

THE 2023 KATY AREA

# FOOTBALL PREVIEW



A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE **Katy Times**

**Thursday, August 24, 2023**

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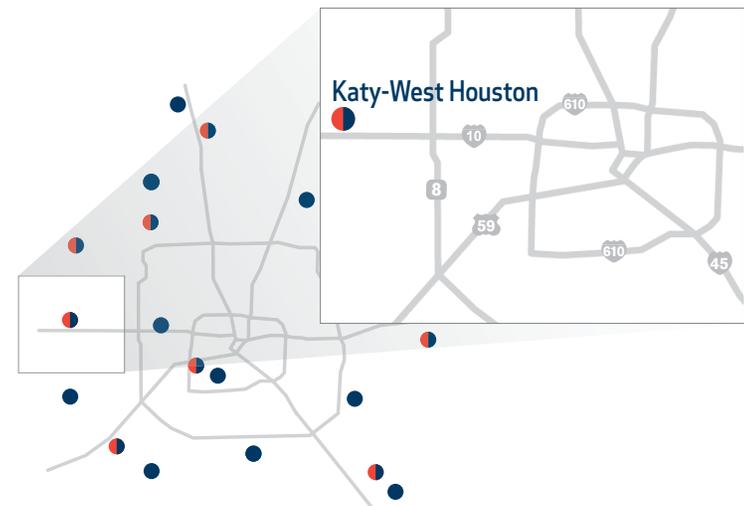


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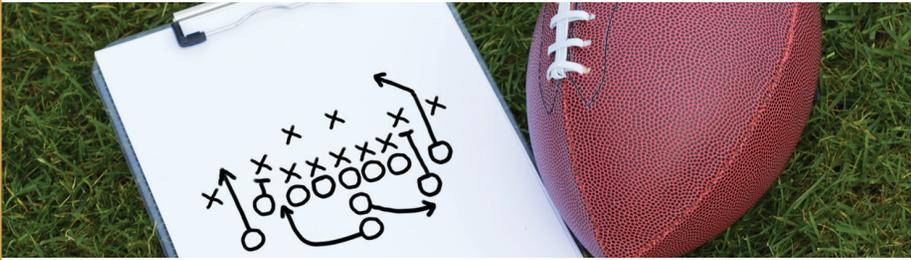
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The book is loaded with the author's own humorous illustrations to enhance your reading experience. Bob represents himself as an artist/writer who emphasizes creativity is for everyone regardless of your stage in life.

Available on Amazon: *Shut Up and Draw: A Journey to Creativity*

For more information, contact Bob at [bob@bobdoll.com](mailto:bob@bobdoll.com)

Cinco Ranch celebrates after winning a Class 6A-Division I area round game between Cinco Ranch and Cy-Fair at Pridgeon Stadium.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



# KATY ISD IN STORE FOR AN INTRIGUING SEASON

Football is here and this season is looking as wild as ever.

From new programs in Katy ISD rising up the crop to the old powers trying to stay atop District 19-6A, things are intriguing from top to bottom with a number of teams competing to be a part of the playoff chase.

Katy remains the front runners in the district. The Tigers come off a second straight season where they reached the state semifinals and won a district title. There will be a number of new faces that need to step up for the Tigers, but they are in prime position to go on another strong run in the postseason.

But Katy is far from the only contender in Katy ISD. Another team that will be at the top of the pack is Tompkins. The Falcons bring back dominant pieces on both sides of the ball and should have one of the strongest run games and defenses in the district, after coming off a fifth straight playoff appearance and will be hungrier than ever to get back to a deep playoff push.

Cinco Ranch will try to push for a playoff spot again after back to back regional semifinal appearances, but with a huge amount of turnover in the program, younger players will need to step up to



**TYLER TYRE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

make that happen.

The two newest members in the district both have chances to have big years as well. Jordan will have one of the most explosive offenses in the district and brings back a number of huge players. The Warriors are shooting for their first ever playoff appearance and have been determined all offseason to push one step further than they got last year.

Paetow will also be out to make history for the school and make their first playoff appearance since hitting Class 6A last year

and narrowly missing out on the playoffs last year.

You can't forget about Morton Ranch. Coming off a playoff season, the Mavericks lost some key players but still have talent returning. They will hope that the experience of getting over the finish line and to bi-district will propel them to another successful season.

Taylor could be in store for a bounce back year as well. The Mustangs return talent all over the ball and bring back over half their starters on defense, and should boast a strong running game. Seven Lakes will try and bounce back after missing the playoffs for the first time in three years last season. The Spartans bring back two talented running backs and some strong defensive players, which they will be able to build off of this year. Mayde Creek meanwhile will continue to try and rebuild and compete and may take a step forward this year with talented up and comers at both quarterback and running back.

Overall it's shaping up to be another exciting year where anyone could rise to the top. I hope you keep up with us at the Katy Times all season as we bring you the most up to date coverage of the district — I know I'm looking forward to it.



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## KATY AT A GLANCE

COACH: Gary Joseph (Career record at Katy 255-24)

2022 RECORD: 14-1, 8-0 in district, Class 6A-Division II State Semifinalist

LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE: 2022 RETURNING OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE

STARTERS: 5/4

NUMBER OF RETURNING LETTERMEN: 23

KEY RETURNERS: DL: Coen Echols, Jr., OL: Luke Carter, Sr., TE: Chase Johnsey, Sr., RB: Nathan Hall, Sr., LB: Jed Olotu-Judah, Sr., DB: Tyler Willis, Jr., DL: Adam Carter, Jr., DL/P: Israel Olotu-Judah, Jr., WR: Jeremiah Smith, So., LB: Connor Johnsey, Sr., LB: Romel Jordan, Sr., RB: Oliver Ginn, Sr., WR: Patrick McMath, Jr. OL: Gavin Johnson, Sr., DB: Skyler Nguyen, Sr., DB:

KEY NEWCOMERS: Dakylus Brinkley, Sr., Noah Coughran, Sr., ATH: Patrick McMath, Jr., OL: Gunner Nelson, Jr., QB: Jacob Hilton, Jr., DB: Khalil Hargrove Collins, Sr., DB: Jon Artist, Sr., DB

## KATY SCHEDULE

### AUG. 26

Katy vs. Clear Springs, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

### SEPT. 1

Katy at Atascocita, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium

### SEPT. 8

Katy vs. Tompkins, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium\*

### SEPT. 16

Katy vs. Morton Ranch, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium\*

### SEPT. 22

Katy vs. Mayde Creek, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium\* (Homecoming)

### SEPT. 29

Katy vs. Jordan, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium\*

### OCT. 5

Katy vs. Paetow, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium\*

### OCT. 19

Katy vs. Cinco Ranch, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium\*

### OCT. 27

Katy vs. Seven Lakes, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium\*

### NOV. 3

Taylor vs. Katy, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium\*

# KATY DETERMINED TO MAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER



Katy tight end Luke Carter (84) carries the ball after a catch for a first down during the Class 6A-DII state semifinal football game between Katy and Vandegrift on Dec. 10, 2022 in San Antonio.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN

BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The last two years have been so close for Katy.

Two years ago the Tigers rolled their way through the playoffs before facing the gauntlet that was Westlake in the state semifinals. They followed it up last year by making it to the state semifinals again and being seconds away from taking it to overtime before falling to a field goal with no time remaining.

All that has done is fuel the fire for every re-

turning Tiger through the spring and summer.

For Katy, everything is about getting back to the state title game and winning their 10th state championship and being so close the past two years has only made the returners more hungry.

Katy returns a good number of letterman, bringing back 23 members of last year's state semifinal team, with five offensive starters and four defensive starters back to lead the team.

Offensively there are big shoes to fill at running back and quarterback.

There will be a number of players that will step up to fill Seth Davis' shoes at running back. Ra-

marian Tillman and Chase Johnsey are big bodies that can play both the fullback and running back positions, while Romel Jordan will spearhead the running attack, with London Pilbeam also expected to get some playing time at the position. Gunner Nelson has taken the reins at quarterback and has looked very good leading the offense.

