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A letter from the sports editor...

I have a confession to make. I had never watched the movie "Friday Night Lights" before last year.

It came out while I was in high school, and movies weren't my thing at the time. That is neither here nor there.

Not only did I watch "Friday Night Lights" for the first time in 2018, I watched while riding the bus with the Lamar Consolidated Mustangs while on the way to their bi-district playoff game in Marshall.

I was blown away by some of the vignettes that perfectly captured high school football in Texas.

I couldn't help but think that in some small way, that too is the job of The Herald — to capture those moments under the Friday night lights. And that you enjoy the ride with Chad Washington and me. Because we sure do enjoy bringing it to y'all.

P.S. Thank you to my lovely, gorgeous wife Carrie for taking care of our son Jackson and pup

Max to let me cover football.

Also thank you to Rhonda and Troy Taormina, Dave Sanders and Tim Craig for their fantastic work behind the camera.

P.P.S. Maybe I'll have to start viewing the "Friday Night Lights" television show next. Perhaps when high school sports dies down again...in the summer.

Ryan Dunsmore





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2019 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	at Hightower	7 p.m.	Freedom Stadium
Sept. 5	at Foster	6 p.m.	Rhodes Stadium
Sept. 13	Spring	7 p.m.	Mercer Stadium
Sept. 26	Elkins*	6:30 p.m.	Mercer Stadium
Oct. 3	at Dulles*	6:30 p.m.	Mercer Stadium
Oct. 11	Austin**	7 p.m.	Mercer Stadium
Oct. 17	Ridge Point*	6:30 p.m.	Mercer Stadium
Oct. 26	at Clements*	1 p.m.	Mercer Stadium
Nov. 1	Kempner*	7 p.m.	Hall Stadium
Nov. 7	at Bush*	6:30 p.m.	Mercer Stadium

*District 20-6A game **Homecoming

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Trey Sissom
Record at School: 26-17 (4 years)
Career Record: 46-30 (7 years)
Location: Richmond, TX
Home Stadium: Edward Mercer Stadium

2018 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	District
Scoring	44.0 ppg	1
Rushing	186.4 ypg	4
Passing	287.8 ypg	1
Total	474.2 ypg	1
Defense	Per Game	District
Scoring	35.9 ppg	1
Rushing	202.8 ypg	6
Passing	184.3 ypg	8
Total	387.1 ypg	6

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Eric Rodriguez, 178-285, 2,787 yds, 29 TDs, 7 INTs
Rushing: Kaelen Shankle, 106 att., 614 yds., 15 TDs
Receiving: Parker Washington, 70 recs., 1,397 yds., 18 TDs
Tackles: Brennan Tucker, 45
Sacks: Pat Brown, 6
Interceptions: Cameron Oliver, 7

4-YEAR TREND

2018: 8-3; Bi-District; Lost to Katy
2017: 5-5; Bi-District; Lost to Katy
2016: 7-4; Bi-District; Lost to Katy
2015: 6-5; Bi-District; Lost to Clear Creek



Balancing act

Travis aims for district crown with deep offense

BY RYAN DUNSMORE
AND CHAD WASHINGTON

The Travis High School football program has been known for its explosive offense under head coach Trey Sissom.

The Tigers' aerial assault has led them to four straight playoff appearances in as many years. And that success has led to one of their top assistants to head to another Fort Bend ISD program, as offensive coordinator Mike Arogbonlo is now the new head coach at Austin.

"It's been interesting," Sissom said. "It's the first time that I've had to go through that. Obviously, it's a good thing because I want my guys to have opportunity. I'm excited for him.

"On the other side, it gives us a chance to look over things and maybe make a few changes. My wide receiver coach is now my coordinator; Chris Lane has been with us since the beginning.

"We're not changing what we do. It's kind of neat, it gives us a new lease on life. I'm excited about the guys we have."

Lane will look to keep the Travis offense in the right direction, which includes another four-star talent at wide receiver in Parker Washington, who has verbally committed to Penn State. Washington is attempting to blaze his own path after former Travis star receivers like Arjei Henderson, Naveon Mitchell, Grant Griffin, Steven Sims and Hakeem Butler. Sims is now with the Washington Redskins, while Butler is with the Arizona Cardinals.

Washington and quarterback Eric Rodriguez already have a strong connection, but Rodriguez has other weapons in the Tiger offense which returns seven starters, including running backs Kaelen Shankle and Andre Smith, along with receiver Colin Mushinski.

"Because we have so many kids returning on offense, we've focused more on being efficient," Sissom said. "In the past few years, we've been really talented on that side of the ball, but we haven't been able to get over the hump against the physical teams. That is where we need to work on things."

The experienced group is attempting to take play to another level to help with the overall success of the program.

"We have to do a better job of complementary football," Sissom said. "A lot of times our offense puts our defense in a bad spot. Scoring points isn't a bad thing but, at some point we have to control the ball and let our defense catch its breath. And sometimes, we haven't done a good job."

The Tigers had the No. 1 offense in District 20-6A, averaging 474.2 yards per game. But Travis still finished behind Ridge Point for the district title.

"Sometimes you can get pass-happy. When you can throw the ball to Areji Henderson and Parker Washington, you tend to do that," Sissom said.

The Tigers' coach also hopes to control the action with the ground game led by Rodriguez, Shankle and Smith with the main goal of controlling the tempo and the time that the Travis defenders are on the field.

On defense, the Tigers have attempted to make strides to limit the explosive plays that kept teams in games with the high-powered Travis offense.

"The side of the ball that has been interesting this summer has



Parker Washington

been the defense," Sissom said. "We were much maligned last season because our secondary didn't hold up. We gave up way too many big plays on defense. We attempted to shore things up by moving some kids over from offense.

"In the summer, the kids kept getting better and better. We're getting depth at a lot of spots."

The Tigers return four starters on defense with defensive back Cameron Oliver, who led the district in interceptions. Defensive end Pat Brown and tackle J'Mani Gibson are also back to anchor the defensive line.

"We want to win the turnover battle and limit big plays," Sissom said. "The big thing for us last year was giving up the big plays. We can't do that against good teams. That is what we focused on

this summer."

After a 6-1 run in District 20-6A last season, the Tigers' goal remains to get the program's first district title. But Ridge Point remains on top until Travis can finish off its first-ever win against the Panthers.

"I think the district is going to be similar to last year," Sissom said. "Most of the teams are bringing back really good players."



Head Coach Trey Sissom

Rodriguez ready to roll for his senior season

For three years, Travis head coach Trey Sissom had the same signal-caller for the Tigers' high-powered offense, Amryn Jeffrey. The consistency created a large void to fill for the next quarterback.

Then junior quarterback Eric Rodriguez transferred in and quickly took hold of the position and kept the train moving for the Tigers.

Rodriguez helped lead Travis to the No. 1 offense in District 20-6A.

He would finish with nearly 3,000 yards passing and 29 touchdowns through the air.

"I went into my junior season with high expectations because of the team I was joining," Rodriguez said. "I knew the success they've had in the past with a throwing quarterback and I wanted to help in the continuation of that success.

"The reality was something else that exceeded my original expectations, especially after all the other non-football stuff our team was going through that season. Junior year came with a bunch of highs and lows that brought our team closer."

It has helped the transition for the first-time starter at Travis to have Division-I prospects like Arjei Henderson and Parker Washington

at wide receiver.

"Talents like Arjei and Parker do make my job a bit easier," Rodriguez said. "Knowing that I had receivers that I can count on in clutch situations takes some of the pressure off.

"It gives me the confidence to release the ball in tight situations when throwing in their direction."

Now, Rodriguez and Washington hope to spend their senior year burning secondaries toward the Tigers' ultimate goal.

"Parker and I are going to enjoy our last year having fun on the field and trying to surpass last year's stats," Rodriguez said. "My goal this year is to lead my team to their first district championship in school history."



Eric Rodriguez



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2019 District 20-6A season preview

Austin

Enrollment: 2,279. Coach: Mike Arogbonlo. 2018 record: 3-7/3-4 district.

Key Returners: WR Troy Omeire, OT Kendel Septs, DB Brandon Burgos, OT Sean Scantlin.

Notes: Head Coach Mike Arogbonlo comes over from Travis where he orchestrated the No. 1 offense in District 20-6A last year, averaging 474.2 yards per game. The new quarterback has plenty of weapons on the offense with eight returning starters, including wide receiver Troy Omeire.

Bush

Enrollment: 2,435.5. Coach: Allen Aldridge.

2018 record: 5-5/2-5 district.

Key Returners: ATH Kenneth Phillips, TE/DE Clinton Anokuru, DE/TE Izaiah Thornton, DE Olvasayi Omotosho.

Notes: The Broncos had nearly 50 graduates from last year's roster. 13 starters return to try to start a rebound for Bush. Bush showed plenty of promise on defense, allowing 273.9 yards per game last year.

Clements

Enrollment: 2,552. Coach: Bobby Darnell.

2018 record: 2-8/1-6 district.

Key Returners: RB Pierre Djunga, QB John Perry, WR David Kasemervisz, WR Caleb Guajardo.

Notes: The Rangers have continued to make strides under head coach Bobby Darnell and that work should start to pay off in 2019. Clements returns its top rusher, junior Pierre Djunga, to lead the way for the Rangers.

Dulles

Enrollment: 2,491.5. Coach: Shane Byrd.

2018 record: 8-3/5-2 district (bi-district).

Key Returners: WR/CB Jeremiah Walker, LB/RB Konnor Sheppard, RB Leroy Jackson, DE Damiun Walker.

Notes: The Vikings once again have to deal with a change at the top with Shane Byrd taking over for JL Geist. The Dulles former of-

fensive coordinator takes over the top spot after posting the No. 2 offense in District 20-6A, netting 407.2 yards per game.

Elkins

Enrollment: 2,322.5. Coach: Dennis Brantley.

2018 record: 7-4/4-3 district (bi-district).

Key Returners: QB Cameron George, RB Issaiah Nixon, ATH Jacory Lee, OL/DL Brandon Alexander.

