Lakes	Seven Lakes High School	7 a.m.
10/17	Atascocita High School	Atascocita High school	7 a.m.
10/30	District Meet	Bear Creek Pioneers Park	7 a.m.
11/10	Regional Meet	Kate Barr-Ross Park	7 a.m.
11/24	State Meet	Old Settlers Park, Round Rock	7 a.m.

### TENNIS

No schedule had been published at the time of publication.

## TENNIS

For the Cinco Ranch Varsity Tennis, we can expect to compete for a playoff spot in district. Last year, we finished 3rd in district behind Seven Lakes and Tompkins. The top 4 spots go to the playoffs.



# WILSON RETURNS TO LEAD MAVERICKS

By COLE McNANNA

For the first time in three years, the Morton Ranch Mavericks enter the season knowing who will be taking snaps at quarterback. “Jaymarcus Wilson, we expect really big things from him this year,” head coach Ron Counter said. “It’s a very big thing to me that we’re set at quarterback whereas the last couple years we didn’t know exactly who was going to be the quarterback when the starting quarterback wasn’t returning so he’s definitely going to be the big part of our offense.”

Counter is expecting that offense to have a little more firepower than in years past as well.

“The one thing that we’ve kind of lacked is big plays,” Counter said. “I think we’ve got some guys with some speed that when we get them in space, maybe we can be a little bit more explosive on offense this year.”

Morton Ranch will look to its 6-foot, 5-inch, 300-pound offensive lineman Aaron Session to provide Wilson with some protection to find Jermichael Johnson on the outside.

“He hasn’t committed anywhere but he’s got about 20 some-odd D-I offers and he’s also an excellent student so he’s actually got Ivy League offers,” Counter said of Sessions. “Johnson was on the varsity last year, we expect big things from him. He was on the varsity last year but he only caught a few passes but he should be pretty explosive catching and running with the ball this year.”

Defensively, Counter said the Mavericks will have a defensive back and linebacker returning for their fourth straight year in a starting role.

“We have D’shawn Winfield, a defensive back returning starter. He’ll be a three-year starter, a lot of these seniors have been on varsity since they were sophomores,” the head coach said. “At linebacker Sam Hampton is, again, a three-year starter.”

Counter also said this group of seniors at Morton Ranch will have plenty of familiarity with their Week Two opponents in the Paetow Panthers.

“When I first got here a little over three years ago, a lot of the students from Morton Ranch went to Paetow,” Counter said of the high school that opened the same year. “So, this senior class ... is that class where I came in and these kids will know each other well living right next to each other so that’ll be a good non-district game.”

The first district contest will be the following week against the Taylor Mustangs who snagged a win from the Mavericks with a last-second field goal. Counter said it was that close loss and another loss that came down to the wire the last week of the season against Mayde Creek that kept Morton Ranch just outside the playoff picture.

“We’ve been close but we’re not playing horseshoes so getting close doesn’t do you any good so we’ve got to find a way. I don’t care what our record is, if we’re 5-5 like Taylor was last year, I don’t care what our overall record is I just want to figure out a way to get in the playoffs,” Counter said.

Wilson and Hanson were named team captains to step up and take



MARK GOODMAN

Jermichael Johnson returns to provide a deep threat for a Morton Ranch offense that head coach Ron Counter hopes to be more explosive in 2020. Pictured is Johnson, 82, making a catch during a district game against Seven Lakes at Legacy Stadium on Nov. 2, 2019.

over the leadership roles vacated by some high-impact players who recently graduated, two of which are now taking up roster spots on Division I programs.

Offensive lineman Justice Guillory (Stephen F. Austin) and defensive tackle Brandon Brown (Tulane), as well as safety Dylan Ford who contributed triple-digits tackles, all leave big shoes to fill but heading into 2020 with the group he has, Counter has confidence in the players stepping up and hopes to see them play their way to the postseason.

“Overall, we feel like we’re gonna have a good defense, offense and special teams,” Counter said. “Injuries are always a factor for us but if we can stay healthy, we think we’re gonna be right in the mix, kind of like we were last year; 5-5 going into that last week, trying to get that fourth playoff spot. As everybody knows, it’s a very tough district but hopefully this might be the year that the ball bounces our way, a little bit like Mayde Creek last year or Taylor again with their great playoff run.”

## SCHEDULES

### FOOTBALL

09/25	Cy Lakes	Away	7 p.m.
10/02	Paetow High School	Home (LS)	6:30 p.m.
10/10	Taylor High School	Home (LS)	6:30 p.m.
10/16	In planning/Tentative	Home	6:30 p.m.
10/23	Seven Lakes High School	Home (LS)	6:30 p.m.
10/30	Tompkins High School	Home (LS)	6:30 p.m.
11/06	Mayde Creek High School	Home (RS)	7:30 p.m.
11/12	Cinco Ranch High School	Home (RS)	7 p.m.
11/20	Katy High School	Home (LS)	6:30 p.m.
11/27	Hastings High School	Away	7 p.m.
12/04	Clear Brook High School	Home (RS)	7:30 p.m.

### VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

09/25	North Shore High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
09/26	Springwood High School	Home	12 p.m.
09/29	Taylor High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/03	Seven Lakes High School	Home	12 p.m.
10/03	Cy Park High School	Home	2:30 p.m.
10/06	Tompkins High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/09	Mayde Creek High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/10	Cinco Ranch High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/13	Katy High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/16	Taylor High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/20	Seven Lakes High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/23	Tompkins High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/24	Mayde Creek High School	Away	12 p.m.
10/27	Cinco Ranch High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/30	Katy High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/31	Alief Taylor High School	Home	12 p.m.
11/03	Brazoswood High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
11/06	Dickinson High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
11/07	Dobie High School	Away	12 p.m.
11/13	Clear Falls High School	Away	5:30 p.m.

### CROSS COUNTRY

No schedule for Morton Ranch Cross Country was available in time for publication

### VARSITY TENNIS

09/29	Tompkins High School	Away	4 p.m.
10/02	Paetow High School	Away	4 p.m.
10/06	Mayde Creek High School	TBD	4 p.m.
10/13	Cinco Ranch High School	Away	4 p.m.
10/20	Katy High School	TBD	4 p.m.

## CROSS COUNTRY WHO TO WATCH



**NAME**  
Ethan Hernandez

**AGE**  
15

**BEST TIME**  
Ethan's best 2-mile time as a freshman was 11:05. His best 5K time last year was 18:19.



**NAME**  
Samara Lopez

**AGE**  
16

**BEST TIME**  
Samara's best 5K time was 21:47. She beat her best time in practice this summer running a 20:52.

## SCHEDULES

## FOOTBALL

## VARSITY

10/24	Cy Springs High School	Home (LS)	6 p.m.
10/01	George Range High School	Home (LS)	7 p.m.
10/10	Morton Ranch High School	Home (LS)	6 p.m.
10/16	Seven Lakes High School	Home (LS)	6:30 p.m.
10/23	Tompkins High School	Home (RS)	7:30 p.m.
10/31	Mayde Creek High School	Home (LS)	11 a.m.
11/06	Cinco Ranch High School	Home (LS)	6:30 p.m.
11/12	Katy High School	Home (RS)	7 p.m.
11/27	Clear Springs High School	Home (RS)	12 p.m.
12/04	Klein Cain High School	Away	7 p.m.