"The biggest thing I try and remind them of is that you just need to be the best version of yourself," Coach Gary Joseph said. "No one is going to be Seth Davis out there and that's not what we are asking of them. If they can be the best of who they are then we can succeed with

Katy's Chase Johnsey catches a pass during a game between Katy and Tompkins at Legacy Stadium.

RAMS REYNA | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



**“It’s been all about building that trust for the defense. We’ve been working on that all spring and summer because if you don’t trust the guy next to you, then you try to do too much and it leads to mistakes.”**

—GARY JOSEPH, TIGERS HEAD COACH

that. We may not get those same plays we did with Seth — what might have been a 50-yard gain for him might be a 20-yard gain now, but that’s perfectly fine. We are going to be effective running the ball and that’s what we’re preaching — be effective, do your job first and things will come from there.”

Coen Echols will anchor the offensive line while Luke Carter and Israel Olotu-Judah will be big weapons in the pass game. There will be a battle to determine the quarterback spot but the Tigers’ offense looks to be in strong hands heading into the season.

Katy will also

have some huge playmakers on the defensive side of the ball. Dakys Brinkley will be a huge presence on the defensive line along with Dallas Patrick Suliafu, Jimmy Alo-Suliafu and Tyler Willis. Nathan Hall will lead the linebacking unit while Jed Olotu-Judah will be an important player in the secondary that will help lead a young back end. But Joseph and the coaching staff have put in a lot of work with the younger players and have seen lots of gains in the spring and summer.

“It’s been all about building that trust for the defense,” Joseph said. “We’ve been working on that all spring and summer because if you don’t trust the guy next to you, then you try to do too much and it leads to mistakes. It’s extremely important that they all trust each other. Some of them have been through more, and those are the guys who have started leading and helping those younger guys because they know

what it takes, but it’s a process to get there.”

Katy will have a hard schedule to start the year, facing Clear Springs and Atascocita right out of the gate before facing Tompkins in a tough district opener. The Tigers always put an emphasis on facing high quality opposition early in the season and this year is no different, as the Tigers try to go for another district title before making a playoff run.

“It’s a challenge, but a challenge that players need,” Joseph said. “It can be a good and a bad thing because when those bright lights go on. It can be intimidating, and then when you add a tough opponent to that, it can change things for those guys going through it for the first time. But you have to do it because the pressure and intensity you play with on those nights can’t be replicated. We have to go through that to be ready for district.”



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## CINCO RANCH AT A GLANCE

**COACH:** Chris Dudley (Career record at Cinco Ranch 18-26)

**2022 RECORD:** 9-4, 6-2 in district, Class

6A-Division I Regional Semifinalist

**LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE:** 2022

**RETURNING OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE**

**STARTERS:** 1/3

**NUMBER OF RETURNING LETTERMEN:** 19

**KEY RETURNERS:** Taytum Johnson, Sr., DB; Superior Hill, Jr., DB; Kellen LeCronier, Jr., TE; Luke Mathiasmeier, Jr., LB; Alan Ramirez, Sr., OL; Zach Embrey, Sr., DL; Brayden York, Sr., DB; Justin Hughes, Sr., DL; Gavin Beavers, Sr., WR; Carson Wald, Jr., DB;

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Kevin Bello, Sr., RB; Tessiah Young, Jr., RB; Collin Shelton, So., DL; Connor Brock, Jr., QB; Charlie Adamoli, Jr., QB; Domenic Ramirez, Sr., RB;

## CINCO RANCH SCHEDULE

**AUG. 25**

Cinco Ranch vs. College Park, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

**AUG. 31**

Cinco Ranch vs. Klein Oak, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

**SEPT. 8**

Cinco Ranch vs. Taylor, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium\*

**SEPT. 15**

Cinco Ranch vs. Tompkins, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium\*

**SEPT. 22**

Cinco Ranch vs. Morton Ranch, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium\* (Homecoming)

**SEPT. 28**

Cinco Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium\*

**OCT. 6**

Cinco Ranch vs. Jordan, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium\*

**OCT. 12**

Cinco Ranch vs. Paetow, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium\*

**OCT. 19**

Cinco Ranch vs. Katy, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium\*

**NOV. 2**

Cinco Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium\*

# CINCO RANCH

## A NEW ERA BEGINS, BUT EXPECTATIONS REMAIN

Cinco Ranch's Fischer Reed hurdles over a teammate and fights for extra yardage during a game between Cinco Ranch and Tompkins at Rhodes Stadium.

JUSTIN HARTOJO | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



**BY TYLER TYRE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The page has turned at Cinco Ranch. It's a new era, with new faces that are looking to carry on the success of the past two seasons.

Gone is one of the greatest quarterbacks to come through Katy ISD, along with nearly all of last year's starting offense that had historic numbers last season.

"It's new guys and the important thing for them to learn is that they don't have to be exactly who came before them," said Cinco Ranch head coach Chris Dudley. "Like with these quarterbacks, I try to remind them all the time that it's not their job to be Gavin Rutherford. Their job is to be the best version of themselves they can be and we have to bring that out of them. Same with receivers — they don't have to be the next Seth Salverino or Noah Abboud or Fischer Reed — they have to be themselves. That's what we're trying to teach them."

Stepping into the fold is a group that has known nothing but success and comes off of back to back playoff and regional semifinal appearances. They are ready to take on a new challenge and step up, which will be needed as the Cougars only return four starters combined on both sides of the ball, one on offense and three on defense.

Big pieces coming back are Superior Hill and Taytum Johnson at quarterback. Johnson comes off a year where he was named second team all-district and was one of the best at forcing

turnovers in the district, intercepting five passes while totaling 53 tackles at cornerback. He will be back guarding every team's top wide out, but he will step into a new role this season as well. Johnson will play receiver for the team and be the primary kick and punt returner. Hill was also a huge piece on defense and the two are a lock down duo at corner.

"Taytum has really stepped up for us," Dudley said. "He's started to get more vocal and he really is just that steady kid for us. Whatever he does, whether it's offseason or in season, he's a great teammate and very humble. Superior has really elevated the verbal part of being a leader as well. Those guys have been through the battles and it's up to our other guys to latch on to that and follow their lead."

Junior tight end Kellen LeCronier will be another key figure in the offense. A big bodied tight end, LeCronier can be a force both in the passing attack and blocking game and Dudley is looking forward to using him in a number of different ways.

The big change this year will at quarterback. The past three years Cinco Ranch leaned on Gavin Rutherford, who set nearly every school

and Katy ISD career passing record but with his graduation a new face will lead the Cougars offense. Connor Brock and Charlie Adamoli will compete for the top spot and both have shown through the spring and summer that they can be successful.

With back to back seasons ending in the regional semifinals, the Cougars have their sights set on finding a way back to that point and past it. With a team that knows what it's like to compete at the highest level in District 19-6A and in the playoffs, Dudley sees no reason why they shouldn't be able to replicate their success and build their own legacy.

"There's only 20 schools in the state of Texas out of 250 in Class 6A that have been to the third round or further each of the past two years, and we're one of them," Dudley said. "When you throw those named up there, it's the best of the best and I'm really proud of our coaches and players for taking the program from where it was four years ago to where it is now. It's awesome and our kids are proud of it. They aren't scared of the expectations of that — they embrace it and it's a really exciting time to be a Cinco Ranch Cougar."



JUSTIN HARTOJO | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Cinco Ranch's Noah Abboud takes a catch for a touchdown during a game between Cinco Ranch and Tompkins at Rhodes Stadium.