Notes: The Knights are in the ideal situation of returning a quarterback, Cameron George, who was in the top five for both passing and rushing in District 20-6A.

Kempner

Enrollment: 2,263. Coach: Darrin Andrus.

2018 record: 1-9/0-7 district.

Key Returners: OL Akinola Ogumbiyi, DB Jordan Verge, QB Jalen Bates, DB Jalum Davenport.

Notes: The Cougars have a large contingent of starters returning to improve on an 0-7 campaign last season. Kempner will have to find a replacement for 2,000-yard rusher Jordan Shelton.

Ridge Point

Enrollment: 2,720.5. Coach: Brett Sniffin.

2018 record: 10-2 DI/7-0 district (area).

Key Returners: DL Bryson Stewart, LB Adrian Johnson, ATH John Paul Richardson, OL Caleb Rodkey.

Notes: Quarterback Will Pendergrass returns to lead a veteran group on offense for the Panthers including wide receiver John Paul Richardson, who finished in the top 10 in receiving yards for 20-6A with over 600 last season.

Travis

Enrollment: 2,621.5. Coach: Trey Sissom.

2018 record: 8-3/6-1 district (bi-district).

Key Returners: WR Parker Washington, QB Eric Rodriguez, DE Pat Brown, RB Kaelen Shankle.

Read the full Travis team preview on page 6.

Oliver out jumping the competition

The defensive backfield can be schemed for success but it can also give a proper stage for athleticism to take the spotlight.

That is the case for Travis junior defensive back Cameron Oliver. He finished the 2018 season as the District 20-6A leader with seven interceptions.

"When the ball is in the air, I'm always, like, 'it's mine and nobody else's,'" said Oliver about this ability to force turnovers. "It also helps me in studying my opponents, watching film and studying the scouting report that coach gives me. It helps a lot knowing what's gonna happen pre-snap."

Oliver puts in the work on and off the field to make an impact in his young Tigers' career.

"I've been playing this wonderful sport since I was six years old," Oliver said. "It doesn't hurt that I have grown up in a family of

great football players and that itself has pushed me to try and be great."

Oliver did that on top of being a key contributor for the Tigers' vaunted basketball team.

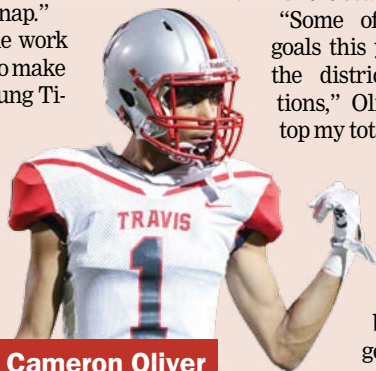
"I feel like by playing both sports that I am always in shape," Oliver said. "I am constantly running gassers on the football field, in the weight room, on the court playing some games or with my trainers working out."

"Many days I double up my workouts with football in the morning and then basketball in the evening."

The target for Oliver is to build on his 2018 season.

"Some of my personal goals this year are to lead the district in interceptions," Oliver said. "And top my total from last year."

"My team goal is to win a district title. We need to come together as a team and become stronger as a unit."



Cameron Oliver



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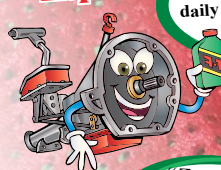
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2019 SCHEDULE

Aug. 30	at Dickinson	7 p.m.	Sam Vitanza Stadium
Sept. 5	Clear Lake	7 p.m.	Legacy Stadium
Sept. 13	at Clear Springs	7 p.m.	Challenger Columbia Stadium
Sept. 28	Brazoswood**	7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Oct. 4	at Alief Hastings*	7 p.m.	LeRoy Crump Stadium
Oct. 10	at Alief Taylor*	7 p.m.	LeRoy Crump Stadium
Oct. 18	Dawson*	7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Oct. 24	at Alief Elsie*	7 p.m.	LeRoy Crump Stadium
Oct. 31	Strake Jesuit*	7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Nov. 8	at Pearland*	7 p.m.	Pearland Stadium

*District 23-6A game **Homecoming

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Nick Cavallo
Record at School: 4-6 (1 year)
Career Record: 4-6 (1 year)
Location: Richmond, TX
Home Stadium: Guy K. Traylor Memorial Stadium

2018 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	District
Scoring	21.2 ppg	5
Rushing	165.3 ypg	5
Passing	155.5 ypg	5
Total	320.8 ypg	5
Defense	Per Game	District
Scoring	26.8 ppg	3
Rushing	146.6 ypg	5
Passing	180.4 ypg	7
Total	327.0 ypg	4

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Sam Miller, 49-97, 559 yds, 7 TDs, 3 INTs
Rushing: Brett Jetton, 26 att., 113 yds
Receiving: Andres Falkquay, 28 recs., 325 yds

4-YEAR TREND

2018: 4-6; no playoffs
2017: 5-4; Bi-District; Lost to Clear Lake
2016: 6-5; Bi-District; Lost to Friendswood
2015: 16-0; 5A DI State Champion; Beat Lake Ridge



Sharpening the 'Horns

George Ranch looking to get back to championship level

BY RYAN DUNSMORE

rdunsmore@fbherald.com

The 2016 Class 5A DI state championship game feels like a lifetime ago for the George Ranch Longhorns after a move up to Class 6A.

Now with one year under head coach Nick Cavallo.

The Longhorns are looking for that spark that can push them toward returning to the top stage in Texas high school football.

"I'm excited about the program," Cavallo said. "I think we're further along than we were last year, obviously. We've had a full year of running our offense, and overall, the kids are buying into the message that we're trying to sell to them."

"The football part will come if we take care of the other stuff, like instilling our values by making them better students and human beings. The life-long lessons will result in a better product on the field."

The Longhorns are coming off their first losing season in program history at 4-6 entering their third campaign in Class 6A.

"Each program has its own unique challenges," Cavallo said. "George Ranch is still a relatively young school that won a state championship early. And those kids that built the program aren't here any more. The senior class that were freshmen during that 2015 season, that class wasn't a huge

part of that, and then we've moved up to 6A."

The goal for Cavallo is to build a culture that can avoid a backslide like last year and keep building on itself.

"You'll see teams at the 6A level have dips, but programs like Katy, Dickinson and North Shore won't have a true dip because they have true programs. Even in their off-years, they aren't around .500 because they have established the culture."

Cavallo admitted the program hasn't completed the turnaround yet, but the Longhorns are getting there.

"We're still at the end of the digging phase," Cavallo said.

"We're still trying to instill our values and get the coaches that we want around with the same message. We're getting close to when we lay that foundation and now we will build the structure that will last. Hopefully, it will all come together in year three."

"We're at a place where the team is understanding what we're trying to do," Cavallo continued. "But at the same time, we may not be great at what we're trying to do. But we still understand the process."

The Longhorns still have plenty of opportunity for improvement and success in 2019. George Ranch was one win away from the playoffs last year and was going blow-for-blow with Hastings for that final spot.

"It's a very tough district," Cavallo said. "You look at Pearland, Strake and Dawson first when you're looking at district. You're looking at three playoff teams that will be a challenge."

"The three Alief schools all have the best athletes in the district."

One of the top talents back to help the Longhorns return to the playoffs is defensive back and return specialist Faybian Marks.

"Faybian shows he is capable of doing a lot of things," Cavallo said. "He understands what you're trying to do with coverages."

Marks is one of only three returning starters on defense. He will be helped out by another strong defensive back, Stephen Woods, to set the tone for the



Sam Miller

Longhorns' secondary.

The offense has just as many holes to fill, but the Longhorns do have their signal-caller for much of the 2018 season coming back to take the reins full time.

"Our quarterback that started five games last year, Sam Miller, will be back and he's done a great job this offseason," Cavallo said.

The junior quarterback completed 50.5 percent of his passes for 559 yards and seven touchdowns.

Miller will have one of his top targets back, Andre Falkquay, who caught 28 passes for 325 yards.

"Andre Falkquay only scratched the surface

of what he could do last season," Cavallo said. "He's stepping up."

The top returning rusher for the Longhorns is Brett Jetton, who averaged 4.35 yards per carry last year in a limited role.

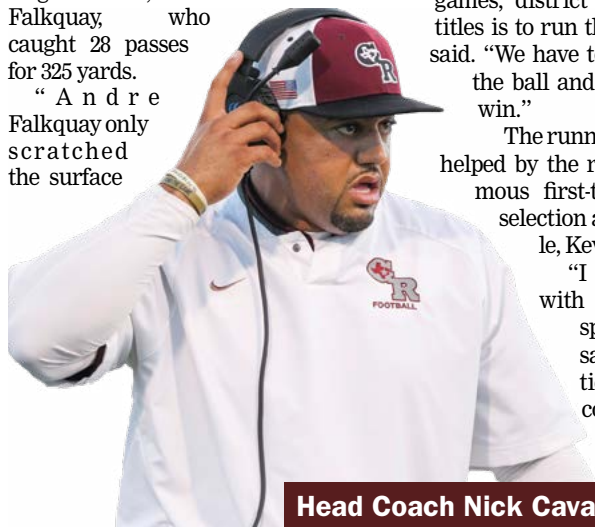
"We have five guys fighting for reps at running back. We have plenty of weapons to spread the ball around," Cavallo said.

The Longhorns are committed to establishing the run first and foremost.

"We still believe the way to win games, district titles and state titles is to run the ball," Cavallo said. "We have to be able to run the ball and stop the run to win."

The running game will be helped by the return of unanimous first-team all-district selection at offensive tackle, Kevin Ireson.

"I was impressed with (Ireson) this spring," Cavallo said. "He practiced at a more consistent level."



Head Coach Nick Cavallo



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2019 District 23-6A season preview

Alief Elsik

Enrollment: 4,283. Coach: Aric Sardinea.

2018 record: 0-10/0-7 district.

Key Returners: DB Ayomide Ogunbunmi, DT Harison Udeh, QB Ja'Marcus Ledet, DB Lionel Gaulden.