## JUNIOR VARSITY

09/30	George Ranch High School	Home	6:30 p.m.
10/08	Morton Ranch High School	Away	6:30 p.m.
10/15	Seven Lakes High School	Home	6:30 p.m.
10/22	Tompkins High School	Away	6:30 p.m.
10/29	Mayde Creek High School	Home	6:30 p.m.
11/05	Cinco Ranch High School	Away	6:30 p.m.
11/11	Katy High School	Home	6:30 p.m.
11/25	Clear Springs High School	Away	6:30 p.m.
12/03	Klein Cain High School	Home	6:30 p.m.

## VOLLEYBALL

## VARSITY

09/25	Brenham High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
09/26	Crosby High School	Home	6:30 p.m.
09/29	Morton Ranch High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
10/02	Seven Lakes High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/03	Tompkins High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/06	Mayde Creek High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/09	Cinco Ranch High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/10	Katy High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/16	Morton Ranch High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/17	Seven Lakes High School	Home	12 p.m.
10/17	Tompkins High School	Away	4:30 p.m.
10/23	Mayde Creek High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/24	Cinco Ranch High School	Away	12 p.m.
10/27	Katy High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
11/03	Clear Springs High School	Home	6:30 p.m.
11/10	Clear Lake High School	Away	5:30 p.m.

## JUNIOR VARSITY

09/25	Brenham High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
09/29	Crosby High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
09/29	Morton Ranch High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/02	Seven Lakes High School	Away	4:30 p.m.
10/03	Tompkins High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
10/06	Mayde Creek High School	Away	4:30 p.m.
10/09	Cinco Ranch High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
10/10	Katy High School	Away	4:30 p.m.
10/13	Jordan High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/16	Morton Ranch High School	Away	4:30 p.m.
10/17	Seven Lakes High School	Home	11 a.m.
10/20	Tompkins High School	Away	4:30 p.m.
10/23	Mayde Creek High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
10/24	Cinco Ranch High School	Away	11 a.m.
10/27	Katy High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
10/30	Jordan High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
11/03	Clear Springs High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
11/10	Clear Lake High School	Away	4:30 p.m.

## CROSS COUNTRY

## VARSITY

09/26	Oak Ridge Invitational	Spring Creek Park	Conroe, TX	7:30 a.m.
10/03	Klein Bear Cat Tune-Up	Spring Creek Park	Tomball, TX	7 a.m.
10/16	Cy-Fair ISD Invitational	Spring Creek Park	Tomball, TX	7 p.m.
10/31	District Meet	Location TBD		7 a.m.

## TENNIS

No Tennis schedule had been released for this school at the time of publication.

## TENNIS

## WHO TO WATCH



**NAME**  
Cristopher Cequea-Rivero (Also the Team Captain)

**AGE**  
17

**GRADE**  
Senior



**NAME**  
Sabrina Lopez

**AGE**  
17

**GRADE**  
Senior

The Katy Taylor varsity tennis team is aiming to finish strong this season. They've won more matches against higher level teams in comparison to past seasons and the boys and girls are solid with champs and super champs on both squads. In match play teammates are supportive of each other and there's a unified goal of winning as a team instead of as an individual. For the last several years' students have dedicated a significant portion of their free time to improving their game and as their coach it's truly exciting and energizing to see how these young men and women have developed. Each player has faced and conquered multiple obstacles on or off the tennis court and I'm extremely proud of everyone. Sabrina Lopez and Cristopher Cequea-Rivero, both 17 years old and seniors on the varsity team, are college prospects for tennis. Sabrina and Cristopher illustrate the characteristics of strength of heart, dedication, and fortitude which is now the mainstay for the entire team.

## CROSS COUNTRY

## WHO TO WATCH



**NAME**  
Henry Pearson

**AGE**  
17

**BEST TIME**  
18.01 (5K)



**NAME**  
Chelsea Tanner

**AGE**  
15

**BEST TIME**  
21:41:31 (Bear Creek 5K course)

# MUSTANGS HAVE HIGH ASPIRATIONS

By COLE McNANNA

**W**ith 14 starters returning from a Taylor Mustang team that went to the state semifinal last year, the expectation for 2020 is at least a repeat of that run according to head coach Chad Simmons, but not without putting in the work first.

"I think the success we had with the run to the semifinals last year gave them a lot of confidence and raised expectations," Simmons said. "The thing you've got to guard against there is just because you did it the year before doesn't mean there's anything that's automatic and I don't think they have had the indication of kids thinking that way."

Through the stops and starts of summer conditioning programs, Simmons and the Mustangs finally hit the practice field at the beginning of this month to start preparations for what is hopefully another long season.

"At the beginning, we say one of the goals we have is to play in December. This year, it just so happens we have our last district game in December and it's against the team (Katy) that's won the district championship every year since 2008 when we beat them at Cinco," said Simmons, a former defensive coordinator for the Cinco Ranch Cougars. "We want that to be for the district championship. And then we want to play in December from what we've always said in the past and now we look at the way the schedule is, we want to be in a bowl game in January, as crazy as that sounds."

The Mustangs will look to do just that behind their beasts in the trenches with key returners coming back on both sides of the ball although he views the offensive line corps as the best he's ever been around.

Between two Division-I recruits in Hayden Conner and Bryce Foster - who were also both named to "Dave Campbell's" Super Team offensive line - returning starter Abraham Ozekie and newcomers Nolan Hay and Dawson Seago, Simmons says the O-line is much more athletic than last year's.

They'll provide the protection for returners at quarterback and running back in Jake Hinen and Casey Shorter who bring vital experience to the offense.

"A returner at quarterback, that's invaluable with that experience," Simmons said. "Casey had roughly 1,500 yards last year back at running back. I think we've got a really good offensive scheme that balances run and pass, we do some things that I think really make it difficult to defend."

On the other side of the ball, both of the Daniels twins, Marcus and Jordan, return to anchor the defensive ends outside of Jake Cortez and EJ Bronson on the inside.

"Cortez is a defensive tackle that played quite a bit last year and Bronson is a kid who has really come on, he got big like 6' 5", right at 300 pounds, a defensive tackle that runs pretty well and he may end up being a Division-I guy," Simmons said.

Marcus Daniels was already a starting member of the defense while his brother Jordan was a spot-player at wide receiver and Simmons said due to some injuries, Jordan was asked to switch to the other side of the ball and play opposite his twin.