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## TOMPKINS AT A GLANCE

**COACH:** Todd McVey (Career record at Tompkins: 50-20)  
**2022 RECORD:** 8-3, 6-2 in district, Class 6A-Division I bi-district finalist  
**LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE:** 2022  
**RETURNING OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE STARTERS:** 6/7  
**NUMBER OF RETURNING LETTERMEN:** 22  
**KEY RETURNERS:** Wyatt Young, Sr., QB; Ashton Funk, Sr., OL; Caleb Blocker, Sr., RB; Jhase McMillan, Sr., DB; Bisi Bello, Jr., WR; Eduwa Okundaye, Sr., DL; Rhys Phillips, Sr., TE; Josh Davis, Jr., LB; Hunter Boudreaux, Sr., LB; Rotimi Olayinka, Sr., DL; Dazer Van Leeuwen, Sr., LB; Erben Birkhoff, Jr., OL; Jared Martinez, Sr., DL; Nick Thomas, Sr., LB; Duncan; Elijah Lawton, Sr., DL; Harley Jensen, Jonathan Morency, Jr., DB;  
**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Blake Hamilton, So., WR; Jake Raye, DL;

## TOMPKINS SCHEDULE

### AUG. 26

Tompkins vs. Cy-Ranch, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

### SEPT. 2

Tompkins at Bridgeland, 6 p.m., Berry Center

### SEPT. 8

Tompkins vs. Katy, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium\*

### SEPT. 15

Tompkins vs. Cinco Ranch, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium\*

### SEPT. 21

Tompkins vs. Seven Lakes, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium\*

### SEPT. 28

Tompkins vs. Taylor, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium\* (Homecoming)

### OCT. 13

Tompkins vs. Morton Ranch, 7:15 Legacy Stadium\*

### OCT. 20

Tompkins vs. Mayde Creek, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium\*

### OCT. 26

Tompkins vs. Jordan, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes\*

### NOV. 3

Tompkins vs. Paetow, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium\*

# TOMPKINS

## READY FOR BIG PUSH IN 2023

Tompkins Wyatt Young gets some blocking help from teammate Ethan Vazquez as he carries the ball during the UIL area playoff game between Tompkins and Jersey Village at Pridgeon Stadium in Houston.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



### BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

**T**ompkins has a chance to be a special team this year.

With the return of key players all around the field and experienced players that have taken on some of the top teams in the state, the Falcons have a core that can compete with anyone and there's extra motivation for this year's squad.

Coming into last season, Tompkins had made runs in the playoffs each of the previous four years. The Falcons had a strong year last season, but narrowly missed out on the top seed in Class 6A-Division I in the district, and ended up having

their season cut short in the bi-district round, losing to Ridge Point 35-33 in a hard fought double overtime loss.

That loss has given another goal to work towards this year for the Falcons. They want to go out, make another run and get back deep in the playoffs.

"You learn a lot about yourself after a loss like that — both the players and the coaches," said Tompkins head coach Todd McVey. "You find things you can do better — those kids did everything they could but just came out on the wrong side of it. But these returners have learned from it and it's about turning a new page and being ready for game one. That's been the focus and everyone in here has done a great job of pushing themselves."

The Falcons' offense should be a force — they return six starters, many of them integral ones that could carry them. Wyatt Young will be back at quarterback after a year where he threw for 685 yards and seven touchdowns while rushing for 565 yards and 10 more touchdowns. Caleb Blocker will bring another big presence to the run game. The senior led Tompkins with 1,150 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns last year, averaging over 7.5 yards per carry as a junior. Ashton Funk, Erben Birkhoff and Jared Martinez will spearhead the offensive line in what has a chance to be one of the best attacks in the district.

"On paper we should be really successful in that area, but we have a lot of work to do to make sure that becomes the reality," McVey said.

“We had a good offseason but it’s all about all those guys coming together and finding a way to work together when camp starts. But we have full faith in those guys and the coaches that we can be really good with running the ball. We’re excited about those guys. The returners are a great group of kids.”

Defensively, Tompkins boasts strong returners at each level. On the defensive line, Eduwa Odun-daye will lead the way after registering three sacks and six tackles for loss last season. Josh Davis will be an impact player at linebacker; he had four sacks, nine tackles for loss and 61 tackles last season. Senior defensive back Jhase McMillan will provide the team with a shut-down corner. He had five interceptions and 48 tackles last year. The returners have also done a great job integrating the newcomers into the varsity program.

“In our culture, it’s about everyone but you,” McVey said. “They’ve done a great job of pushing the other guys and holding everyone accountable and that’s the thing that has to continue. The guys on defense have done a great job of coming out here everyday, working hard and getting

everyone on the same page. We just have to make sure we continue to get better each day.”

This is a team that on paper can go up against with some of the top teams in the district and in the state, and they’ll have a chance to compete against top competition early, as they start the season playing Cy-Ranch and Bridgeland before opening district against Katy and Cinco Ranch.

“Those are great challenges for us and that’s why we want to play them,” McVey said. “Those are tough teams who gave us everything they had last year and I’m sure are going to do that again. We have to go out there completely ready because this is a different team and they don’t care about who you are and if you beat them the year before, so we have to go out there and use that time to get better. That’s where you start to jell as a team and going through those adversities.”

Tompkins’ Caleb Blocker rushes in for a TD during the first half of the UIL area playoff game between Tompkins and Jersey Village at Pidgeon Stadium in Houston.

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## MORTON RANCH AT A GLANCE

**COACH:** Ron Counter (Career record at Morton Ranch: 27-32)

**2022 RECORD:** 7-4, 5-3 in district, Class 6A-Division II bi-district finalist

**LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE:** 2022

**RETURNING OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE STARTERS:** 3/3

**NUMBER OF RETURNING LETTERMEN:** 17

**KEY RETURNERS:** Mike Gerald, Sr., QB/WR/DB; Ryan Hall, Sr., RB; Dean Ford, Sr., LB; Jerome Ryans, Jr., WR/DB; Adrian De La Garza, Jr., OL; Hashim Jaffa, Sr., OL; Bra'shii Brown, Sr., DL; Jermaine Martin, Jr., DB; Jonathan Duarte, Jr., LB;  
**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Tyler Williams, So., WR;

## MORTON RANCH SCHEDULE

### AUG. 24

Morton Ranch vs. Eisenhower, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

### AUG. 31

Morton Ranch at Kingwood Park, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium

### SEPT. 9

Morton Ranch vs. Paetow, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

### SEPT. 16

Morton Ranch vs. Katy, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

### SEPT. 22

Morton Ranch vs. Cinco Ranch, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

### SEPT. 29

Morton Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium (Homecoming)

### OCT. 5

Morton Ranch vs. Taylor, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

### OCT. 13

Morton Ranch vs. Tompkins, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

### OCT. 26

Morton Ranch vs. Mayde Creek, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

### NOV. 2

Morton Ranch vs. Jordan, 7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

# MORTON RANCH

## AIMS TO BUILD ON PLAYOFF SEASON

Morton Ranch's Ryan Hall carries the ball up the middle during a District 19-6A game between Seven Lakes and Morton Ranch at Legacy Stadium in Katy.

MARK GOODMAN / KATY TIMES



**BY TYLER TYRE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Morton Ranch broke through last season. The Mavericks fought their way through district and clinched their first playoff berth since 2016, breaking the longest playoff drought in Katy ISD to do so and upping the standard in the program.

"That was huge for this program," said Morton Ranch head coach Ron Counter. "We had come in fifth place three of the last five years so to get over that hurdle was big for us. We're hoping that

experience from last year and these guys seeing how to do things the right way will help us this year. We had a really good spring and summer so we're excited to get going."

Morton Ranch did that with a strong senior class that included some special players. But this year it will be a changing of the guard, as they bring back just three starters both offensively and defensively, with only 17 total letterman returning.

But there are important players returning for the Mavericks and the coaching staff has a bright outlook on this season.

On offense, the running game should be a

strength for the team. Ryan Hall will be a huge piece as he takes the reins as the No. 1 running back after rushing after splitting the duties over the past two seasons. Hall comes off a year where he had 79 yards on the ground with 10 touchdowns, averaging over 6.5 yards per carry.

Mike Gerald will step in at quarterback for his senior season. He has been used primarily at wide receiver over the past two years but has a quarterback background and his athleticism should shine at the position. Jerome Ryans is expected to step up at the wide receiver position while Adrian De La Garza and Hashim Jaffa will

**“Mike has looked fantastic through the offseason so far. He is so composed back there and is very smooth and finds the right guy. He’s been as good as we could hope for back there and we think he can be as good as we’ve had at the quarterback position.”**

—RON COUNTER, MAVERICKS HEAD COACH

lead the offensive line.

“Mike has looked fantastic through the offseason so far,” Counter said. “He is so composed back there and is very smooth and finds the right guy. He’s been as good as we could hope for back there and we think he can be as good as we’ve had at the quarterback position.”