Notes: Elsik went winless last season under head coach Aric Sardinea. The challenge of a turnaround is made even harder with only a handful of returning players from the all-district team. Elsik will need to improve on its offensive output from last year that saw the Rams average 191.1 yards per game.

Alief Hastings

Enrollment: 3,993. Coach: David Martel.

2018 record: 7-5/4-3 district (area).

Key Returners: WR Kollin Jackson, CB Chris Uzoechi, ATH Caleb Bowman, RB/WR Terrence Thomas.

Notes: The Bears used a senior-heavy team to secure a playoff victory last season, but coach David Martel returns only 10 starters for the 2019 season. Hastings will have to replace the hole left by Javon Williams at quarterback. It may help ease the pain for the Bears with Caleb Bowman and Terrence Thomas returning, the pair combined for nearly 1,000 yards rushing.

Alief Taylor

Enrollment: 3,260. Coach: Brian Randle.

2018 record: 3-7/3-4 district.

Key Returners: LB Isaiah Wheeler, DE Nick Potts, WR Ty'derrick Anderson, DB Faizal Akinlusi.

Notes: Like Hastings, Alief Taylor had a large senior class depart — including over 40 lettermen, and the Lions have only 10 returning starters, including three on offense. Taylor brings back a stout defense that was third in the district, allowing 300 yards per contest.

Brazoswood

Enrollment: 2,576. Coach: Danny Youngs.

2018 record: 1-9/1-6 district.

Key Returners: OL Mikel Richey, TE Dominic Lopez, LB/DE Kaleb Manning, CB Marguell Maxie

Notes: Head coach Danny Youngs comes to Brazoswood after turning around the Wichita Falls Hirschi program, leading the Huskies to a

10-win season. Coach Youngs will hope to improve on last year's one-win season for the Buccaneers.

George Ranch

Enrollment: 2,654. Coach: Nick Cavallo.

2018 record: 4-6/3-4 district.

Key Returners: CB Faybian Marks, QB Sam Miller, CB Stephen Woods, WR Andre Falkquay.

Read the full George Ranch team preview on page 10.

Pearland

Enrollment: 4,026.5. Coach: Ricky Tullios.

2018 record: 10-1/7-0 district (bi-district).

Key Returners: QB J.D. Head, LB Anton Simieou, DB Kele Linton, RB Torrence Burgess.

Notes: The Oilers imposed their will during district play in the first year of head coach Ricky Tullios. Pearland was still left wanting after a first round exit in the playoffs. Another year for quarterback JD Head should help the Oilers make a run.

Pearland Dawson

Enrollment: 2,814.5. Coach: Mike

Allison.

2018 record: 6-5/4-3 district (bi-district).

Key Returners: RB Bobby Wooden, RB Ja'Den Stewart, DB Blake Smith, OL Calib Perez.

Notes: The Eagles have two of the top 15 rushers in District 23-6A return with Bobby Wooden and Ja'Den Stewart. Stewart finished with just under 600 yards on the ground last season. Dawson will return only seven starters from both sides of the ball.

Strake Jesuit

Enrollment: 2,208. Coach: Klay Kubiak.

2018 record: 10-2/6-1 district (bi-district).

Key Returners: RB Dylan Campbell, DB Denzel Blackwell, LB Christian Gordon, TE William Dickason.

Notes: The Crusaders lost the No. 1 rusher in District 23-6A last season with Micahel Wiley graduating. The loss may be solved by having the No. 3 rusher coming back with Dylan Campbell. Campbell will be the focus of the Strake Jesuit offense after averaging 9.49 yards per carry last year.



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Faybian next in line for Marks brothers

The last name "Marks" rings bells at George Ranch High School. Xavian and Torin Marks set a standard of excellence for the Longhorns in the early stages of the program.

Now younger brother Faybian is carrying that torch for the Marks family.

Faybian has already turned heads on the football field and in track, as he enters his senior year with the Longhorns.

"I feel like I'm living up to the family legacy," Marks said. "They help me see little things that help me in the game, make me a better player."

"But I'm trying to make a name for myself."

The elder Marks brothers were split across the field on the offensive and defensive sides. Faybian has joined his brother Torin by excelling in the secondary.

"I like the feeling of locking someone up and my

team has the confidence to put me on an island without any worries," Marks said. "I feel like I'm my strongest at cornerback."

It helps that Marks has speed to burn, he demonstrated as a regional finalist in the 200-meter dash and state qualifier in the 4x200-meter relay. Marks feels his track work has directly led to more success on the football field.

"Track helped me with my game a lot, being able to be a field general and being able to get all across the field so quickly," Marks said. "(George Ranch track and field coach Todd Dutch) has been a great influence in my life on and off the track, hands down, and a great track coach."

"He set a goal so high for me and pushed me every second till I reached it."

Marks' personal goals for the 2019 season are clear: complete shutdown play at corner.

"My goals for this year are to have the most interceptions in 6A and the least balls caught on me," Marks said.



Faybian Marks

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2019 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	College Station 6 p.m.	Legacy Stadium
Sept. 5	Travis 6 p.m.	Rhodes Stadium
Sept. 14	Magnolia West 6 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Sept. 27	at Galveston Ball* 7 p.m.	Kemit Courville Stadium
Oct. 4	Terry* 7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Oct. 11	Friendswood** 7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Oct. 18	at Angleton* 7 p.m.	Wildcat Stadium
Oct. 24	Shadow Creek* 7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Nov. 1	at Texas City* 7 p.m.	Stingaree Stadium
Nov. 7	Hightower* 7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium

*District 10-5A, Division I game **Homecoming

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Shaun McDowell
Record at School: 58-18 (6 years)
Career Record: 61-25 (7 years)
Location: Richmond, TX
Home Stadium: Guy K. Traylor Memorial Stadium

2018 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	District
Scoring	32.1 ppg	3
Rushing	181.1 ypg	4
Passing	177.9 ypg	4
Total	359.0 ypg	4
Defense	Per Game	District
Scoring	28.5 ppg	6
Rushing	162.4 ypg	5
Passing	194.8 ypg	8
Total	357.2 ypg	7

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ryan Stubblefield, 125-208, 1,786 yds, 20 TDs, 4 INTs
Rushing: Issac Johnson, 114 att., 867 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Cody Jackson, 34 recs., 528 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Ricky Rich, 82
Sacks: Chidozie Nwankwo, 5

4-YEAR TREND

2018: 9-5; Region finals; Lost to Shadow Creek
2017: 9-4; Region finals; Lost to Angleton
2016: 14-1; State semifinals; Lost to Temple
2015: 10-3; Region semifinals; Lost to Temple



Sky high expectations

Foster has the talent to make a run to state

BY RYAN DUNSMORE
AND CHAD WASHINGTON

Expectations are nothing new for the Foster High School football program. The Falcons have won 51 games over the past five seasons under head coach Shaun McDowell.

Even McDowell may admit that the bar for "success" was raised even higher after a third straight trip to the regional championship.

"We can't believe our own hype," McDowell said. "That stuff doesn't matter. These rankings and accolades mean nothing. It is a testament to last year's success. This year's team hasn't done anything yet."

The high preseason projections for the Falcons is a reflection of the culture that McDowell has instilled over the years.

"We built the culture that we're constantly going to work and have fun," McDowell explained. "It's about the work that people aren't going to see."

"Who is going to be the team that is going to let the past down? The 2018 team didn't want to let the 2017 team down and this year's team wants to be even better than last year."

"I admit, after the 2016 season I was nervous. We had guys that were pillars of

our program that are playing on Saturday and soon play on Sunday. Being able to maintain and grow from that has been outstanding."

"I think now being back in Region III and the success last year is a testament to our kids, their work ethic, their parents buying in and the stability of the coaching staff. It's a great place to be."

For the most part, the Falcons weren't expected to make a deep run last year with four losses under their belt entering the playoffs. A young core of players blossomed to beat ranked Hutto and pushed state finalist Shadow

Creek to the brink.

"The questions from last year's team to this year were completely different," McDowell said. "The question now is how do we fill the holes left by graduation, and how do we get the even younger kids in the mix?"

Now that the Falcons have 15 starters returning, including eight on offense, the goal is to blow the other team out of the water.

"I think being completely dominant is what drives this team," McDowell said. "We have to be able to use all our weapons and be dominant in the run game. Be able to run the ball when we want to and also when we have to."

It always helps to have the quarterback return to lead the offense for another year. Foster senior Ryan Stubblefield threw for nearly 3,000 yards and 20 touchdowns last season.

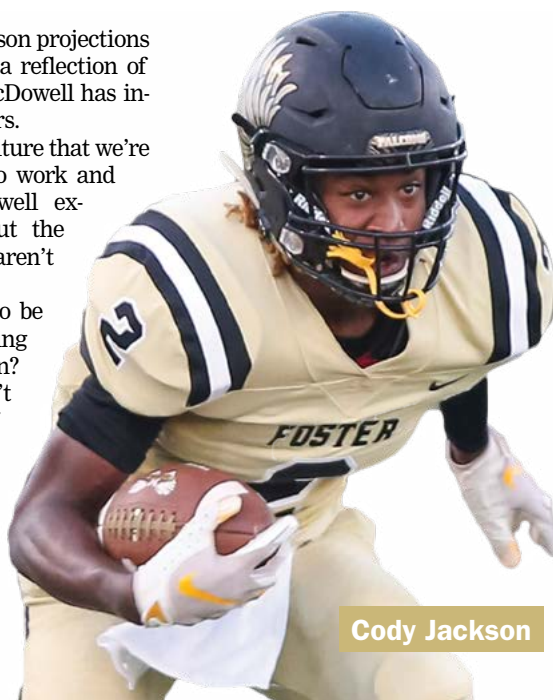
"I love that kid," McDowell said. "He's grown up so much from when he was a pudgy sixth-grader as our ball boy and coming all this way. He's a home-grown guy. He has mastered our offense and makes all the throws and all the reads."