"Last year, right about the time we started the playoffs, (Jordan) came in and did a great job," the coach said. "It's almost like he was getting telepathy from his brother on the techniques, but he caught on quick. A lot of that stuff, once they work it, it becomes natural for them but defensive-line play is not really the most natural thing for kids to do. You really have to work it if you want them to have good technique and he just caught on immediately."

Returners in the defensive secondary include Hollis Robinson, Cam Hennon and Cecil Ivey II as well as Trevor Woods who will command the strong safety position.

"He's committed to Colorado and he's just one of the best football players I have ever been around," Simmons said of Woods. "He's 6' 2", about 205 pounds now and still can run real well, he's the mainstay in the secondary."

Simmons said he is pleased with the bond created between his coaching team

and players that allows growth and progress throughout the Mustang lineup.

"We have an outstanding staff of guys that coach kids hard but also have good relationships with them and don't make things where correcting them is anything personal," Simmons said. "They have really bought into preparation, not only how important that is but it's all those little things that nobody - unless you're behind the scenes - really even knows about going into a ball game because you get in the ball game and if you prepare, that'll show up, and if you didn't, that's going to show up too."



PHOTOS BY MARK GOODMAN

Woods (43) returns an interception for a touchdown during the regional final playoff game between Katy Taylor and Cy-Creek at NRG Stadium in Houston on Dec. 7, 2019.



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Katy junior linebacker Ty Kana returns to lead a strong defensive unit for the Tigers that allowed only 5.5 points against per game in district competition. Pictured is Kana preparing to make a tackle in a district game against Cinco Ranch at Legacy Stadium on Oct. 25, 2019.

MARK GOODMAN

# TIGERS READY TO WORK

By COLE McNANNA

**T**hree out of the last four years, the North Shore Mustangs have put an end to the Katy Tigers' season in the regional semifinals. The last two years in a row, they've gone on to win the Class 6A Division I state championship.

Katy head football coach Gary Joseph knows his Tigers will have to clash with North Shore once again in order to take a step closer to a state record with the school's ninth state title.

"Expectation's always pretty much the same: our first expectation is that we win a district championship. If we accomplish that goal then our second goal is to win a state championship," Joseph said. "We know that there's no easy roads out of this thing. ... We're going to have to really work hard to improve to have the chance to knock them off again but we're capable of it, we've done it before. They've got a lot of experience at quarterback and receiver. It'll be a good matchup, we figured we'd have to go through the defending state champion to get there."

The first expectation has been met the last 11 years and the run toward the 12th consecutive district championship will begin Oct. 9 against Seven Lakes at Legacy Stadium after a pair of non-district games.

This year's Tiger squad resembles many Katy teams of the past in Joseph's eyes but he sees the team's balance as one of the strengths.

"This is a group that has a lot of things people like about a Katy football team; we have really good defensive football players coming back, offensively we don't have the experience in the offensive line that we've had in years past, but the kids have worked hard to this point, they'll gel together to give us a strong offensive football team before we're through," Joseph said.

The Tigers' running game will also feature four-year letterman quarterback Bronson McClelland who Joseph said can manage drives and throw the ball well.

Receivers Nicholas Anderson (6-foot, 2-inch junior) and Taylor Saulsberry (6-foot, 4-inch senior), as well as tight end Fernando Garza (6-foot, 6-inch senior), will provide some height-happy options

for McClelland in the passing game while Jalen Davis retains the top spot on the running back depth chart.

The big guys paving the way for Davis and the run game may still have a few question marks but Joseph knew a few of the positions that are locked down.

"I'm really excited about our center, Vasileios Katsigiannis he's a returning Letterman," Joseph said. "He and Omar Aigbedion and C.J. Marsh are returning lettermen on the offensive line so we'll challenge them to add the stability that we need. We feel our offense has a chance to do well, it's just going to matter how fast we gel."

On the other side of the ball, a host of returners who helped hold district opponents to 5.5 points per game - including a four-game shutout streak to end the regular season - will take up roster spots once again to lead the defensive unit.

Ty Kana and Malick Sylla both received all-district distinction at linebacker last year and have received several Division-I offers to play at the next level. Similarly, defensive backs Dalton Johnson, Hunter Washington and Bobby Taylor return to roam the secondary alongside Hamilton McMartin who was promoted from last year's sophomore team.

Joseph is also bringing back a pair of kickers who will contribute to the special teams.

"Fuller Shurtz was our punter and kicker, he did an outstanding job doing both punting and kicking," Joseph said. "Nemaja Lazic was 11 of 13 on field goals last year, missed one extra point out of 65 kicks so he's pretty consistent there."

At the end of the day, Joseph is glad student-athletes get to be out there on the field.

"It's just great that the kids get an opportunity to go play," Joseph said. "It's being a part of something, I feel like around here they're a part of something that's good, something they'll have that will help them grow up to be better young men and that's the basis of what athletics are about just getting the opportunity to share it with their teammates. It's an awesome deal and I'm very thankful that we have the opportunity to do just that."



TENNIS

# WHO TO WATCH



**NAME**  
Jacob Colby

**AGE**  
17

**GRADE**  
Senior

**BIO**

Jacob is a 3-year veteran who was part of our breakthrough win against Taylor in 2018 to secure our first playoff appearance in over a decade. He was also awarded the Most Improved Player award that year. Even without finishing the spring season last year, he is in the 4th spot for Varsity All Time Career Wins and will certainly add to that this year.



**NAME**  
Juliana Perez

**AGE**  
17

**GRADE**  
Senior

**BIO**

Juli is 2-year letterman and currently plays at the top spot in girls' singles. She has earned her way to the top with hard work and positive attitude. Last year she accumulated a staggering 21 wins with a spring cut short and will be looking to add many more to that number this year.

## SCHEDULES

### FOOTBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Sep 25	7:00 p.m.		Clear Springs Challenger Columbia Stadium
Oct 3	6:00 p.m.		Cy Woods Berry Center Stadium
Oct 9	6:30 p.m.	Seven Lakes Legacy Stadium	
Oct 15	6:00 p.m.		Tompkins Legacy Stadium at Mike Johnston Field
Oct 22	6:00 p.m.	Mayde Creek Rhodes Stadium	
Oct 31	12:00 p.m.		Cinco Ranch Legacy Stadium at Mike Johnston Field
Nov 12	6:30 p.m.	Taylor Rhodes Stadium	
Nov 20	6:30 p.m.		Morton Ranch Legacy Stadium at Mike Johnston Field
Nov 27	6:00 p.m.	Dickinson Legacy Stadium	

### JUNIOR VARSITY:

Sep 24	6:15 p.m.	Clear Springs KHS	Tiger Stadium
Oct 1	6:15 p.m.	Cypress Woods KHS	Tiger Stadium
Oct 8	6:15 p.m.		Seven Lakes Seven Lakes HS
Oct 14	6:15 p.m.	Tompkins KHS	Tiger Stadium
Oct 21	6:15 p.m.		Mayde Creek Mayde Creek HS
Oct 29	6:15 p.m.	Cinco Ranch KHS	Tiger Stadium
Nov 11	6:15 p.m.		Taylor James E Taylor HS
Nov 19	6:15 p.m.	Morton Ranch KHS	Tiger Stadium
Nov 26	6:30 p.m.		Dickinson Dickinson HS