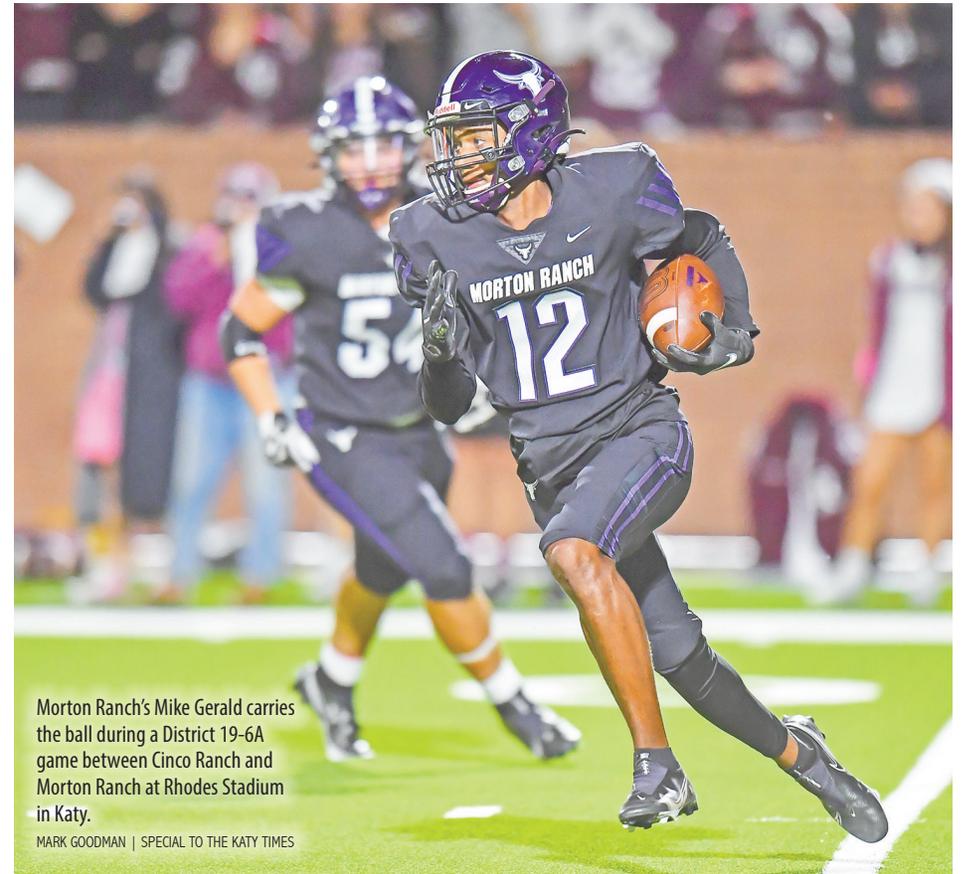
Defensively, Dean Ford will be a huge presence to have back both on the field and in the locker room. He led the team in tackles last season with 95, including 36 solo tackles, while also adding 13 tackles for loss and two sacks. Jermaine Martin and Ryans will both be key in the secondary in shutting down opponents pass attacks and Bra’Shii Brown will help lead the defensive line.

“Dean is such a great player and he cleans up everything,” Counter said. “Having a three year starter to lead the defense is a big thing. We have him and a couple guys

in the secondary back and they are going to be really important for us. The biggest thing is we have to stay healthy — if we do that, I think we have a team that can compete for a playoff spot.”

Another key for the Mavericks will be finding a way to continue to have success on the ground and defensively despite not having the numbers that some other schools in the districts do. They will start the season by playing Eisenhower and Kingwood Park before going through some tough, key district games early against Paetow, Katy and Cinco Ranch.

“Ryan is going to carry the ball as much as anyone in the district for us,” Counter said. “He’s a hard guy to tackle and can bring the load so we are expecting a big year from him. We had one of the best run games in the area last year and we think that we have a chance to be able to do that again with he and Mike back there running the ball.”



Morton Ranch's Mike Gerald carries the ball during a District 19-6A game between Cinco Ranch and Morton Ranch at Rhodes Stadium in Katy.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



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## JORDAN AT A GLANCE

**COACH:** Mike Rabe (Career record at Jordan: 8-11)

**2022 RECORD:** 5-5, 4-4 in district

**LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE:** N/A

**RETURNING OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE STARTERS:** 8/7

**NUMBER OF RETURNING LETTERMEN:** 24

**KEY RETURNERS:** Andrew Marsh, Jr., WR; Zechariah Sample, Sr., WR/DB; Colin Willetts, Sr., QB; Chad Gasper, Jr., RB; Ifeanyi Monye, Sr., RB; Zion Jones, Jr., DB; Jovanni Melchor, Sr., OL; Elijah Fullerton, Sr., OL; Deacon Stanfield, Sr., WR; Connor Babin, Sr., TE; Bryce Coffie, Sr., WR/DB; John Cleary, Jr., OL; Jason Lee, Jr., DL; Tyler Beascochea, Sr., DL; Bill Pone, Sr., DL;

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Tanner West, So., ATH; Brayden Coffie, So., LB; Van Keith Brown, Sr., WR; Dallas-Patrick Alo-Sulifafu, Sr., DL; Jimmy-Phrisco Alo-Sulifafu, So., DL

## JORDAN SCHEDULE

### AUG. 25

Jordan at Aldine Davis, 7 p.m.,  
Leonard George Stadium

### SEPT. 1

Jordan vs. Kingwood, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### SEPT. 9

Jordan vs. Mayde Creek, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### SEPT. 23

Jordan vs. Paetow, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### SEPT. 29

Jordan vs. Kay, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### OCT. 6

Jordan vs. Cinco Ranch, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### OCT. 12

Jordan vs. Seven Lakes, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium (Homecoming)

### OCT. 19

Jordan vs. Taylor, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### OCT. 26

Jordan vs. Tompkins, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### NOV. 2

Jordan vs. Morton Ranch, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

# JORDAN EXPLOSIVE SQUAD FOCUSED ON NEXT STEP

Jordan quarterback Colin Willetts and wide receiver Andrew Marsh celebrate after scoring a touchdown during a game between Jordan and Aldine Davis.

KELLY RICHMAN | LIFETIME OF CLICKS PHOTOGRAPHY



BY TYLER TYRE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Jordan is on the precipice. The Warriors were just a step away from the playoffs last year in their first full varsity season and it's led to a hunger in the locker room.

The team knows they have the talent and now it's about the building a legacy in the building. This group wants to take the next step and make a playoff push for the first time in school history.

"These guys are hungry," said Jordan head coach Mike Rabe. "We got so close last year so it's definitely been motivating for us. That's the goal for us is to find a way to get over the hump and get into the playoffs."

The Warriors have one of the most skilled receiver rooms in the entire state returning and it will be a nightmare for any defense to deal with the team's passing attack. Zechariah Sample and Andrew Marsh are two crazy athletic receivers that will give defenses fits. Marsh comes off a sophomore season where he caught 53 passes for 845 yards and 11 touchdowns, while Sample had 32 receptions for 595 yards and six touchdowns, also adding 146 yards and three touchdowns on the ground.

But those two are just the start for the offense. Deacon Stanfield will provide big time speed as a third receiver while Bryce Coffie, Connor Babin and Van Keith Brown can all be strong contributors in the pass game.

"It's fun to have so many playmakers on a team," Rabe said. "It's hard to get all of them the ball and you want to see them all touch it as much as possible, but it's challenging to spread it out and find ways to get them all involved, but it's a really fun problem to have."

Colin Willetts will again be tasked with the quarterback duties after putting up big numbers his junior year. He comes off a season where he completed nearly 60% of his passes, throwing for 2,233 yards and 23 touchdowns while also throwing eight interceptions. Chad Gasper will take the reins as the No. 1 running back for the team and can be counted on both in the run and pass game. He had 675 yards rushing with 10 touchdowns last year

Jordan's Zechariah Sample runs downfield during a game between Jordan and Aldine Davis.

KELLY RICHMAN | LIFETIME OF CLICKS PHOTOGRAPHY



“These guys are hungry. We got so close last year so it’s definitely been motivating for us. That’s the goal for us is to find a way to get over the hump and get into the playoffs.”