"He is the quarterback that we've always wanted."

Stubblefield has a future Division I wide receiver to throw to junior

Cody Jackson, who has committed to Oklahoma.

"We have a proven track record at wide receiver," McDowell said. "There is no question that



Cody Jackson

Continued on page 16



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Continued from page 14

Cody is one of the best receivers I have worked with. He has elite size and speed. He is an overall great athlete and young man."

Jackson caught 34 passes for 528 yards and six touchdowns last season.

"Cody fits the mold of (former Foster great) CeeDee Lamb, but they are two different types of receivers. He is a special kid and we're glad to have him."

The offense has plenty of protection for Stubblefield, including junior Reuben "Deuce" Fatheree II at left tackle for his second year after moving from left guard.

"Deuce Fatheree is what I like to call a unicorn," McDowell said. "He's 6-foot-8 and 310 pounds. An awesome young man with a great family. His work ethic is unmatched on both the football field and the basketball court. He already has nearly 30 varsity starts under his belt going into his junior year."

"Teams know we're going to run left and, boy, is he special. I'm glad he is playing for us."

Fatheree isn't the only lineman back to blast holes for running backs and keep Stubblefield up-

right.

"We return four linemen on offense, losing our center," McDowell said. "We have a lot of guys that saw action last year and we're feeling good about those positions."

The Falcons' offense has plenty of options in the backfield to keep teams from focusing solely on the passing game.

"Issac Johnson and Mario Simmons, the pair ran for nearly 1,500 yards last year," McDowell said. "That is thunder and lightning, and really, lightning and lightning. But we're really excited about our running back situation."

The Falcons' defense has just as many key returners with senior defensive tackle Chidozie Nwankwo, senior linebacker Ricky Rich, senior safety Cade Lubojasky, senior DeAndre Hicks and senior cornerback

R.J. LaMothe.

"I think we're made for the spread defense," McDowell said. "Kids are seeing the spread as far down as little-league football. It's the power teams that worry me more, but our kids are prepared for that too. They enjoy that 'old-school' football."

"I feel like our defensive backfield has been sharpened by our offense with each practice."

"We're really excited about what we have defensively."

Nwankwo is the lone remaining member to play on the 2016 team that won the Region IV-5A championship and he has been the anchor for the past three years on the defensive line.

"I think we've got two inside linebackers that are special,"

M c -



Head Coach Shaun McDowell

Dowell said. "Dennis Everson II and Ricky Rich will turn some heads with (Nwankwo) in the middle."

The task to win the crown in District 10-5A DI remains equally as daunting with Shadow Creek, Angleton and Hightower returning equal levels of talent. The district will prepare the Falcons for another deep playoff run.

"This is the best and worst (district situation) I've ever been in," McDowell said. "This is the best because there are no off-days, you have to bring your best every game. It's awesome. There are no bye weeks."

"It is also the worst because there are no off-games."

"I definitely attribute that to our success last year. We were able to make a run because our sword was sharpened. It was awesome and I enjoy it. And if I were to be honest, I prefer it."

While the Falcons' expectations are at the state championship level, McDowell is attempting to keep it in perspective for the Falcons.

"A successful season will be the kids having no regrets and giving their best effort every practice and game," McDowell said. "It would be the team reaching its full potential."

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Nwankwo carries banner for Foster history

Chidozie Nwankwo doesn't have much left to prove at Foster High School. He has been an pillar of the Falcons defense for the past three years and has been a three-time state champion in wrestling.

Now he enters his senior season to help lead the Falcons to what they hope is a trip past the regional championship.

"This year means more than anything in the world to me," Nwankwo said. "I've been waiting for this moment since I came into high school and now I finally have it and I'm going to make the best of it."

Nwankwo will get one final go-around to show off his skills that have helped him excel at both defensive tackle and wrestling.

"My practice in wrestling translates to the football

field by the way I keep my leverage and why my stamina is so high," Nwankwo said.

The extra work has paid off already for the returning District 10-5A DI defensive MVP. Nwankwo finished with 60 tackles and five sacks.

The 2019 season will be a little different for Nwankwo. Jeff Rayome, who served as both the head wrestling coach and defensive line coach for Foster, has moved on during the offseason.

Nwankwo will now have a new voice guiding him for the first time at Foster.

"It was an honor to have coach Rayome as my D-line coach, we had a very special bond," Nwankwo said.

Nwankwo will be carrying the banner as the final active member of the 2016 Falcons squad that won the Region IV-5A DI championship. He now hopes to be part of the first group to reach the state championship game.



Chidozie Nwankwo

2-sport star Fatheree at top of his class

Reuben "Deuce" Fatheree II has been turning heads at Foster High School even before he was a Falcon, towering over fellow campers during football camps while he was a Briscoe Junior High School student.

Fatheree hasn't disappointed in his first two seasons on both the football field and basketball court. He quickly became an cornerstone for the Falcons and has been a target of college programs across the country.

He now enters year two at left tackle for the Falcons and potentially his future position at the college level.

"I thought I did a pretty good job with my arm length last season," Fatheree said of his sophomore season. "Going against several top defensive ends, I was able to contain them long enough for my QB to do his thing."

Now Fatheree is looking to improve at the position.

"I definitely needed to work on my footwork and lateral movement," Fatheree said. "My technique has been sharpened by some of the camps I attended."



Reuben Fatheree

College coaches taking a look at Fatheree will see a player who isn't backing away from his key role on the varsity teams.

Fatheree is often facing the opponent's best pass rusher at left tackle and getting the majority of the physicality from the opposing team at center in basketball. But Fatheree welcomes the challenge of excelling at both sports.

"Basketball continues to help my footwork for football and keep my weight down," Fatheree said. "I enjoy them both and I think the training I do benefits them both."

Both sports are still on his mind when it comes to college recruiting.

"The opportunity to play both is something I would love to do, but I have to see how my body will take the grind of next-level athletics," Fatheree said.

"I'm looking for that family atmosphere, and how are they going to develop me to be a better person and athlete on and off the field, (and) also help me obtain my degree."

Falcons will go as far as Stubblefield leads them

The quarterback is the most-watched position on the field, and the most scrutinized. Almost in every case, the person playing that position is usually the most well-known.

But it's not necessarily the case for Foster High School senior quarterback Ryan Stubblefield.

With the Falcons boasting so many talented players at other positions, Stubblefield is often overlooked on the recruiting trail for teammates like Choidozie Nwankwo, Cody Jackson and Reuben Fatheree II.

But Stubblefield has grabbed full control of arguably the most important position on the football field in his first season under center as a junior, and now heads into his senior season with high expectations.

"I stepped in with big shoes to fill and led a very talented team to as far as we could go," said Stubblefield about his first campaign with Foster. "I felt we came out in practice every week with great energy and I led the team in

the best way I could."

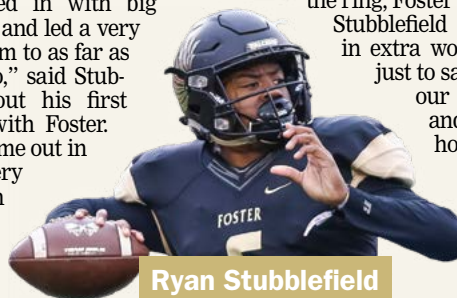
Stubblefield posted just over 2,750 yards and 29 touchdowns passing against six interceptions, including averaging around 250 yards and two touchdowns per game during the playoffs.

The Falcons' signal caller can often be found working out on the practice fields beyond Briscoe Junior High School this summer, perfecting his footwork and agility.

"It excites me every day to work out with my boys knowing we have a chance of being the best team to ever come through Foster and go 16-0 and get a ring," Stubblefield said.

The senior Falcon at the moment has only one thing on his mind: a state championship.

"As a team, we are looking to get the ring, Foster has never had," Stubblefield said. "We put in extra work on our own just to say we have done our best as players and coaches. We hold each other accountable on a daily basis and there is no room for excuses now."



Ryan Stubblefield

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2018 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	Bush	7 p.m.	Alvin Memorial Stadium
Sept. 7	at Dulles	6 p.m.	Mercer Stadium
Sept. 13	at Lamar Cons.	7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Sept. 26	Hightower*	7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Oct. 4	at Foster*	7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Oct. 11	at Angleton*	7 p.m.	Wildcat Stadium
Oct. 17	Texas City**	7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Oct. 25	at Galveston Ball*	7 p.m.	Kemit Courville Stadium
Nov. 2	Friendswood*	1 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Nov. 8	at Shadow Creek*	7 p.m.	Alvin ISD Freedom Field

*District 10-5A, Division I game #Homecoming

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Cornelius Anthony
Record at School: 7-13 (2 years)
Career Record: 7-13 (2 years)
Location: Rosenberg, TX
Home Stadium: Guy K. Traylor Memorial Stadium

2018 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	District
Scoring	16.2 ppg	8
Rushing	170.6 ypg	6
Passing	112.1 ypg	7
Total	282.7 ypg	7
Defense	Per Game	District
Scoring	26.6 ppg	5
Rushing	172.4 ypg	6
Passing	139.6 ypg	2
Total	312.0 ypg	4

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brandon Kyles, 78-158, 1,004 yds, 5 TDs, 7 INTs
Rushing: Brandon Kyles, 59 att., 172 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: John Foster, 15 recs., 132 yds

4-YEAR TREND

2018: 2-8; No playoffs
2017: 5-5; Area; Lost to McCallum
2016: 7-5; Area; Lost to Boerne-Champion
2015: 3-7; No playoffs



Terry Rangers

All in the details

Rangers feel right on the cusp of success in tough district

BY RYAN DUNSMORE
 rdunsmore@fbherald.com

One game can completely change the perspective of an entire football season. Take for example the 2018 Terry Rangers.

The Rangers finished the year with a 2-8 record that included an 0-3 start during non-district play. Terry pulled out a 7-3 win over Hightower on the Hurricanes' home field and were in tight games against District 10-5A DI playoff teams Angleton and Shadow Creek.