### VOLLEYBALL

10/02	Tompkins High School	Away	TBD
10/03	Mayde Creek High School	Home	TBD
10/06	Cinco Ranch High School	Away	TBD
10/10	Taylor High School	Home	TBD
10/13	Morton Ranch High School	Home	TBD
10/16	Seven Lakes High School	Away	TBD
10/17	Tompkins High School	Home	TBD
10/20	Mayde Creek High School	Away	TBD
10/23	Cinco Ranch High School	Home	TBD
10/27	Taylor High School	Away	TBD
10/29	Seven Lakes High School	Home	TBD
10/30	Morton Ranch High School	Home	TBD

### CROSS COUNTRY

Schedule not released in time for publication.

### TENNIS

Schedule not released in time for publication.

Sports schedules are subject to unexpected change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents and athletes should verify event dates and times with coaching staff prior to the event.

CROSS COUNTRY

# WHO TO WATCH



**NAME**  
Jose Del Rio

**AGE**  
16

**BEST TIME**  
16:59 (5K)



**NAME**  
Belle Rubio

**AGE**  
16

**BEST TIME**  
18:38 (5K), 11:29-3200, 5:16-1600

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Falcons quarterback Jalen Milroe, 4, had an electrifying junior campaign and committed to the University of Alabama before this season began. Milroe was named to MaxPreps' preseason all-state team as one of a plethora of preseason honors. Pictured is a Milroe stiff arm in an area-round playoff game against Cy-Falls at Rhodes Stadium on Nov. 22, 2019.

MARK GOODMAN

# TEAM-LED FALCONS SQUAD READY FOR ACTION

By COLE McNANNA

Coming out of the extended offseason due to the coronavirus pandemic, Tompkins head football coach Todd McVey said the Falcons were excited to get back to work and prepare for the delayed season.

"They're excited about just being out here doing what we're doing on the field," McVey said. "I think everybody's been really excited about that and just going out there getting, as we say here at Tompkins, getting 1% better every day. From where we were to where we are now, they are excited just about having the opportunity to practice, and hopefully getting the opportunity to play our games like we want to."

With the readjusted district schedule, only two non-district games precede the seven games within District 19-6A before teams close out with two more non-district games before the playoffs start. McVey said performances in the preseason scrimmage and initial non-district tilts will hold a lot of stock in creating the depth chart approaching district play.

"With us being a young team, especially on offense - and I'm talking young with experienced guys coming back - that scrimmage and those two games are gonna matter a lot to us," McVey said. "That's a big deal to us because obviously it's experience on the field that matters most. But like I tell the kids, 'Once you've been hit the first time on the field, you're now experienced,' so that that goes out the window."

Despite the youth factor, McVey said team leaders have stepped up to achieve goals set by the head coach who enters his fourth year at the helm.

"I think it's where we've been trying to go for the last three years, each year has gotten better about being team-led. The kids talk about it probably more than I do now that they have great ownership in our program," McVey said.

One player who has taken a big step up as a leader is quarterback Jalen Milroe who recently flipped his commitment from the University of Texas at Austin to the University of Alabama.

"He's a big lead-by-example guy," McVey said of Milroe shortly after his commitment in late August. "He's working hard at his craft and it's fun to watch him now, I think he's talking more to the younger guys than he ever has. He's just more comfortable in our offense and he's comfortable to coach up the younger quarterbacks or the running backs and we preach family around here a lot."

While some new players filter into the skill-position roles around Milroe and running back Marquis Shoulders, who is coming off a thousand-yard rushing season, McVey will look to the six returning defensive starters as one of the team's strengths.

"Colby Huerter, he's our two-time all-state player at safety. Colby's really grown into his own this year and he's worked on a lot of little things like I talked about because he always wants to get 1% better," McVey said. "Dru Polidore, one of our other corners, he's a returner. Very talented out there, he can play corner or safety. Kobee Madriz returns at linebacker who is an outstanding force inside because he's so fast, really does a great job as far as linebacker. Temisan Allatan, another outside linebacker returner and I expect him to have a great year after having been the starter last year."

Other defensive returners include Eti-ini Bassey, who earned first-team all-district recognition last year at nose guard, linebacker Bryce Shaink and defensive end Justin Bevrote who missed most of last season due to injury.

The rest of the pieces will be determined after the first couple of games but that's the most fun part to McVey.

"New season, new surprises, new issues that we've got to deal with and our job I think is to prepare our kids to deal with them when they come up and be proactive to see it," the head coach said. "They know, they notice things that they need to work on and I think that's the best part is that they're self-aware and they try to get better at those things each day. If we'll just trust our process, good things will happen."

SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

VARSITY

09/25	Magnolia High School	Away	7 p.m.
10/02	Clear Springs High School	Home (RS)	7:30 p.m.
10/09	Cinco Ranch High School	Home (RS)	7:30 p.m.
10/09	Katy High School	Home (LS)	6 p.m.
10/23	Taylor High School	Home (RS)	7:30 p.m.
10/30	Morton Ranch High School	Home (LS)	6:30 p.m.
11/05	Seven Lakes High School	Home (LS)	6 p.m.
11/19	Mayde Creek High School	Home (LS)	6 p.m.
11/28	Cy Ranch High School	Away	1 p.m.
12/04	Cy Woods High School	Away	7 p.m.

JUNIOR VARSITY

09/24	Magnolia High School	Home	6:30 p.m.
10/01	Clear Springs High School	Away	6:30 p.m.
10/08	Cinco Ranch High School	Home	6:30 p.m.
10/17	Katy High School	Away	9 a.m.
10/22	Taylor High School	Home	6:30 p.m.
10/31	Morton Ranch High School	Away	9 a.m.
11/07	Seven Lakes High School	Home	9 a.m.
11/18	Mayde Creek High School	Away	6:30 p.m.
11/25	Cy Ranch High School	Home	6:30 p.m.
12/02	Cy Woods High School	Home	6:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

VARSITY

09/25	Bellaire High School	Home	6:30 p.m.
09/26	Clear Springs High School	Home	11 a.m.
09/29	Cinco Ranch High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/02	Katy High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/03	Taylor High School	Away	12 p.m.
10/06	Morton Ranch High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/09	Seven Lakes High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/10	Cy Fair High School	Away	10:30 a.m.
10/13	Mayde Creek High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/16	Cinco Ranch High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/16	Katy High School	Away	12 p.m.
10/20	Taylor High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/23	Morton Ranch High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/24	Seven Lakes High School	Home	12 p.m.
10/30	Mayde Creek High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
11/06	Clear Falls High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
11/10	Clear Creek High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
11/14	Stratford High School	Away	12 p.m.
11/16	Bridgeland High School	Away	5:30 p.m.