—MIKE RABE, WARRIORS HEAD COACH

and 194 yards receiving, adding another touchdown through the air last season. Ifeanyi Monye will provide the team with another punch in the run game and is someone that can gain hard yards through the tackles. The biggest question after last season is the offensive line, but Rabe is excited from what he’s seen from that group as well.

“Both the lines have had a really good offseason,” Rabe said. “As long as you are in this district, you are going to have to deal with some big dudes in the trenches — everyone has big guys. We’ll have to see how we match up once we start playing, but I think we will do good. They’ve been great through the spring and summer — they’ve worked hard and met our expectations.”

Defensively, the Warriors’ secondary will be in good shape. Zion Jones is a shutdown corner who had four interceptions and seven pass deflections last year, adding 32 tackles in only his sophomore

year. Sample will play both sides of the ball and adds another huge presence in the secondary as the two will form a strong duo at the cornerback position. Jason Lee and Bill Pone will lead the line as the Warriors look to improve after allowing 31 points per game last season.

With returners all around the field, the Warriors expect big improvements and to continue to push for a playoff spot. They’ll open the season against Aldine Davis before facing Kingwood to close out non-district, before opening their district schedule against Mayde Creek.

“It’s important to start the year strong but it’s also important that all of our guys remind ourselves that even if we have a bad day, it won’t determine what our season ends up being at the end of the day. We want to come out and play well but the important thing is to be ready for district because you get into it quick. We have to be focused on those games.”



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28**

**Fulshear Scarecrow Festival** in the parking lot of Thrive Church, brought to you by Cross Creek Ranch



## PAETOW AT A GLANCE

**COACH:** David Hicks Sr. (Career record at Paetow: 2-2)

**2022 RECORD:** 5-5, 4-4 in district

**LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE:** 2021

**RETURNING OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE**

**STARTERS:** 4/2

**NUMBER OF RETURNING LETTERMEN:** 23

**KEY RETURNERS:** Deyjhon Pettaway, DB, Jr.; Jabari Bush, Sr., WR/TE; Joseph Ugwu, Sr., OL; Carl Broussard, Sr., OL; Abe Ledet, Sr., LB; Brock Nichols, Jr., QB; Carmello Brooks, Jr., DL; Kaleb Molina, Sr., TE; J.T. Anderson,

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** William Thornton, So., OL; Javon Waldrin, So., RB; Victor Thomas, Sr., LB;

## PAETOW SCHEDULE

### AUG. 25

Paetow at Conroe, 7 p.m.,  
Moorehead Stadium

### SEPT. 1

Paetow vs. Cy-Ranch, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### SEPT. 9

Paetow vs. Morton Ranch, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### SEPT. 16

Paetow vs. Mayde Creek, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### SEPT. 23

Paetow vs. Jordan, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### OCT. 5

Paetow vs. Katy, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### OCT. 12

Paetow vs. Cinco Ranch, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium (Homecoming)

### OCT. 20

Paetow vs. Seven Lakes, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### OCT. 27

Paetow vs. Taylor, 6:30 p.m., Rhodes  
Stadium

### NOV. 3

Paetow vs. Tompkins, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

# PAETOW OUT TO PROVE THEY BELONG



Paetow's Jabari Bush catches a pass during a game between Tompkins and Paetow at Rhodes Stadium.

DOMENIC GREY | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

## BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Paetow got back to stability this offseason. With head coach David Hicks Sr. at the helm, the Panthers spent the offseason getting back to what they had excelled at, the fundamentals.

Last year, the Panthers underwent big changes, bringing in a new head coach, having big turnover among the entire coaching staff and having to install both a new offense and defense. Hicks wanted to make sure that this year's team would not have to go through the same thing, and having that continuity after a tumultuous year was big for the program.

"That was really big for the kids," said Paetow

head coach David Hicks Sr. "The kids got a sense of familiarity and they knew the expectations and rose to them. We have some real leaders who have stepped up and we're growing as a team. Everyone here is focused and holding themselves accountable and it's led to a great offseason."

The Panthers narrowly missed out on the playoffs last season, finishing a game back of Morton Ranch for the final spot. Coming so close to the playoffs in the program's first year in Class 6A has made them hungry all year and given the group another thing to strive for.

"Last year and the way it went has made these guys want it even more," Hicks said. "It was a humbling experience for them, coming off a state championship and then just being one game

off from being back in the playoffs. It's made us work harder and it's made all of us look back and realize what made this program successful. We have a great team returning and these guys have the attitude now where they know no one here is ever going to roll over for you and you have to earn every win."

The Panthers bring back some strong talent defensively. On the back end, Deyjhon Pettaway is a lockdown corner who is already garnering interest from huge FBS programs entering his junior year, and his presence should help a big deal in the secondary, while there are returners both at linebacker and defensive line as well.

Offensively, Jabari Bush will step into a big role as the team's starting tight end. As a junior, he caught 11 passes for 68 yards. He and Carmelo



Paetow's Damyron Phillips runs the ball during a game against Conroe at Legacy Stadium.

KELLY RICHMAN | LIFETIME OF CLICKS PHOTOGRAPHY

**“It was a humbling experience for them, coming off a state championship and then just being one game off from being back in the playoffs. It’s made us work harder and it’s made all of us look back and realize what made this program successful. We have a great team returning and these guys have the attitude now where they know no one here is ever going to roll over for you and you have to earn every win.”**

—DAVID HICKS SR., PANTHERS HEAD COACH

Wilson will be the two biggest pieces returning in the pass game.

Brock Nichols will take over full time at quarterback after splitting snaps last year at the position. He threw for 381 yards a year ago and has impressed the Paetow coaching staff so far with his improvements over the offseason.

“Brock has grown so much — it is night and day from where he was last year,” Hicks said. “We brought in a great quarterback coach this year and he and Brock have seen eye to eye on everything. He’s had a great offseason; he’s gained some weight and he’s put in the work to be successful. Having that experience on varsity was an eye opener for him last year and it really made him grow up. Now you can throw whatever

you want at him and he isn’t fazed.”

The Panthers will have a chance to play stiff competition early, facing off against Conroe and Cy-Ranch to open the season. They will start district against Morton Ranch and Mayde Creek before playing two strong teams in Katy and Jordan.

“Katy ISD across the board is one of the best districts in the state, from top to bottom — everyone is going to give you everything they have,” Hicks said. “These kids had no choice but to grow up, because every week is a dogfight. There are no pushovers. The big thing is you have to bring it every week in this district; the kids have to do it and the coaches have to do it. District 19-6A is a different animal but we have a team that can compete.”

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## TAYLOR AT A GLANCE

**COACH:** Chad Simmons (Career record at Taylor: 29-30)

**2022 RECORD:** 3-7, 2-6 in district

**LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE:** 2020

**RETURNING OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE**

**STARTERS:** 5/7

**NUMBER OF RETURNING LETTERMEN:** 20

**KEY RETURNERS:** Ian Flynt, Sr., TE/DE; Ashton Coker, Sr., DL; Dante Archie, Sr., RB; Cyrus Reyes, Sr., DB; Ethan Jacobson, Sr., DB; Daniel Bruns, Sr., QB; Josiah Rodriguez, Sr., DB; Landon Saurage, Sr., LB; Jackson Waller, Sr., P; Joe Praise Adeyemi, Sr., RB/DB; Landon Saurage, Jr., LB; Hank Tulenko, Jr., OL; Brady Downs, Sr., OL; Victory Kalu-Uka, Sr., LB; Solomon Ross, Jr., LB; Ethan Jacobson, Sr., RB/DB; Kam Green, Jr., WR/DB; Dimitri Long, Jr., LB; **KEY NEWCOMERS:** Josh Higginbotham, Sr., QB; Alex McMoore, Jr., DL;

## TAYLOR SCHEDULE

### AUG. 25

Taylor at Cy-Woods, 7 p.m.,  
Berry Center

### AUG. 31

Taylor vs. George Ranch, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### SEPT. 8

Taylor vs. Cinco Ranch, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### SEPT. 15

Taylor vs. Seven Lakes, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium (Homecoming)

### SEPT. 28

Taylor vs. Tompkins, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### OCT. 5

Taylor vs. Morton Ranch, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### OCT. 13

Taylor vs. Mayde Creek, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### OCT. 19

Taylor vs. Jordan, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### OCT. 27

Taylor vs. Paetow, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### NOV. 3

Taylor vs. Katy, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

# TAYLOR

## READY TO MAKE THE NEXT STEP



### BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

The past two years have had their fair share of struggles for Taylor. Two years ago, injuries riddled what could have been a strong year for the Mustangs, and last year a young team tried to learn how to win at the varsity level while playing in one of the strongest districts in the state.