One more district win and the Rangers would have gotten into the playoffs with that one extra win at 3-4.

And what did coach Cornelius Anthony learn for preparations for the 2019 season? Details. It's all about the details.

"Every play matters," Anthony said. "Every rep matters when we succeed as a group."

The Rangers will have more stability in the second offseason for Anthony, who was able to retain top assistants: offensive coordinator Jacob Scott, defensive coordinator Colonious McNeal and special teams coordinator Darnell Jackson.

On top of that, the Rangers are starting to see the fruits of their labors with the culture change by Anthony. From the moment that

he walked onto the Terry campus, he has preached the team's four pillars: Class, Character; I am Second and Second Mile.

Anthony noted that he's seen the growth in the program because of the buy-in from the parents of players. "I have to thank the parents for their commitment," Anthony said.

The trickle-down effect of the culture change has resulted in parents making sure their children make practice and workouts that will pay off come football season.

The staff felt comfortable enough with the program's foot-

ing to have spring ball and trade off the extra week of practice in the fall.

Anthony noted also that the buy-in was having its effect during the offseason workout program as well.

"Some of the best teams I was on had players that were self-motivated to get better," Anthony recalled. "I'm seeing that more and more with this group. The work we're putting in now will pay dividends in the fall."

It will also help to have 15 starters returning for the Rangers, including eight on defense.

The defensive side of the ball is led by linebacker Trey Reyes, a second-team all-district selection last year.

The Rangers finished the year in fourth place in yards allowed in District 10-5A DI, with 312 yards per contest. Where the Rangers excelled was in pass defense, allowing only 139.6 yards per game through the air.

Where the defense struggled was on one clear front: tackling. The Rangers' staff made tackling a point of emphasis during the offseason.

"We did a good job of swarming to the ball, but we didn't do a good job of finishing the play off and gave up too many big plays because of missed tackles," the head coach noted.

On the offensive side, the return of quarterback Brandon Kyles will hopefully jump-start the Rangers' attack.



John Foster

Kyles had his struggles last season, yet he has looked strong during the offseason program and 7-on-7 competition for the Rangers.

"Brandon has grown a lot in the past two seasons around the program. He basically got a red-shirt year his sophomore year and took his lumps last year," Anthony said. "He'll have to make better decisions this year for us to take a step forward."

The Rangers' offense was next to last in yards per game with 282.7 per contest. The passing attack averaged 112 yards.

Kyles completed 49 percent of his passes for 1,004 yards and five touchdowns against seven interceptions.

Kyles will have receivers Michael Martinez and Kellen Stewart and two all-district offensive linemen, Luis Garcia and Kolby Sumlin, protecting him so Kyles can keep the offense on track.

Terry doesn't have any delusions of grandeur about the roster, and Anthony knows that the Rangers will have to make the most of all 11 players on the field each play.

"The team has to go the extra mile," Anthony said.

The Rangers will once again face a deep district including state finalist Shadow Creek, regional finalist Foster, Angleton and Hightower — along with Friendswood, Texas City and Ball.

The Rangers are prepared to grab its opportunity if the games break their way during district play.



Head Coach Cornelius Anthony

Kyles ready to take the next step

The Terry Rangers football team went with a youth movement at many positions last season, including quarterback with then-junior Brandon Kyles under center.

Now Kyles returns for his senior season to lead the Rangers through one of the toughest campaigns in Class 5A.

"Last year was a stepping stone and I'm very grateful I had that opportunity," Kyles said. "I've used the struggles from last season to build as an individual and team player. This season is all business."

Kyles and the Rangers hope to have made major strides this offseason with a full year under offensive coordinator Jacob Scott and 7-on-7 football.

"I believe we have

a lot of playmakers on both sides of the ball and our coaches are putting us in the best position to succeed this season," Kyles said.

"We need to ride that momentum into the rest of this offseason and then ultimately perform in the season."

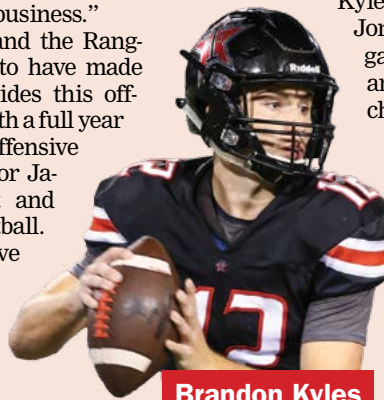
The Rangers are coming off a season where they were one win away from a playoff spot.

"The next step for us is for each individual player to have laser focus and execute each play which will strengthen us as a team,"

Kyles said. "Like Michael Jordan said, 'Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.'"

Playoff football is the goal for Kyles entering his second season under center for the Rangers.

"Our team goal this year is to win, secure a spot in the playoffs, and ultimately win state."



Brandon Kyles

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2019 District 10-5A DI season preview

Angleton

Enrollment: 2,009.5. Coach: Jason Brittain.

2018 record: 10-2/6-1 district (area).

Key Returners: RB Jordan Jones, CB Cameron Stone, DE Landris White, LB Jose Rodriguez.

Notes: The Wildcats return only seven starters from last year, but the infrastructure at Angleton tends to get inexperienced players up to speed quickly. Coach Jason Brittain will have key weapons on defense including senior cornerback Cameron Stone and senior defensive end Landris White back.

Ball

Enrollment: 2,077. Coach: Kimble Anders.

2018 record: 3-6/1-6 district.

Key Returners: RB Clarence Dalton, OL Eric Rodriguez, WR Nehe-miah Noel.

Notes: The Tornadoes have seven starters coming back on offense, headlined by the District 10-5A DI offensive MVP senior running back Clarence Dalton. Dalton racked up 1,337 yards and 10 touchdowns last

season. Will it be enough in one of the toughest districts in Texas?

Foster

Enrollment: 2,061. Coach: Shaun McDowell.

2018 record: 9-5/5-2 district (regional finals).

Key Returners: DT Chidozie Nwankwo, WR Cody Jackson, QB Ryan Stubblefield, OL Ruben Fatheree II.

Read the full Foster team preview on page 14.

Friendswood

Enrollment: 2,111. Coach: Robert Koopman.

2018 record: 6-4/3-4 district.

Key Returners: LB Dane Roenne, S Trey Mappe, WR Christian Lee.

Notes: The Mustangs are a perfect example of how tough District 10-5A DI was last season. Friendswood dropped down from 6A after making the third round of the playoffs in 2017 and didn't qualify for the playoffs in 2018. Friendswood returns eight starters on defense to help stabilize that side of the ball against some tough offenses.

Hightower

Enrollment: 2,053. Coach: Joseph Sam.

2018 record: 3-8/3-4 district (bi-district).

Key Returners: OL Smart Chibuzo, ATH Kobie Campbell, DL Donovan Davis, Christian Hood.

Notes: The Hurricanes have plenty of turnover including a new head coach in Joseph Sam from Mansfield Legacy and 50 seniors graduating. Hightower has two Division-I senior talents with offensive lineman Smart Chibuzo and linebacker Christian Hood.

Shadow Creek

Enrollment: 2,188.5. Coach: Brad Butler.

2018 record: 15-1/7-0 district (State finals).

Key Returners: DE Ronald Triplette, DE Alec Bryant, S Xavien Alford, LB Jeremiah Harris.

Notes: What more could a team ask for in a first varsity season, outside of a state championship for the Sharks? Coach Brad Butler will have to keep Shadow Creek focused

after losing do-it-all quarterback Jamarian George. The Sharks still have plenty on defense to make another run.

Terry

Enrollment: 2,096. Coach: Cornelius Anthony.

2018 record: 2-8/2-5 district.

Key Returners: QB Brandon Kyles, WR/DB Michael Martinez, LB Trey Reyes, RB/QB Kellen Stewart.

Read the full Terry team preview on page 18.

Texas City

Enrollment: 1,904. Coach: Leland Surovik.

2018 record: 2-8/1-6 district.

Key Returners: QB/FS Phillip McDaniel, DT Jontel Stevenson, DB Corday Williams.

Notes: The Stingarees return seven starters on offense headlined by senior quarterback Phillip McDaniel. Texas City had the district's third-best rushing offense last season with McDaniel collecting 449 yards and seven touchdowns on the ground.

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Harris continues to grow at QB

A year ago, Will Brown went to play ball at SMU after a four-season career as the starting quarterback for Lamar Consolidated.

Brown's departure opened up an opportunity for then-junior quarterback B.J. Harris.

Harris could have had major growing pains in his first season under center for coach Rick LaFavers. Instead, he helped the Mustangs reach the playoffs for the first time since 2012.

"Looking back on last year, I think I did an OK job, but there is more work to be done to get farther than the first round of the playoffs," Harris said.

Harris showed off his skills last season, finishing with just under 1,000 yards passing and leading the team with

12 rushing touchdowns. Now Harris is ready to take the subsequent step and lead the Mustangs through a tough district slate.

"I believe that I have to use my voice more and be vocal to my teammates and keep working on the things that we're doing this summer to step up to the next level and to succeed more as a team," he said.

Harris isn't bashful in his expectations for the Mustangs this season, which would include a trip to Arlington at season's end.

"The goal for this year is to move forward from last year and get better than where we were and to get a state ring," Harris said.