JUNIOR VARSITY

09/25	Bellaire High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
09/26	Clear Springs High School	Home	9:30 a.m.
09/29	Cinco Ranch High School	Away	4:30 p.m.
10/02	Katy High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
10/03	Taylor High School	Away	11 a.m.
10/06	Morton Ranch High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
10/09	Seven Lakes High School	Away	4:30 p.m.
10/10	Jordan High School	Away	12 p.m.
10/13	Mayde Creek High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
10/16	Cinco Ranch High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
10/17	Katy High School	Away	11 a.m.
10/20	Taylor High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
10/23	Morton Ranch High School	Away	4:30 p.m.
10/24	Seven Lakes High School	Home	11 a.m.
10/27	Jordan High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/30	Mayde Creek High School	Away	4:30 p.m.
11/06	Clear Falls High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
11/10	Clear Creek High School	Away	4:30 p.m.
11/14	Stratford High School	Away	11 a.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

09/26	Strake Meet @ Bear Creek Park	7 a.m.
10/03	Nike South @ Bear Branch Soccer	7 a.m.
10/10	Spartan Showcase @ Seven Lakes High School	7 a.m.
10/17	Quad Meet @ Atascocita High School	7 a.m.
10/30	19-6A Meet @ Bear Creek Park	7 a.m.
11/10	Region 3-6A Meet @ Kate Barr-Ross Park	9 a.m.
11/24	State 6A Meet @ Old Settlers Park	9 a.m.

TENNIS

VARSITY

09/25	Strake Jesuit	Home	3 p.m.
09/29	Morton Ranch High School	Home	3 p.m.
10/02	Clements High School	Home	3 p.m.
10/06	Seven Lakes High School	Away	3 p.m.
10/09	A&M Consolidated	Home	3 p.m.
10/20	Mayde Creek High School	Home	3 p.m.
10/23	Paetow High School	Home	3 p.m.

JUNIOR VARSITY

09/24	Taylor High School	Home	3 p.m.
10/01	Morton Ranch High School	Away	3 p.m.
10/08	Seven Lakes High School	Home	3 p.m.
10/22	Mayde Creek High School	Away	3 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

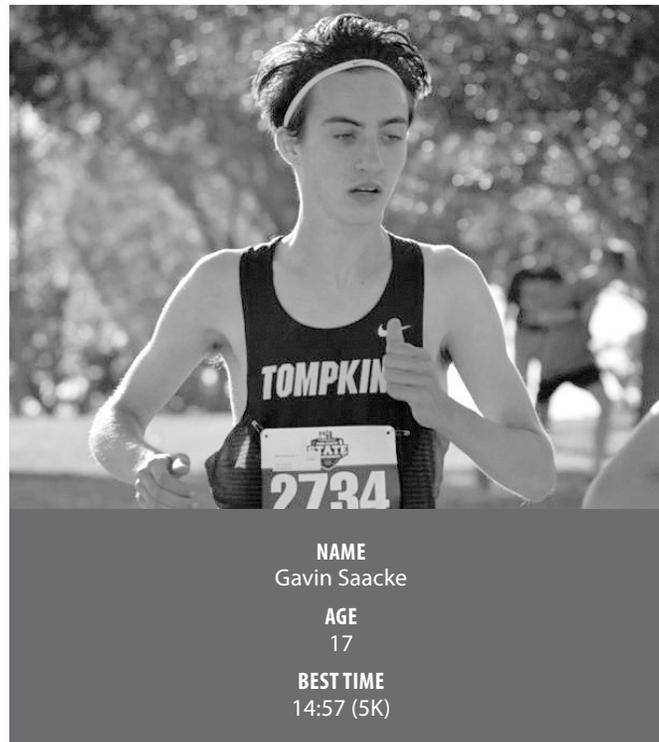
WHO TO WATCH



**NAME**  
Hayden Gold  
**AGE**  
17  
**BEST TIME**  
18:38 XC 5K



**NAME**  
Addison "Addy" Stevenson  
**AGE**  
17  
**BEST TIME**  
18:06 XC 5K



**NAME**  
Gavin Saacke  
**AGE**  
17  
**BEST TIME**  
14:57 (5K)

TIPS FOR THE ATHLETES

*"Pick one or two teammates that challenge you, to train with every day to make maintaining a distance of 6 feet easier."*



# PAETOW IS READY FOR THE NEXT STEP

By COLE McNANNA

**A**fter graduating its first senior class in school history, Paetow head football coach B.J. Gotte has raised the expectations now that this group of seniors got to see firsthand how quickly a season can end.

“Last year we made the playoffs and got that experience under our belt and I think our seniors now, after going through that experience as juniors, have a sense of urgency that our seniors from last year just really couldn’t understand,” Gotte said.

That familiarity will be one of the things Gotte and the Panthers will rely on with a host of returners on both sides of the ball who know the expectations.

“Over the last few years since I’ve gotten to Paetow, the main thing that we’ve been trying to do is establish a culture of success. It’s not an easy process when you start from scratch, because there’s no substitute for experience,” Gotte said. “Now we’ve got some kids who played for us last year as sophomores who are now juniors; we’ve got some kids who, as sophomores, started for us that very first year that are now seniors.”

Offensively, the Panthers return a two-year starter at center and a quarterback, running back and fullback who made all-district teams last year.

“It starts up front with our offensive line, we’ve got two-year starter and captain Demetrius Elko at center. He’s coming back he’s gonna anchor those guys up front,” Gotte said. “We’ve got our quarterback, a returning starter who was an all-district player, CJ Dumas Jr., and our running back he was a second-team all-district player for us, Damon Bankston. Also our fullback (Randle Kelley) was an all-district player, he’s coming back for us too.”

Opposite them, the entire defensive line and three of the four defensive back starters all return.



MARK GOODMAN

Bankston (26), scores a touchdown during a game with Fort Bend Clements at Legacy Stadium in Katy on Sept. 12 of last year.

“Our nose guard, Andy Rutherford, he’s an all-district kid, he’s a senior. Agumba Otuonye, he’s a defensive lineman who is a senior returning all-district kid,” said Gotte. “Senior captain and safety Carl Simon is a returning two-year starter and then our other safety, Kentrell Webb, and Michael Jordan at corner are both returning. We’re looking to them to really hold down the back end for us.”

Although the head coach feels the team’s skill level has increased since last year, the opponents have gotten more difficult with Paetow stepping up to Division I after two years in Class 5A’s Division II.

“When people ask me the question of, ‘Are you going to be better?’ I said, ‘Well on paper sure, but we’re also playing a much tougher schedule,’” Gotte said.

New district foes Foster and Hightower were both playoff teams last year and Manvel was last year’s District 11-5A-D2 champion.

Despite the division change, Gotte said the expectations for this year are certainly raised.