But this year is about taking a step back towards success. The Mustangs bring back a wealth of starting experience and they are determined to fight for a playoff spot.

“These guys have had the best offseason I’ve ever been a part of,” said Taylor head coach Chad Simmons. “They followed that up with a great summer and it’s really just been an excellent group. The kids have been hard at work on the field and in the weight room. We think these guys have what it takes to compete at a high level this year. It’s exciting.”

Taylor returns two of their top talents on the offensive side of the ball in senior running back Dante Archie and senior tight end Ian Flynt.

Archie is a super explosive running back that can break a run at any time

and is also a threat in the passing game. He comes off a year where he ran for 760 yards and seven touchdowns on the ground while adding 295 yards and four more touchdowns receiving. Flynt had 129 yards receiving to go with two touchdowns and is also a huge presence in the run blocking game.

Josh Higginbotham will take over at quarterback and lead the offense while Joe Praise Adeyemi will get some looks at running back along with Archie. Simmons has liked what he’s seen overall from the group.

“We have some really talented guys on that side of the ball,” Simmons said.

ABOVE: Katy Taylor’s Dante Archie #3 rushes for a first down during a conference game between Mayde Creek and Katy Taylor at Rhodes Stadium.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL  
TO THE KATY TIMES



MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy Taylor QB Chase Cobbin carries the ball during a conference game between Mayde Creek and Katy Taylor at Rhodes Stadium.

"We have a quarterback coming in who can really throw the ball and we think we can have a very balanced offense. Dante is electric running the ball and can play receiver as well and Ian is also a really big piece in both the pass and run game. We don't think we'll be locked in to doing just one thing this year and we can attack teams weaknesses, it's been a good group to be around."

Defensively, the Mustangs bring back seven starters from last year's team and have lots to build off of. Cyrus Reyes is a leader and playmaker at the safety position who led the team in tackles last year with 8 while adding an interception and four pass deflections. The other big leader of the defense is Ashton Coker. The senior defensive lineman is a force up front who had had 46 tackles last season with three tackles for loss. Landon Saurage, Adeyemi, and Victory Kalu-Uka will also all be important players on the defense.

"Ashton and Cyrus are two great leaders

and players and they really have been great for us all offseason," Simmons said. "We have some good pieces on defense and we think that if we can be healthy, we can be much better than we have been over the past two years."

The Mustangs open the season by playing Cy-Woods and George Ranch, before taking on Seven Lakes and Tompkins in their first two district games, as Taylor looks to get off to a fast start.

"We made sure to schedule two really solid programs to get us ready," Simmons said. "Cy-Woods is a really good team that will challenge us and George Ranch is very athletic, and the two of them really will help prepare us, because we have to be ready. District 19-6A is one of the best districts in the state and you have to be ready to be challenged. You can't face subpar competition and then get a false sense of security and not be ready, so those two games are extremely important."

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## SEVEN LAKES AT A GLANCE

**COACH:** Jimmy Hamon (Career record at Seven Lakes 21-30)

**2022 RECORD:** 1-9, 1-7 in district

**LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE:** 2021

**RETURNING OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE**

**STARTERS:** 4/4

**NUMBER OF RETURNING LETTERMEN:** 16

**KEY RETURNERS:** Barrett Hudson, Sr., RB; Jake Farris, Sr., RB; Amani Hooks, Jr., LB; Austin Easterling, Sr., LB; Gary Dang, Sr., FB; Jaydon Young, Sr., OL; Satin Haynes, Sr., DL; Collin Mills, Sr., QB;

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Peter Noonan, So, TE; Shaan Patel, So., QB; Ryan Fowler, So. WR; Matthew Fowler, So., DB;

## SEVEN LAKES SCHEDULE

### AUG. 24

Seven Lakes vs. Memorial, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### AUG. 31

Seven Lakes at Klein, 7 p.m.,  
Klein Memorial Stadium

### SEPT. 15

Seven Lakes vs. Taylor, 6:30 p.m.

### SEPT. 21

Seven Lakes vs. Tompkins, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### SEPT. 29

Seven Lakes vs. Morton Ranch,  
6:30 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

### OCT. 6

Seven Lakes vs. Mayde Creek, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium (Homecoming)

### OCT. 12

Seven Lakes vs. Jordan, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### OCT. 20

Seven Lakes vs. Paetow, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### OCT. 27

Seven Lakes vs. Katy, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### NOV. 2

Seven Lakes vs. Cinco Ranch, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

# SEVEN LAKES

## READY FOR BOUNCE-BACK YEAR



### BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes took a step back last season.

After making the playoffs two straight years, the Spartans weren't able to keep the streak going in 2022, finishing with a 1-9 record.

Now Seven Lakes is out to start a new streak. The Spartans have been fueled by last year's struggles and are determined to compete for a playoff spot again.

While the Spartans did struggle last

year, they were still competitive in their games. Four of the Spartans' losses were by 10 points or less. Hamon hopes that being in those situations will help the returners learn how to be a winning team and they can step up this year.

"It's lit a fire under these guys," said Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Hamon. "These guys are hungry and not satisfied with anything. They feel like we were a lot better team than we showed last year and they want to prove to the whole district that we can bounce back from that and get back to the playoffs, because that's

where we want to be. It's something that all these guys have learned from and that everyone is using to get ready for the season."

The team returns 16 total letterman and four starters on each side of the ball. On defense, they will be led by their linebacking crew with Austin Easterling and Amani Hooks both returning after big years, while Satin Haynes is a big body on the defensive line that will make an impact.

Offensively, the Spartans should have a strong running game. Barrett Hudson

ABOVE: Seven Lakes Spartans running back Barrett Hudson (5) runs in the first quarter during the game between the Seven Lakes Spartans and Memorial Mustangs on August 25, 2022 in Houston, Texas.

JOHN GLASER | SPECIAL TO  
THE KATY TIMES



Seven Lakes Spartans defensive back Isaac Radtke (7) wraps up Memorial Mustangs tightens Robert Fowler (37) after a Fowler reception in the second quarter during the game between the Seven Lakes Spartans and Memorial Mustangs on August 25, 2022 in Houston, Texas.

JOHN GLASER | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

enters his senior year as with big numbers as a rusher, and comes into the year fully healthy and ready to improve on a season where he ran for 361 yards and five touchdowns. Jake Farris will help the team form a one-two punch in the run game, as he will look to build off a junior campaign where he ran for 469 yards and five touchdowns.

“Both Barrett and Jake are going to be huge for us,” Hamon said. “Our offensive line only brings back one guy, so Jake and Barrett will really have to shoulder the load of that and it makes the new guys on the line feel comfortable knowing that maybe they don’t have to open huge holes every play. They both bring really big experience to the offense and they’ve been putting in the work to get even better. They’re a great one-two punch in the backfield and we hope to feature both a lot.”

Collin Mills and Shaan Patel will compete for the starting quarterback duties. Mills got some limited work his junior year where he threw for 93 yards while completing 10-17 of his passes. Hamon has liked what he has seen from the senior. Meanwhile Patel impressed in the spring and has

shown some very good things throwing the ball and with his leadership ability.

“Those two both have some great qualities and I think both are tremendous leaders,” Hamon said. “They aren’t shying away from the competition and both have done a great job. They’re both going in there and trying to win the job. It’s been really fun to see both of them go out there every day.”

Seven Lakes will play Memorial and Klein their first two games of the year before taking on Taylor and Tompkins in their first two district games. The Spartans are looking to make an impact early and take some momentum that they can build on.

“Both those programs are so well coached and drilled into and it really helps prepare us for where we need to be in district play,” Hamon said. “Both of those teams make sure if you have a weakness or if you make mistakes, it’s exposed. That’s exactly what you need early in the season because in this district, you have so many one and two score games and you can’t afford any mistakes. So those two non-district opponent really help us answer questions fast and see what we’re doing well and what we need to fix.”