B.J. Harris

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2019 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	at Clements 7 p.m.	Alvin ISD Freedom Field
Sept. 6	at Brazoswood 7 p.m.	Hopper Field
Sept. 13	Terry 7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Sept. 26	at Lake Creek* 7 p.m.	Montgomery ISD Stadium
Oct. 4	at Rudder* 7:30 p.m.	Merrill Green Stadium
Oct. 12	A&M Cons.* 6 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Oct. 18	at Huntsville* 7:30 p.m.	Bowers Stadium
Oct. 25	Montgomery* 7:30 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Nov. 1	Cleveland** 7:30 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Nov. 8	Paetow* 7:30 p.m.	Traylor Stadium

*District 10-5A, Division II game **Homecoming

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Rick LaFavers
Record at School: 11-28 (4 years)
Career Record: 11-28 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Stephen Goodwin
Defensive Coordinator: Cedric Allen
Location: Rosenberg, TX
Home Stadium: Guy K. Traylor Memorial Stadium

2018 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	District
Scoring	34.1 ppg	3
Rushing	256.6 ypg	1
Passing	93.2 ypg	6
Total	349.8 ypg	5
Defense	Per Game	District
Scoring	22.2 ppg	3
Rushing	150.7 ypg	3
Passing	120.8 ypg	3
Total	271.5 ypg	3

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: B.J. Harris, 85-146, 915 yds, 11 TDs, 7 INTs
Rushing: Taye McWilliams, 96 att., 741 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Cameron Dotson, 25 recs., 292 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: A.J. Harris, 62
Sacks: Christian Gonzalez, 2
Interceptions: Darrin Boston, 6

4-YEAR TREND

2018: 7-4; Bi-district; Lost to Marshall
2017: 2-6; No playoffs
2016: 0-10; No playoffs
2015: 2-8; No playoffs



Lamar Consolidated Mustangs

At full gallop

Mustangs ready to take the next level under LaFavers

BY RYAN DUNSMORE
 rdunsmore@fbherald.com

A coach can't roll the ball out and his team goes out and automatically wins. There is a process of preparing to win, learning how to win and closing out a win. Lamar Consolidated took major steps last season in that process, now Rick LaFavers' squad needs to learn how to deal with the status of being winner.

The Mustangs are coming off the program's first winning season since 2008 and the program's return to the playoffs since 2012.

While that is an accomplishment to be proud of, LaFavers' sights are set higher for the Mustangs in 2019.

"We need another year or two of consistency," LaFavers said. "We still need to put together back-to-back seasons of success. We're still standing on sand, but we've dug ourselves out of the hole. We have to find out if we're a flash in the pan or do we have the foundation of success?"

It helps that one of the most successful groups at the lower levels to have entered Lamar Consolidated High School are now senior Mustangs.

"This senior group won at the junior-high level, won as freshman and we had double-digit players on the varsity team as sophomores," said LaFavers. "I'm still anxious, but my fears have eased a bit until we get out there and do it."

The biggest challenge will be keeping the Mustangs all charg-

ing in the right direction, because Lamar has plenty of talent coming back including 16 starters.

"I'm more worried about the chemistry. We have plenty of talent. We've been as talented as we ever have been during my time as a head coach," said LaFavers.

The returning talent starts with almost every offensive skill position player back for coordinator Stephen Goodwin.

Quarterback B.J. Harris will have wide receivers Cameron Dotson, Tascendrick Perkins and Stanley Tucker out wide to catch passes while running back Taye McWilliams will be the workhorse in the backfield.

"The game is slowing down for B.J.," LaFavers said. "Year two of calling plays and game-planning for Goodwin will help. Everyone

likes to act like it's something easy to jump right into calling offensive plays, but it's a learning process. We'll be much better; we'll still be power spread and taking advantage of the speed we have."

The only question on offense will be the offensive line following the loss of Jimmy Stavino and Cameron McGrath to graduation.

"We have plenty of guys we think we can fill in those spots (on the offensive line) but we don't have the same kind of depth," LaFavers said.

A young offensive line will have a Baylor commit running behind it in McWilliams.

"Taye will get the vast, vast majority of the carries this year," LaFavers said. "We had a three-headed monster last year."

McWilliams showed 4.4 second speed in the 40-yard dash and finished with just under 750 yards rushing and nine touchdowns on 96 carries last season.

Any team that focuses too much on McWilliams, could get burned by Harris (451 yards rushing) and Daniel Blackmore (572 yards rushing).

On defense, the Mustangs have returning talent all over the place, but lost a key cog with Ivan Kuykendall in the middle.

"We could rotate defensive linemen last year, but this year, we don't have much behind them," LaFavers said. "The secondary is like the receivers, we have a bunch back and they can all run."

The Mustangs secondary is headlined by corner Darrin Boston, who led



Darrin Boston

District 10-5A DII in interceptions with six. Lamar also has veteran defensive backs Xavier Bee and Isaiah Ellis.

Lamar Consolidated has few questions lingering on defensive line with Eugene Mayfield, Julian Anazaluda, Christian Gonzalez and A.J. Harris back to anchor the front line.

The Mustangs have the talent to contend in a stout District 10-5A DII field. The only thing left to do is actually do it.

"Last year we still had to learn

how to win," LaFavers said. "We played our butts off at A&M Consolidated and against Huntsville. That was the measuring stick last year. Where we stumbled was at Montgomery. We didn't play or coach well. That was all a learning experience and we're anticipating being better this year because of that."

The targets will be the same for the Mustangs including A&M Consolidated, Huntsville and Montgomery at the top of the standings with Lamar Consolidated. The only question will be where will the Mustangs rank in the playoff field.

"Until we prove some consistency, we're right where we need to be," LaFavers said about preseason polls. "We're going to challenge our kids to take care of business and win the ones you're supposed to in district and make the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 2007."

"We have to make building blocks and we'll catch fire."

A stumble in Montgomery last season resulted in Lamar falling to fourth in the district standings, which led to the Mustangs driving 500 miles round trip to Marshall for a bi-district playoff game.

The Mustangs hope to not do that again in 2019.



Head Coach Rick LaFavers

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2019 District 10-5A DII season preview

A&M Consolidated

Enrollment: 1,718.5. Coach: Lee Fedora.

2018 record: 10-2/6-1 district (area).
Key Returners: ATH Brian Darby, WR Devin Price, S Bryce Linder, DE Vince Sheffield.

Notes: Quarterback Caden Fedora is gone, but the skill weapons return to help Gage Pahl or Kerry Brooks at quarterback. Senior Brian Darby finished last season with 104 points and 17 total touchdowns.

Cleveland

Enrollment: 1,447. Coach: Norris Taff.

2018 record: 0-10/0-7 district.

Key Returners: RB Jared Robertson, WR Stephan Hughey.

Notes: The Indians struggled with the adjustment to Class 5A and the road won't get any easier for new head coach Norris Taff. Only seven starters returning for the Indians.

Huntsville

Enrollment: 1,789. Coach: Rodney Southern.

2018 record: 12-2/7-0 district (re-

gion finals).

Key Returners: QB Matthew Southern, DE Briceon Hayes, S Jaden Schroeder, LB Jordan Brown.

Notes: The Hornets return only 11 starters from last year's Region III-5A DI finals team. Coach Rodney Southern's team has plenty of talent returning in key places, including senior quarterback Rodney Southern, who threw for over 2,200 yards and 26 touchdowns. The defense will be as stout, Briceon Hayes and Jaden Schroeder returning.

Paetow

Enrollment: 1,452. Coach: BJ Gotte.

2018 record: 3-7/1-6 district.

Key Returners: RB Major Payne, LB Alex Elko.

Notes: The Panthers have all 22 starters back for the program's second varsity season. Paetow had a strong showing on defense last season, finishing fourth in the district standings in yards allowed (301.5). Senior running back Major Payne

finished second in the district with 1,028 yards rushing and seven touchdowns.

Lake Creek

Enrollment: 1,305. Coach: Pat Kennedy.

2018 record: 2-8/2-5 district.

Key Returners: TE Dayeton Sweeting, QB Ty Sexton, OL Chance Neisner, P Carter Berry.

Notes: The Lions return all 22 starters to make a run at a playoff spot following a two-win season in the program's first varsity season. Junior tight end Dayeton Sweeting led the district last season with 65 receptions for 855 yards and nine touchdowns.

Lamar Consolidated

Enrollment: 1,719. Coach: Rick LaFavers.

2018 record: 7-4/4-3 district (bi-district).

Key Returners: RB Taye McWilliams, QB B.J. Harris, WR Cameron Dotson, DT AJ Harris.

Read the full Lamar Consolidated team preview on page 22.

Montgomery

Enrollment: 1,768. Coach: John Bolfig.

2018 record: 5-6/5-2 district (bi-district).

Key Returners: QB Brock Bolfig, TE Cole Morris, OT Trey Phillippi, CB Quincy Paulton.

Notes: Sophomore quarterback Brock Bolfig changed the trajectory of the Bears' season with a strong finish to grab a playoff spot. Fellow sophomore running back Jalen Washington finished tied for fifth in scoring with 72 points.

Rudder

Enrollment: 1,677. Coach: Eric Ezar.

2018 record: 4-6/3-5 district.

Key Returners: DT Desmond Murphy, RB James Ayers, LB Alvin Dunn, QB Brant Roberts.

Notes: The Rangers bring back only 11 lettermen, including nine starters. Rudder will have a new head coach in Eric Ezar returning to coaching from Willis, where he was athletic director.

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McWilliams bursts on to the big stage

Lamar Consolidated High School running back Taye McWilliams enjoyed a solid opening act in the Mustangs' backfield.

McWilliams led the team with 743 yards rushing and had nine touchdowns over nine games. A full season could have seen the Mustang go over 1,000 yards and score double-digit touchdowns.

"I think I did well last year, but I wasn't satisfied. I felt like I could have performed better in some games," McWilliams said.

Those totals would have turned some college recruiters' heads, but McWilliams didn't need that after posting a 4.48-second time in the 40-yard dash at the 2019 The Opening Combine in Houston. McWilliams graded in the 99th percentile in The Opening events across the country, meaning he was one of the top pre-forming backs in the country.

"I knew I was going to do well at the camp," McWilliams said. "I just didn't expect it to be that ex-

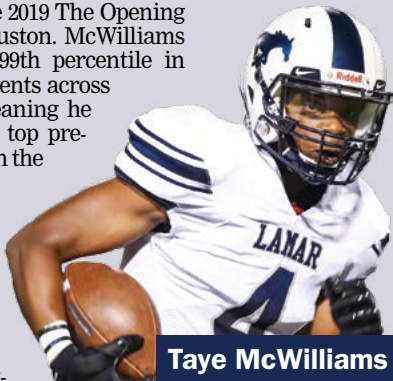
treme."