“Last year, I challenged the kids to get in the playoffs. That was the goal and we really harped on it because I didn’t think you could necessarily set a goal of ‘Let’s go win playoff games,’ when we’ve never been in the playoffs,” Gotte said.

After nearly landing the district championship, the Panthers finished third to clinch a playoff berth but even that was a surprise to the team, Gotte said.

“We kind of learned the hard way there, played a Whitehouse team that wanted to win a playoff game, not just play in one,” the coach said. “I told my kids the night we lost: ‘One team showed up to play and another team showed up to win.’ We were on the other side of it so this year, it’s not only do we want to make the playoffs, but it’s that we want to go compete and win some playoff games to hopefully make a run.”

Entering his 20th year of coaching and fourth as the Panthers’ head man, Gotte said he was looking forward to this senior group hitting the field in their fourth years at Paetow High School.

“This is the first group that has been here for four years. We got this group as freshmen and this group, they’ve been Paetow Panthers from day one so I’m excited to get to see them play and hopefully we can put them in a position to where they can build on the standards set by the group last year,” Gotte said.

## CROSS COUNTRY

### WHO TO WATCH



NAME  
Logan Warren

AGE  
17

BEST TIME  
20:50.80 for 5K



NAME  
Nicolas Valadez

AGE  
15

BEST TIME  
17:15 for 3 miles



NAME  
Jonathan Gutierrez

AGE  
18

GRADE  
12th



NAME  
Emily Lightfoot

AGE  
18

GRADE  
12th



NAME  
Crystal Marcia

AGE  
18

GRADE  
12th



NAME  
Jonathan Mejia

AGE  
17

GRADE  
11th

## TENNIS

### WHO TO WATCH

# OFFENSIVE RETURNERS TO LEAD

By COLE McNANNA

Entering his third year at the helm of the Seven Lakes Spartans, head football coach Jimmy Hamon feels as though what the defense lost in experienced starters from last year, this year's squad makes up for with comfortability and knowledge in the schemes.

"My years coming out before I got this job, I was the defensive coordinator at Ridge Point High School," Hamon said. "We had a lot of good guys on defense when I got here and that worked out perfect for a guy that's been a defensive guy most of his career and we had two good years with those guys and our system's in place, but now we don't have the experience that we've had."

Offensively, the Spartans return two quarterbacks, two running backs and two offensive linemen that Hamon sees as being the core of the team.

"We had some success doing it last year with both of our backs, and now we have, what we feel like, is a pretty good offensive line core coming back that understands the scheme," Hamon said. "Guys that have worked really hard this summer, we feel like we should be able to move the ball on the ground pretty good this year."

The head coach said although it may not be the traditional quarterback set up with a starter and a backup, both of the returning signal callers bring a different style of play that Seven Lakes relied on last year.

"Christian Beltran, he'll be a senior, and I guess you would call him the quote-unquote starter. He threw for more yards, got more snaps but also Scott Stanford, he'll be a junior, we kind of have a little one-two punch with them," Hamon said. "(Christian's) a little bit more of a drop-back passer and (Scott's) a little bit more run the ball, we'll get him out of the pocket and move him."

The pair of returning running backs, three-year lettermen Milton Jones and Nick David-West, present a similar one-two punch going into their senior years.

"Nick is a between-the-tackles, heavier

back that can go get you the hard yards and Milton's a little bit more of the slasher that's gonna use his speed to get by you," Hamon said.

Up front, Sam Treadaway and D.J. Nechvatal return alongside a group of eager newcomers to set the tone in the offensive trenches for the Spartans.

"(Treadaway) started for nine of our ten games last year at left tackle so he's coming back, we're looking for big things out of him, he'll be a senior," Hamon said. "Nechvatal will be a junior, he spent most of the second half of the season playing guard."

Similarly, Hamon mentioned a group of defenders in the secondary who spent time on the varsity stage during the latter portion of the season and return to provide some of the experience lost to graduation.

"We have Logan Johnson coming back at cornerback in the secondary," Hamon said. "It's surprising to say it like this but he came back in really good shape in June when we were able to get them back in for (strength and conditioning) camp."

Altogether, Hamon hopes the pieces fall into place with this group to return to the postseason after falling by three points to Mayde Creek and 10 points to Morton Ranch last season which pushed the Spartans just outside of the playoff picture.

"We played really well both of those games," Hamon said of the late-season district contests. "Had we won those games, it's probably a different scenario for us. We feel like we're 3-3 and probably in instead of 1-5 and sitting out."

Of course, in the ever-competitive District 19-6A, it could very well be anyone's ball-game on any given night.

"It just kind of depends on the year and who's got kids playing well and I hope we can do that," Hamon said. "Obviously with our schedule the way it is, we're gonna have to get ready earlier. As far as the district season, it's up a little bit. We're playing Katy Week Three and the last two years we haven't been playing district until Week Five, so we better be ready sooner."

FOOTBALL

## WHO TO WATCH



**NAME**  
Nick David West #5

**GRADE**  
Senior

**AGE**  
18

**POSITION**  
Running Back (RB),  
362 yards and 4 TD's



**NAME**  
Cristian Beltran #4

**GRADE**  
Senior

**AGE**  
17

**POSITION**  
Quarterback - 1403  
Passing Yards, 8 TD's



**NAME**  
Milton Jones #27

**GRADE**  
Senior

**AGE**  
18

**POSITION**  
Running Back (RB), 891  
Rushing yards, 13 TD's

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# NEW MAYDE CREEK COACH EMBRACING CHALLENGES

By COLE McNANNA

When Brian Randle was hired as the head football coach and athletic coordinator of Mayde Creek High School, he had a vision of how the offseason was going to happen. Instead, the coronavirus pandemic threw a wrench in those plans and forced distance between him and his players who he was trying to create relationships with.

"The offseason was honestly non-existent, we had a virtual offseason, virtual spring ball with a lot of challenges but like anything else, you just gotta embrace those challenges and roll with the punches and we did," Randle said.

One message he was able to relay was to the group of seniors that suddenly find themselves with a new person in the head coach's office for their final season at the school. Randle said he told the senior classmen to stay, he needed them and everything would be fine as they built a legacy together.

"The whole thing we want to do is build on the success that they had last year and create that tradition here at Mayde Creek. That's why this year is so important to us because if we can have another year where we make the playoffs and make a good little run, now you've got two years back to back and then you build that thing," Randle said.

A strong contingency of players who helped the Rams reach the playoffs last year return to help run the show at the creek.

Randle highlighted quarterback Donte Jones, running back Julius Loughridge, wide receiver L'den Skinner and safety Joseph Kinyok as dynamic players poised for breakout seasons.

"The kids are going to be asked to do more things than what they're used to - especially defensively - because we're gonna be young on defense but they're gonna be doing a bunch of different things," the head coach said.

The team's first chance to do just that comes this Friday against a Conroe Tiger team which features some history between Randle and the current Conroe staff.