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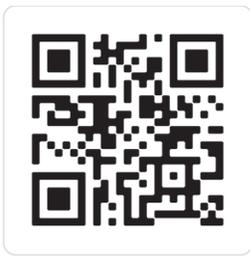
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*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

*And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

*Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

— Ephesians 6:11-18

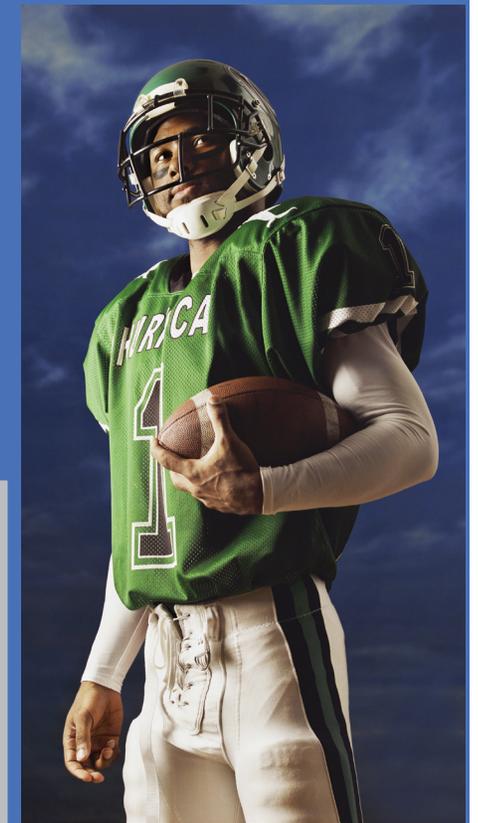
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## MAYDE CREEK AT A GLANCE

COACH: J. Jensen (Career record at Mayde Creek: 4-16)

2022 RECORD: 2-8, 0-6 in district

LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE: 2019

RETURNING OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE STARTERS: 7/6

NUMBER OF RETURNING LETTERMEN: 25

KEY RETURNERS: Trevin Lucius, Sr., LB; Eric Nelson, Jr., RB; Ansel Carter, Jr., DB; Trey Williams, Jr., WR; Johnaton Haywood, Jr., LB; Torian Collier, Jr., DL; Tate Dietz, LB, Jr.; Elijah Fuller, Sr., DB; Anthony Escoto, Sr., OL; David Ramirez, Sr., DL; Braelon Green, Sr., DB; Keithan Brossette, Sr., OL; Cole Jensen, Jr., QB;

KEY NEWCOMERS: Kosi Okpala, So., LB; Trey Wimberley, So., DB; Daelyn Robinson, Jr., WR; Christopher Morales, Jr., OL; Chad Nelson, Fr., WR/RB;

## MAYDE CREEK SCHEDULE

### AUG. 25

Mayde Creek vs. Westside, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### SEPT. 2

Mayde Creek vs. Waller, 6:30 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### SEPT. 9

Mayde Creek vs. Jordan, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### SEPT. 16

Mayde Creek vs. Paetow, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### SEPT. 22

Mayde Creek vs. Katy, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### SEPT. 28

Mayde Creek vs. Cinco Ranch, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### OCT. 6

Mayde Creek vs. Seven Lakes, 7:15 p.m.,  
Legacy Stadium

### OCT. 13

Mayde Creek vs. Taylor, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium (Homecoming)

### OCT. 20

Mayde Creek vs. Tompkins, 6:30 p.m.,  
Rhodes Stadium

### OCT. 26

Mayde Creek vs. Morton Ranch,  
7:15 p.m., Legacy Stadium

# MAYDE CREEK

## LOOKS TO IMPROVE WITH EXPERIENCED SQUAD



### BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

A young Mayde Creek team showed signs of improvement last year. Underclassman stepped up during a turbulent season and showed what they could do last year. Now the Rams have to find a way to turn those improvements into a competitive squad in the ever tough District 19-6A.

“For a lot of these guys they had to learn how to go through adversity and they really did that last year,” said Mayde

Creek head coach J. Jensen. “They had a lot of success growing up so as young players they had to learn to take things on the chin. But they competed hard every game for four quarters and they grew from the experience. We’re excited about where we are headed with a really good spring and summer.”

The Rams have a lot of returners this year, with talent coming back that will help on the field. Overall there are 25 returning letterman, with over half the teams starters coming back both offensively and defensively.

“It’s huge for us to have so many guys back,” Jensen said. “These guys are out there making calls and reading the game really well. That’s really important once you get to these games because it can be loud enough to where the players have to do that. They’re all calling adjustments on formations and doing the advanced stuff well, which you have to do in this district, or you’ll be exposed. They’ve seen it now and they’re growing and doing it full speed.”

On offense, Cole Jensen will step into the starting quarterback role full time

ABOVE: Mayde Creek’s Jerimiah Hill runs the ball during a game between Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek at Rhodes Stadium.

LAURA MCCULLOUGH | M3  
PHOTOGRAPHY



Mayde Creek's defense takes down Seven Lake's Barrett Hudson during a game between Seven Lakes and Mayde Creek at Rhodes Stadium.

LAURA MCCULLOUGH | M3 PHOTOGRAPHY

after splitting snaps there in his sophomore year.

Jensen came up from the JV squad halfway through the season and stepped into the starter role very well. Overall Jensen threw for 552 yards and three touchdowns, including breaking the Mayde Creek single game record for completions in the Rams' game against Tompkins last season.

Cole Jensen will be joined in the backfield by Eric Nelson, who is an explosive back both in the run and pass game. Nelson ran for 201 yards while catching 27 passes for 153 yards, totaling three touchdowns as a sophomore. Trey Williams is set for a breakout junior year after catching 22 passes for 176 yards as a sophomore while Anthony Escoto will lead the Rams' offensive line as they expect to have a more competitive unit.

"Cole has really grown as a passer and with his knowledge of the offense this offseason," Jensen said. "We have an RPO built into every run that we have and he's really just started to build his knowledge there and read the game. He's grown as a leader as well and has had a great offseason and we're excited about what he can do along with Eric back there."

On defense, Trevin Lucius will lead the unit after a strong junior season. Lucius

had 37 tackles last year while leading the team with 10 tackles for loss while also having three sacks. He and Torian Collier will make a strong duo up front while Tate Dietz, Elijah Fuller, David Ramirez and Braelon Green also will be strong contributors to the defense.

The Rams open the year by playing Westside and Waller before opening district with a tough stretch of games, going up against Jordan, Paetow, Katy and Cinco Ranch in their first four matchups. Jensen knows the team will need to hit the ground running this year and is excited with what they've shown through the spring and summer.

"This district to me is the best in the state and you have to be ready from the get-go," Jensen said. "One of the first things we talk about in the fall is where are we currently vs. where we need to be when district starts. We have a lot of guys that have played already so we need to come out and do things right and look crisp. From the first scrimmage to the first two games, it's all about making steady progression because once you get to district, there can't be any mental mistakes. For us it's vital to come out strong through those first two games and once we get to district."



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## ROYAL AT A GLANCE

**COACH:** Theadis Reagins (record at Royal: 13-8)

**2022 RECORD:** 9-2, 5-1 in district, Class 4A-Division II bi-district finalist

**LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE:** 2022

**RETURNING OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE STARTERS:** 9/8

**NUMBER OF RETURNING LETTERMEN:** 25

**KEY RETURNERS:** Zechariah Robinson, Sr., DL; Ashton (Penny) Robinson, Jr., QB; Zakai Anderson, Jr., RB; Dylar Williams, Sr., DL; Avery Robinson, Sr., WR/CB; Erick Robledo, Sr., OL; James Oviedo, Sr., OL; Gustavo Infante, Sr., DL; Jalen Bray, Jr., DL; Jeremiah Randolph, Jr., RB/LB; Kendrian Vinson, Sr., DL; Tyler Lavallier, So, DL; Joseph Garcia, Sr., OL;

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Malik Hooker, So. LB; Noah Arriaga, Jr., DB; Isaiah Campbell, Jr., WR;

## ROYAL SCHEDULE

### AUG. 26

Royal at Worthing, 6 p.m.