McWilliams got offers from Tulsa, Baylor, Texas Tech and Houston among other universities. McWilliams didn't waste any time committing to the Bears in Waco.

Now McWilliams' role with Lamar will change from being an option between up to four running backs last year to becoming a featured back with the Mustangs this year.

"The goal at Lamar is to win games and be more than just a football player," said McWilliams. "I feel like we already have all the pieces to the puzzle. It's more about coming together as a team to respond to anything that is thrown at us."

McWilliams could have his eyes set on joining the ranks of Lamar Consolidated great Jacquizz Rodgers in the Mustangs' rushing history books.



Taye McWilliams

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2019 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	La Grange	7 p.m.	Rhodes Stadium
Sept. 6	at Hargrave	7 p.m.	Falcon Stadium
Sept. 12	Lake Creek	7 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Sept. 20	at Sweeny	7:30 p.m.	Bulldog Stadium
Sept. 27	Sealy*	7:30 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Oct. 4	at El Campo*	7:30 p.m.	Ricebird Stadium
Oct. 10	Bay City**	7:30 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Oct. 18	at Columbia*	7:30 p.m.	Griggs Fields
Oct. 26	Needville*	2 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Nov. 8	at Brazosport*	7:30 p.m.	Hopper Field

*District 13-4A, Division I game **Homecoming

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Oschlor Flemming
Record at School: 2-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 7-23 (3 years)
Location: Fulshear, TX
Home Stadium: Guy K. Traylor Memorial Stadium

2018 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	District
Scoring	25.5 ppg	4
Rushing	178.1 ypg	6
Passing	157.2 ypg	3
Total	335.3 ypg	4
Defense	Per Game	District
Scoring	35.0 ppg	7
Rushing	192.2 ypg	3
Passing	131.8 ypg	5
Total	324.0 ypg	3

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Phillip Guevara, 19-42, 251 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INTs
Rushing: T.J. Fields, 92 att., 370 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Jonathan Davidson, 38 recs., 567 yds., 3 TDs

4-YEAR TREND

2018: 2-8; No playoffs
2017: Sub varsity only
2016: Sub varsity only
2015: N/A



Fulshear Chargers

Chargers' aftershocks

Fulshear plans to make a leap in year two of varsity

BY RYAN DUNSMORE
AND CHAD WASHINGTON

The Fulshear High School football team still has that new car smell to them, but the Chargers feel like they got some miles under them in the 2018 season.

The maiden season of varsity football did have some positives with a couple of wins, but going 0-6 in District 13-4A DI meant that there is still lots of room for improvement going into this season.

So Fulshear heads into 2019 with some experience under its belt, along with clear goals that can move the program in the right direction.

The process of setting a standard is a tough one for a young team, especially with kids coming from a nearby powerhouse program like Foster, where expectations are lofty. That is where upperclassmen must take ownership in the program to show the younger players what is expected of them.

"You can't substitute varsity experience," Chargers head coach Oschlor Flemming said. "If you look at five of the losses we had last year, we had a lead or were tied in the fourth quarter. It's not like we were getting blown out. Hopefully we can get the ball to bounce our way in those five games this year compared to last year, where we couldn't seem to catch a break."

The Chargers want to focus on the details to create those breaks in 2019.

"This year we're focused on finishing the drill and doing what it takes to be successful," Flemming

explained. "If you look back at our games, it was one series that would bust the game open. We would throw a pick-six or have a blown assignment cost us the victory."

"That is why discipline and focus have been a big deal (this offseason) because the small things have kept us from success."

At the same time, another year brings even deeper roots for the program with even fewer kids who were a part of Foster's gold track before coming to Fulshear. The result has been more ownership in the program.

That ownership has come from this year's upperclassmen like defensive back Truman Bexley, wide receiver Jonathan Davidson, offensive lineman Cedric Dickerson, defensive back Stephen Kingsberry and running back Tosin Ogunlana.

"Last year, we played the best ones," Flemming said. "We had two years of junior varsity football to get everyone playing, but last year, it was about getting the best players out there."

"I had seniors that played junior varsity because they knew they weren't going to play on Friday night."

"This group has taken more ownership of the program," Flemming said. "I'm anxious to see how much ownership they take and how much they grow this season."

One of the positions held down all season long by a senior was quarterback Keaton Huebner. But now the job will likely go to either Phillip Guevara or Jackson Edge.

"Everything's a competition right now," Flemming said about the quarterback position. "Phillip (Guevara) has one of the best high school arms I've seen. He can really spin it. Jackson (Edge) has the intangibles of being a playmaker."

Flemming also has to find answers on defense. He is confident in the group that finished third in district, allowing 324 yards per contest.

"We have to replace my entire defensive line," Flemming said. "My stud lineman (Ethan Hamby) moved to Boerne and linebacker Terrance (Cooks) moved back to Shadow Creek. We may not have any world beaters, but we'll be pretty dang solid defensively."

The greatest learning experience for the Chargers from year one, it could be argued, was the depth of District 13-4A DI.

"You don't realize until you roll into Sealy, Texas, how tough it is. I think we would have been even better off playing in a 5A district. Because when



T.J. Fields

Continued on page 28

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Continued from page 26

you roll into places like that, those kids have grown up wanting to be Sealy Tigers since they were four years old. (El Campo kids) can't wait to be El Campo Ricebirds.

"Our kids may have more talent, but those kids are playing for a whole lot more and that is the thing that I don't think you could really explain or describe to someone about this district.

"There is a lot of tradition in this district and it made things extremely hard. I think with our kids knowing and seeing that, we'll have a better showing.

"I was told that we were playing in one of the toughest 4A districts in the state, and I didn't believe them until they showed me."

One of the few "firsts" remaining for the Chargers is the program's first district win, and Fulshear hopes to make the most of those chances and get in the win column in district play and beyond.



Head Coach Oschler Flemming

Davidson looks to be top weapon for Fulshear

Fulshear High School hasn't had much time to make its mark on the football field. Senior wide receiver Jonathan Davidson has been able to do so.

Davidson was on the receiving end of many of the Chargers' explosive plays on offense during the school's first varsity season. He finished with 567 receiving yards and three touchdowns.

Davidson does feel like there is room to grow in 2019.

"Following our first varsity season, I realized it's not as easy as I imagined it would be," Davidson said. "A lot of work needs to be done to outperform teams that have had several years of varsity football and several play-off appearances."

Davidson has already shown a sense of the aggressiveness expected of wide receivers.

"Being on the top now as a senior means I have to take control," Davidson said.

"Not just me alone, but the whole senior crew will make this team a pri-

ority and make it the best team we can.

"Especially after last season, there's no way the rest of the seniors, including myself, will let that repeat itself."

Davidson will have to break in a new quarterback after Keaton Huebner's graduation.

"For us to take that next step and make a big run, we have to play as a family," Davidson said. "Having each other's back and playing as one unit is critical and important to advancing as a team.

"We need to minimize the mistakes on the field. Once we achieve those, I don't see why we couldn't go far this upcoming season."

Davidson has already set the goal of 1,200 receiving yards and 15 touchdowns for himself in 2019. But more importantly, he has the ultimate team goal in mind.

"Make the playoffs and make a run to win state," Davidson said.



Jonathan Davidson

Bexley leads Chargers' secondary

Fulshear High School had plenty of firsts this past year: first valedictorian, first graduating class and first homecoming to name a few.

Most importantly looking toward 2019 is the fact that last year was the first year of varsity football for the Chargers.

Many Chargers in the program had only a year to show off their skills. But one key player returning for his second varsity season is senior safety Truman Bexley.

Bexley was named to the District 13-4A DI All-District first team defense after collecting 62 tackles.

The first varsity season was a big adjustment for Bexley and his teammates.

"We now have the experience of knowing the speed of the game and just working to finish each game," Bexley said.

The senior defensive back isn't shying away from the expectations of his setting the tone for the Chargers program in

year two of varsity football.

"I am one of the leaders on the team. We are working to set the bar high and straight up win ball games," Bexley said. "It's our job to bring the underclassmen up and play at a high level as a team to win ball games."

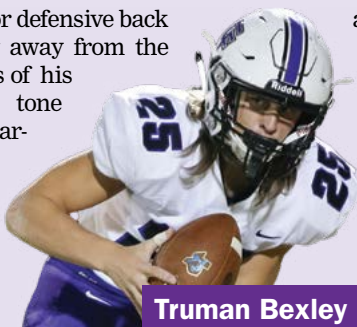
Bexley and the Chargers believe more success will come in 2019 if Fulshear continues to stay the course.

"We need to finish games from beginning to end and dominate," Bexley said. "Winning ball games starts in the off-season and as a team we've been working to get stronger, faster, and better each day."

Bexley is aiming high on a season goal despite the fact the Chargers are still seeking their first district win.

"Our team goal is to win state and dominate," Bexley said.

"If we win as a team, the personal goals will take care of themselves."



Truman Bexley

2019 District 13-4A DI season preview

Bay City

Enrollment: 978. Coach: Pat Matthews.

2018 record: 4-6/3-3 district.

Key Returners: DE Heart Gaskin, DB Marcus Edwards, WR Carlos Lara, K Declan O'Neal.

Notes: The Blackcats have 18 returning lettermen from last season, including 1,000-yard rusher Rodney Mitchell. But the best returning weapons might be on defense including all-district first-teamers senior defensive end Heart Gaskin and senior defensive back Marcus Edwards returning.

Brazosport

Enrollment: 1,082. Coach: Mark Kanipes.

2018 record: 5-6/4-3 district (bi-district).

Key Returners: S Kevin Davis, RB/LB Darrall Preston, QB Brendan Brimage, WR Eddie Flores.

Notes: Former Santa Fe head coach Mark Kanipes hopes to improve on the Brazosport offense that finished last with 251.9 yards per game. District 13-4A DI newcomer of year Kevin Davis returns to patrol the Exporter secondary.

Columbia

Enrollment: 897. Coach: Brent Mascheck.

2018 record: 6-4/3-3 district.