"(Head coach) Cedric (Hardeman) has worked for me, as well as with (Rhett)



FILE PHOTO

Coaching staff at Mayde Creek said this football season will be very exciting for their program from top to bottom. The students have been training hard and have bought into the new staff philosophy. The 2020 Rams will be a program that will be fun to watch, they said. All of the senior players are the heart and soul of the team and Rams fans should keep a close eye on them.

Bomar, he was my (offensive coordinator) at one point," Randle said. "The (defensive coordinator) that was here, he left and he's over in Conroe now. So that game has become very interesting, but at the same time it's just like any other preseason game where you want to make sure that we're doing what we're supposed to be doing so we can prepare for district. It is just another game but you still have that underlining there."

Although the Rams' district season doesn't start until Oct. 16, Randle hopes the sport's return to the community is just what everybody's been needing.

"A lot of those kids are just chomping at the bit and they just want to play ball," Randle said. "It's a way to just kind of get their minds off of things and I think right now, we need Texas high school football more than anything just to bring us all back together as a community."

That eagerness was exemplified by a couple of position groups' attendance through-

out the summer strength and conditioning camps that teams were able to hold in preparation for the season.

"We got great O-line coaches and got some really great kids down there; they work their tail off and they didn't miss a day. Our offensive line group and our linebacker group all SAC camp, they didn't miss a day," Randle said. "That's what you gotta have, they're not the big old giants like you've got down the street, but they're gonna be here. Sometimes you just gotta put a body on a body and see what happens."

Mayde Creek clinched a playoff berth last year and building on that success has been high on Randle's priority list despite the strength of District 19-6A.

"Katy's Katy. It's tough district, and in my opinion, you don't get a bye week," Randle said. "We're one of the smaller schools in Katy ISD so we're just working on getting our numbers up and making sure that we're putting those kids in a position to be successful."

## SCHEDULES

### FOOTBALL

#### VARSITY

09/25	Conroe High School	Home (RS)	TBA
10/03	Cy Lakes High School	Home (LS)	TBA
10/08	Dulles High School	Home (LS)	TBA
10/16	Cinco Ranch High School	Home (RS)	7:30 p.m.
10/22	Katy High School	Home (LS)	6 p.m.
10/31	Taylor High School	Home (LS)	11 a.m.
11/06	Morton Ranch High School	Home (RS)	7:30 p.m.
11/13	Seven Lakes High School	Home (LS)	6:30 p.m.
11/19	Tompkins High School	Home (LS)	6 p.m.
12/03	College Park High School	Home (LS)	6 p.m.

### VOLLEYBALL

#### VARSITY

09/25	Paetow High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
09/26	Cy Ridge High School	Home	12 p.m.
10/02	Cinco Ranch High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/03	Katy High School	Away	12:30 p.m.
10/06	Taylor High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/09	Morton Ranch High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/10	Seven Lakes High School	Away	12 p.m.
10/13	Tompkins High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/17	Cinco Ranch High School	Away	12 p.m.
10/20	Katy High School	Home	5:30 p.m.
10/23	Taylor High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/24	Morton Ranch High School	Home	12 p.m.
10/27	Seven Lakes High School	Away	5:30 p.m.
10/30	Tompkins High School	Home	5:30 p.m.

### CROSS COUNTRY

No Cross Country schedule released in time for publication.

### TENNIS

No Tennis schedule released in time for publication.

## CROSS COUNTRY WHO TO WATCH



**NAME**  
Rachel Solano

**AGE**  
15

**BEST TIME**  
13:44 (2 mile)



**NAME**  
Christian Barrera

**AGE**  
14

**BEST TIME**  
11:16 (2 mile)

# FALCONS READY TO HIT THE GRIDIRON

By COLE McNANNA

Although University Interscholastic League member schools in Classes 4A and below could resume practices at the beginning of August, Royal High School was delayed closer to the start of Classes 5A and 6A's resumption with practices finally resuming at the beginning of this month.

"We're about a month behind all the other 4A schools," Falcon head football coach Greg Anderson said. "We butt up to Katy ISD and Lamar Consolidated so when UIL came out in late summer saying 6A and 5A were going to push back to September, a lot of our parents work in the Katy or Lamar Consolidated area so they thought it'd be best if we waited as well so we did."

Royal hit the practice field on Sept. 2 for the first time and although plenty of question marks remain about the team, Anderson said he was pleased with the energy brought by the team.

"I really like the attitude, they work hard, always wish you had bigger numbers battling the COVID issue like we are but the attitude was really good for the first day," said Anderson who enters his third year as the Falcons' head coach. "I even commented in the coaches meeting that it was one of the better first days that I remember in quite some time just because the energy level was so high and they were in tune with being coachable."

Despite losing the first three scheduled games due to the delayed start, Anderson feels good about this squad playing a seven-game regular season and possibly some after that.

"That's first and foremost is that I hope we get in a full season but I expect big things out of this group, I think they can get us back into the playoffs. We've still gotta go out and prove that on the field every Friday but expectations are high," Anderson said.

Royal will have new competitors in its district to fight for a playoff berth following the realignment of the UIL. Bellville is the only holdover from the Falcons' previous district and La Marque, Sealy, Sweeny and Wharton are the newcomers that will make up District 12-4A-D2.

Anderson said he has the most familiarity with Bellville and Sealy - having played in district with the Brahmas and scrimmaging the Tigers last year - but

## SCHEDULES

### FOOTBALL

09/25	vs Boling High School	Away	7:30 p.m.
10/2	vs Austin Northeast	Home	7:30 p.m.
10/9	vs Sealy High School	Home	7 p.m.
10/16	vs La Marque High School	Home	7 p.m.
10/23	vs Bellville High School	Away	7 p.m.
10/30	vs Sweeny High School	Home	7 p.m.
11/6	vs Wharton High School	Away	7 p.m.

### CROSS COUNTRY

9/18	Sealy Invitational	Sealy High School	8 a.m.
9/26	Weimar Invitational	Weimar High School	8 a.m.
10/3	Long Run Saturday	Royal High School	8 a.m.
10/14	District 24-4A Championship	Royal High School	8:30 a.m.
10/26	Region IV Championship	Huntsville	TBA
11/7	4A State Championship	Old Settlers Park	TBA

expects solid teams from the other three schools he has less knowledge of.

"There's gonna be a lot of Friday nights where, depending upon how the ball bounces, everybody's going to have a chance," the head coach said.

Royal will rely on its skill positions early on, Anderson said, with some key returners bringing back experience.

"If we had to go out there and play a game today, Colby Lewis would be our starting quarterback. I feel confident in his skills, he played mostly defense last year," Anderson said after the first day of practice. "Albert Adams, Matthew Green are both standout two-way players, they both play running back and linebacker for us so we're looking for big seasons out of both of those guys. (Wide receivers) Sean Adams and Jeremiah Vincent, Jeremiah's 6' 4", 265 pounds and already got one offer from the University of Texas at El Paso and we look for others to come before the season's over. He's a valuable two-way player for us as well."