### SEPT. 1

Royal vs. Furr, 7 p.m.

### SEPT. 8

Royal vs. Iowa Colony, 7 p.m.

### SEPT. 14

Royal at Fort Bend Willowridge, 7 p.m.

### SEPT. 29

Royal at Sealy, 7 p.m.

### OCT. 6

Royal vs. Bellville, 7 p.m.

### OCT. 13

Royal at Wharton, 7 p.m.

### OCT. 20

Royal vs. Sweeny, 7 p.m.

### OCT. 27

Royal at La Marque, 7 p.m.

### NOV. 3

Royal vs. Columbia, 7 p.m.

# ROYAL

## BUILDING ON SOLID FOUNDATION



Royal players line up for a kickoff during a game against Sealy.

CONTRIBUTED

### BY TYLER TYRE SPORTS EDITOR

Royal took a huge step forward last year. The Falcons broke a five year playoff drought and had a tremendous year, finishing second in district and only losing two games through the entire season.

It was a strong and successful year for Royal as they continue to grow, but the end of the season, a loss in the bi-district round to Hamshire-Fan-net, put a sour note on an otherwise tremendous season and has the entire cast of returners hungry for more.

“We started the program two years ago and it was all about building that culture and doing things the right way,” said Royal head coach Theadis Reagins. “Last year we really started to turn a corner and you could see kids understanding how to do things the right way. That’s what got us to the playoffs last year and these guys have just been building on it all through the spring and summer.”

The Falcons have ample opportunity to improve. They return all but five starters from last year’s team and have playmakers all around the field both offensively and defensively, adding to

that the fact that most of this team has already gained the experience of getting to the playoffs and playing in that atmosphere will only help as they continue to build.

On the offensive side of the ball, there are some big pieces back that will try to build on successful years. Ashton Robinson will lead the offense as he enters his second season as starting quarterback. He comes off a year where he threw for 2,238 yards and 25 touchdowns to nine interceptions, completing 56% of his passes and averaging over 200 yards passing per game. Zakai Anderson will return as the starting running back after rushing for 1556 yards per game and 14 touchdowns last year and the team also has options in the pass game.

“It’s exciting because along with Zakai and Ashton we’re returning all five offensive linemen,” Reagins said. “Those guys are a big piece of what we want to do this year. Ashton threw for over 2000 yards for us, Zakai rushed for over 1500 yards so we think both of those guys are in for big years too. There’s some spots at receiver that we have to replace but I think as a group we can be really productive there too.”

Defensively, Royal’s biggest returner is Zechariah Robinson who comes off a year where he had 44

tackles, 15 tackles for loss and eight sacks. Jeremiah Randolph, Dylar Williams and Avery Robinson are all returning as well in what should be a very strong unit from up front to the secondary.

“Our defense I really think will be one of our strong points,” Reagins said. “We have a lot of returners. On the line we have four guys who have a lot of varsity experience and we have guys at linebacker and in the secondary who can make plays and they all know what Coach (L.) Cryer wants as a defensive coordinator. They’ve really fined tuned everything and I think they all will be able to execute on a very high level this year.”

The Falcons will open the season against Worthing before rounding out their non-district schedule against Furr, Iowa Colony and Fort Bend Willowridge. Royal will then open district against two very strong opponents in Sealy and Bellville.

“The ideal situation is to get those tough matchups and I’m glad we did,” Reagins said. “Our goal is to win a district championship and in order to do that you really need to know where you stand after pre district. That’s where you can make adjustments from so it’s important that those games to get everyone ready for when we are playing in really tough games against Sealy, Sweeny, Bellville, Wharton and everyone else.”



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# FAITH WEST

PREPARED FOR  
NEW SEASON



Faith West lines up and gets ready to snap the ball during a game last season.

COURTESY FAITH WEST ACADEMY

# ST. JOHN XXIII



## ST. JOHN XXIII AT A GLANCE

**COACH:** Clay Richardson

**2022 RECORD:** 1-9, 0-5 in district

**LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE:** 2019

**RETURNING OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE STARTERS:** 7/7

**NUMBER OF RETURNING LETTERMEN:** 21

**KEY RETURNERS:** Raymond Walsh, Sr., OL/DL; Sammy Khoury, Jr., WR/DB; Parker Koons, Jr., WR/LB; Dante Morganti, Sr., WR/DB; Aiden Quinton, Sr., TE/DL; Charlie Sero, Sr., RB/LB; Sam Lahr, Jr., OL/DL; Gabriel Gonzalez, Jr., WR/DB; Evan Paul, So., OL/DL; Shubhay Thapa, Sr., WR/DB; Donovan Matsumura, Sr., QB/LB;

BELOW: A St. John player catches a pass during a practice in 2020.

MARK GOODMAN | SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES



## FAITH WEST SCHEDULE

**AUG. 25**

Faith West vs. Living Stones Christian, 7 p.m.

**SEPT. 1**

Faith West at Chester, 7 p.m.

**SEPT. 8**

Faith West vs. O'Connell, 7 p.m.

**SEPT. 15**

Faith West vs. Mount Carmel Academy, 7 p.m.

**SEPT. 22**

Faith West vs. St. Francis, 7 p.m.

**OCT. 5**

Faith West at Allen Academy, 7 p.m.

**OCT. 13**

Faith West vs. First Baptist Christian, 7 p.m.

**OCT. 19**

Faith West vs. Covenant Christian, 7 p.m.

**OCT. 27**

Faith West vs. Legacy Christian Academy, 7 p.m.

**NOV. 3**

Faith West at Westbury Christian, 7 p.m.

## STAFF REPORT

Under new Head Coach Manny Martinez, the Faith West football team has been diligently preparing for the upcoming season. Martinez is confident in the team's potential and is excited to see their progress on the field.

Faith West plays 6-man football and competes in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) Division II District 4. Six-man football is a variation of 11-man tackle football. It tends to be a faster paced game with high score. Because of the difficulty of covering the entire field, punts are rare and on-side kicks are common.

One Faith West varsity player to watch this season is sophomore running back, Kade Kerr. Kerr has a blend of quickness and strength and will be a strong piece in the backfield this year. He is poised to lead the offensive side of the ball alongside Max Martinez who will step in to start at quarterback as a freshman.

The defense is led by junior cornerback Guillermo Garcia, who returns as a junior. Garcia has a nose for the football and is also a physical player. He will lead a group that will incorporate a number of freshmen, including defensive end Ty LeBoeuf and cornerback Brayden Dennis. Senior Captain Hanno Van Dyk, a

defensive end will be tasked with leading the group up front.

The team will kick off their fall season on the road against Chester on September 1st. Friday Night Lights at Kerr Field kicks off on September 8th, as the Eagles battle Galveston O'Connell at home. As Faith West hopes to build on the first game of the season to have a strong home opener.

"We have great group of young men that understand the task at hand, rebuilding a tradition," Martinez said. "Their school pride and team spirit is contagious. Add that to our wonderful Faith West families and friends and Friday night football will never be the same."

With an developing roster, experienced coaching staff, and a determination to succeed, Faith West hopes to take on the challenges that come their way and are excited to get to the season.

## FAITH WEST AT A GLANCE

**COACH:** Manny Martinez

**2022 RECORD:** 4-7, 2-4

**LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE:** 2017

## ST. JOHN XXIII SCHEDULE

**AUG. 25**

St. John XXII at Concordia Lutheran, 7 p.m.

**OCT. 6**

St. John XXII at Second Baptist, 7 p.m.

**SEPT. 1**

St. John XXII at The Village School, 6 p.m.

**OCT. 13**

St. John XXII vs. The Woodlands Christian, 7 p.m.

**SEPT. 8**

St. John XXII vs. Houston Christian, 7 p.m.

**OCT. 20**

St. John XXII vs. Kelly Catholic, 7 p.m.

**SEPT. 15**

St. John XXII at Van Vleck, 7 p.m.

**OCT. 27**

St. John XXII at Fort Bend Christian, 7 p.m.

**SEPT. 22**

St. John XXII at Legacy Christian, 7 p.m.

**NOV. 3**

St. John XXII vs. Lutheran South, 7 p.m.



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