Anderson feels as though this brand of Royal Falcon football is a tight-knit group that has high expectations for itself but the simple act of getting out there and playing games after it looked uncertain for so long will be the team's greatest contribution to the community.

"Our staff, our kids and our community are just excited to get back out there," Anderson said. "I'm going into my 27th year of coaching and I've never had a period in 27 years where you just sit at home for four months with nothing to do and it's tough for us who enjoy being around these kids. It's not what we do, it's what we are. It was a struggle early on to not be around them but to finally get back up here - I went home yesterday, and I thought that was probably the happiest I've been in four months."



R. HANS MILLER

Royal quarterback Kobe Lewis and his Falcon teammates returned to the practice field to prepare for their regular season albeit a few weeks later than scheduled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Lewis returns to run the Falcon offense with plenty of weapons surrounding him.

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# NEW CULTURE BUDDING



By COLE McNANNA

**"T**his is will be my fifth year so I saw one group all the way through; my first class when they were freshmen, they just graduated this past spring so this is a whole new regime now," Faith West Academy head football coach Nathan Utt said. "There's just a new culture and that's not to say that the old culture was bad. We had a great group of kids and we had a great culture before too, but it's different it's changed."

With six seniors on a 17-man roster, the youth movement is now for the Eagles but Utt said the camaraderie is already solid. He and Assistant Coach Manny Martinez have noticed good synergy within the team that they feel surpasses what they've seen in prior years, Utt said.

"Just to see what they've done in conditioning and summer lifting has been really awesome," Utt said. "I'm really looking forward to seeing them push each other on the field and get in the game situation and push each other (to) fight for starting spots."

The beginning of the season for members of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools was delayed a month due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic but Utt and the coaching staff were able to keep the team in shape through summer workouts and finally got to hit the practice field earlier this month.

All the work will pay off this Friday at Faith West Academy's season-opening game on the road against Brazosport Christian with some returning players being a key to success, the head coach said.

Matthew Stewart, who caught roughly 30 passes and scored 11 touchdowns as a receiver/tight end last year, returns bigger and stronger for his junior campaign and he's joined by Cailin Linton who earned all-district recognition at safety.

The man running the offensive show at quarterback will be a new face to the field although Mark Nimri transferred to the school after the season started last year and was ineligible to play until this season. Utt is looking to another new face to the Eagle roster to take over another key role in snapping the ball to the quarterback.

"We have a freshman coming up that is probably going to be a key player for us. His name is Dylan Webster, he'll be playing some receiver and possibly a lot of center for us," Utt said. "We're almost always in shotgun, we don't ever go under center so to be able to snap the ball and block well (is important), but also, the center's an eligible receiver so to be able to snap the ball, block well and then get downfield and find space to be open is a really key role for us."

In the third phase of the game, Andrew Tyrrell

## SCHEDULES

### FAITH WEST ACADEMY

#### FOOTBALL

09/25	Brazosport Christian	Away	5 p.m.
10/01	Alpha Omega Academy	Away	6 p.m.
10/09	Conroe Covenant	Home	7 p.m.
10/16	Allen Academy	Away	7 p.m.
10/23	Galveston O'Connell	Away	7 p.m.
10/31	Austin Veritas	Home	12 p.m.
10/31	Emery/Weiner	Home	7 p.m.
11/13	Logos Prep	Away	7 p.m.

#### VOLLEYBALL

##### VARSIITY

09/25	Faith Belleville Tourney	Away	TBA
09/26	Faith Belleville Tourney	Away	TBA
09/29	Baytown Christian	Home	6 p.m.
10/09	Houston Open Tourney	Away	TBA
10/10	Houston Open Tourney	Away	TBA
10/13	Cypress Christian	Home	6 p.m.
10/15	Legacy Prep Christian Academy	Away	6 p.m.
10/20	Cypress Christian School	Away	6 p.m.
10/22	Northland Christian	Home	6 p.m.
10/27	Legacy Prep	Home	6 p.m.
10/29	Northland Christian School	Away	6 p.m.
11/07	Bi-District Meet	Home	TBA
11/10	Area Meet	Home	TBA
11/14	Regional Meet	Home	TBA
11/20	State Meet	Home	TBA

#### CROSS COUNTRY

09/29	Mason Creek Park	Home	8 a.m.
10/06	Logos Creek Park, Sugarland	Away	TBD
10/17	Mason Creek Park	Home	8 a.m.
10/24	Mason Creek Park	Home	8 a.m.
11/02	TAPPS State Championship	Away	TBD

#### TENNIS

No schedule for this sport for Faith West

has elevated Faith West Academy's special teams unit as a two-time, first-team all-state kicker and returns for his final high school season.

"Kicking - if you can do it - is vital to the game. Extra points are worth two so to have a have a good kicker who can consistently hit that extra point is huge," Utt said. "Field goals are worth four points, and we do kick field goals because we have a guy that can do it. Andrew's put in a lot of work these last couple of years, he's a soccer kid who has transitioned to football kicking."

If all the pieces fall the way Utt hopes they do, he sees this Eagles team doing well in a competitive new district featuring the defending state champions.

"I see us growing a lot, I see us getting a lot better. Being a younger team and having some new parts that we haven't really seen before, we have a long road ahead of us," Utt said. "We're in one of the best districts in the state for six-man football, if not the best district in the state. Defending state champ Emery/Weiner is a rival for us, we play every year ... some of these great-coached teams that are perennial powerhouses that we have to face off with. Our young guys are gonna be thrown in the fire pretty quickly and they're gonna have to be able to adapt to that"



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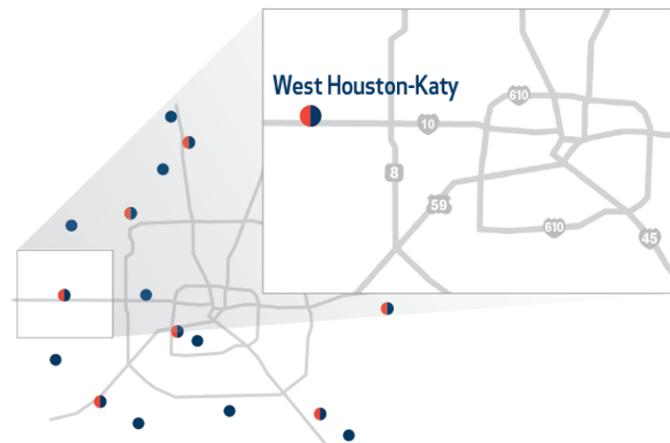


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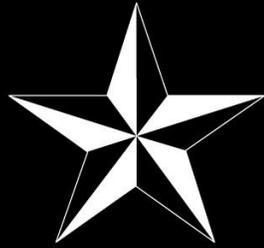
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