Key Returners: QB Cameron Ward, OL Branden Ballard, DE Mark Booze, DB/WR Sultan Abdullah.

Notes: The Roughnecks appear primed for a return to the playoffs with 19 returning starters including senior quarterback Cameron Ward, leading the wing-T offense. Senior running back Luke Arias (603 rushing yards, 5 touchdowns) will help pace the Columbia rushing attack.

El Campo

Enrollment: 1,088. Coach: Wayne Condra.

2018 record: 3-7/1-5 district.

Key Returners: RB Charles Shorter, OL Cole Riha, OL Devon Earls, LB Clay Jung.

Notes: The Ricebirds didn't have the same size as years past and it resulted in a step back in the standings for El Campo. The Ricebirds look to rebound with first-team all-district running back Charles Shorter to help ease in a new signal caller.

Fulshear

Enrollment: 1,027. Coach: Oschler Flemming.

2018 record: 2-8/0-6 district.

Key Returners: S Truman Bexley, WR Jonathan Davidson, CB Ty Kingsberry, QB Phillip Guevara.

Read the full Fulshear team preview on page 26.

Needville

Enrollment: 1,044. Coach: Mike Giles.

2018 record: 7-5/4-2 district (area).

Key Returners: RB Ashton Stredick, DE Xavier Lott, OL/DL Blake Boenisch, WR/DB Walker Warncke.

Read the full Needville team preview on page 30.

Sealy

Enrollment: 851. Coach: Shane Mobley.

2018 record: 12-1/6-0 district (region semifinals).

Key Returners: LB Garrett Redden, LB Hunter Clark, S/WR Reece Novicke, C/DL Jacob Evanicky.

Notes: The Tigers are riding high under head coach Shane Mobley in his second season with the No. 2 offense (384.3) and No. 2 defense (260.7) last season in District 13-4A DI. Sealy will have to replace the quarterback and No. 1 rusher from last season. Plenty remains on defense with all-district defensive MVP senior linebacker Garrett Redden returning.

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2018 SCHEDULE

Aug. 30	at Sam Houston 7 p.m.	Cowart Stadium
Sept. 6	at St. Thomas 7 p.m.	Granger Stadium
Sept. 13	C.C. Calallen 7:30 p.m.	Blue Jay Stadium
Sept. 20	Yoakum* 7:30 p.m.	Blue Jay Stadium
Sept. 27	El Campo* 7:30 p.m.	Blue Jay Stadium
Oct. 4	at Bay City* 7:30 p.m.	Black Cat Memorial Stadium
Oct. 11	Columbia* 7:30 p.m.	Blue Jay Stadium
Oct. 26	at Fulshear* 2 p.m.	Traylor Stadium
Nov. 1	Brazosport* 7:30 p.m.	Blue Jay Stadium
Nov. 8	at Sealy* 7:30 p.m.	TJ Mills Stadium

*District 13-4A, Division I game *Homecoming

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mike Giles
Record at School: 28-25 (5 years)
Career Record: 28-25 (5 years)
Location: Needville, TX
Home Stadium: Blue Jay Stadium

2018 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	District
Scoring	40.1 ppg	2
Rushing	287.3 ypg	1
Passing	158.6 ypg	2
Total	445.9 ypg	1
Defense	Per Game	District
Scoring	37.3 ppg	7
Rushing	277.4 ypg	7
Passing	143.1 ypg	7
Total	420.5 ypg	7

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Trevor Baker, 1-6, 4 yds, 0 TDs, 0 INTs
Rushing: Ashton Stredick, 175 att., 1,581 yds., 28 TDs
Receiving: Walker Warnacke, 30 recs., 341 yds., 1 TDs
Tackles: Kole Matula, 120
Sacks: Blake Boenisch, 2
Interceptions: Walker Warnacke, 2; Dax Bridges, 2

4-YEAR TREND

2018: 7-5; Area; Lost to La Feria
2017: 6-3; No playoffs
2016: 6-4; No playoffs
2015: 5-6; Bi-district; Lost to Sealy



Complacency not welcome

Needville hopes to build on area playoff trip

BY RYAN DUNSMORE

rdunsmore@fbherald.com

The Needville High School football program last season won its first playoff game in five years under head coach Mike Giles.

It was a feather in the Blue Jays' cap, but Needville wants more in 2019.

"We've got to build on that," Giles said. "That is the expectation and some. We can't be complacent. We've been able to do some things at Needville but not nearly as much as we would like to do. We still have more work to do."

The Blue Jays can't stand still in one of the deepest district fields in Class 4A with District 13-4A DI. But it does help that the Blue Jays return a large contingent of players from the all-district team last year with hopes of making another run to the playoffs.

"We started five or six sophomores on defense, one senior wide receiver last year and only one or two seniors on the lines," Giles said. "We have guys that will be able to hit the ground running."

It also helps to have an all-state talent at running back return for his senior season with Ashton Stredick.

Stredick led the district in regular season rushing yards (1,581), rushing touchdowns (28) and yards per carry (9.03) among runners with 20 or more carries.

Giles said one of the main goals for Needville this year is to keep Stredick healthy for the key stretches of the season.

"Obviously, he can relieve some pressure on the quarterback early, but at the same time, we're not going to ride him into the ground," Giles said. "We've got to use non-district as an opportunity to get some other guys a chance to find their roles so when we get to district, they'll be ready too."

"It can't be all on (Stredick), we can't wear him out early. Of course, it helps to have a special talent back."

Physical recovery has been a focus for Giles this offseason.

"I'm always looking for things

to try to stay ahead," Giles said. "I don't want our guys to get comfortable. I don't want them to be complacent. I don't want to do something a certain way just because we did it that way before, especially if it isn't efficient."

"We aren't overhauling our program, but we found a few things to tweak. We want to make sure our kids are fresher and more focused heading into a game."

Stredick's value could come mostly from easing the load for the new quarterback under center, junior Trevor Baker most likely to get the nod.

"(Baker) has a ways to go," Giles said. "He's a hard worker and a smart kid. He's got all the things you want at quarterback. But we still have to see how he does in the fire."

"We also have another guy pushing for the job, B.J. Glover, a move-in from George Ranch. He's a great athlete."

Baker will also be helped by the return of wide receivers Walker Warnacke, Vincent Villarreal and Dax Bridges. The underclassmen trio combined for nearly 1,000 yards receiving last season. Warnacke (341) and Villarreal (344) finishing in the top 10 in the bdistrict standings for regular season receiving yards.

"We've got a lot of kids back. We played a lot of sophomores last year. We did graduate some seniors, but we'll be OK in replacing them."

"The quarterback is the position we have to get better at and we will. We have a lot of contributors back and I feel good about the roster. Really good, actually."



Walker Warnacke

The youth movement last year had the majority of its growing pains on the defensive side with the Blue Jays allowing 420.5 yards per contest over 10 games, the worst in the district standings.

But the defensive side returns seven players, including defensive end Xavier Lott and linebacker Matthew Herrera, along with two-way star Warncke to help stabilize the other side of the ball.

"We'll be better defensively," Giles said. "We've got good personnel over there. We're so aggressive on offense, but we need to be equally as aggressive on defense.

"I don't think there is any question that we'll be better on defense. It's not our coaching, not the kids, we had to look at our scheme and mentality-wise on defense."

The challenge remains the same for the Blue Jays to survive the gauntlet of District 13-4A DI and make the playoffs. Giles pointed out Sealy and Columbia as the early contenders for the district title.

But a fast start by the new quarterback for Needville could help the Blue Jays make a jump to the top of the standings.



Head Coach Mike Giles

Lott to make his presence known

Needville High School senior Xavier Lott is like many student-athletes who don the Blue Jay blue and white. He can be found competing in multiple sports for Needville.

Lott has been a key cog on the football, basketball and track and field teams.

The versatility has helped the defensive lineman excel on the football field.

"Basketball and track help me by keeping me in shape," Lott said. "It also helps me with my quickness and learning how to take coaching more effectively."

Lott finished the year with 70 tackles including 24 tackles for loss and four forced fumbles. The senior clearly knows that he alone can't make

the Needville defensive unit go.

"I wouldn't say I'm the anchor of the defense," Lott said. "I would say as long as everyone does their job, then we will be unstoppable."

Now Lott is taking on the role of senior leader to help build future generations of Needville football players.

"I think every senior now has a responsibility and a role," Lott said. "All of us are a team and we need to teach the younger athletes efficiency and discipline."

This focus on preparation and discipline should help Lott and the Blue Jays' reach their goal.

"My goal is to make sure that we make the most out of every opportunity," Lott said. "The team goal is of course winning a state championship."



Xavier Lott

Stredick takes over leadership role

Often The Fort Bend Herald All-Area Football Team MVP is a senior. It is the nature of the beast. Three years of experience often bears fruit with a prolific final season on the gridiron.

A handful of times there is an underclassman who steps forward to take center stage.

That was the case for Needville running back Ashton Stredick.

Stredick, a junior last season, posted nearly 2,000 yards rushing and 30 touchdowns — averaging a staggering 8.7 yards per carry.

"Being an all-area MVP is just the beginning of my goals for my senior year," Stredick said. "I wish to be on the all-state team this year."

The three-star running back has offers from Air Force, Baylor, Southern Mississippi and Texas State. He again faces a deep field in District 13-4A DI, this time without

quarterback Kenny Hrnrcir to draw away defensive pressure.

Stredick enters his final football season with the Blue Jays as one of the undisputed leaders on the team.

"Now being a senior, yes, I do feel like I have taken on a role of being a leader," Stredick said. "I have always wanted the best for my teammates and push them to become better."



Ashton Stredick

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2019 SCHEDULE

Aug. 30	at Rice Cons. 7:30 p.m.	Veterans Memorial Stadium
Sept. 6	Hitchcock 7:30 p.m.	Memorial Stadium
Sept. 13	Boling 7:30 p.m.	Memorial Stadium
Sept. 20	at Edna 7:30 p.m.	Cowboy Memorial Stadium
Sept. 27	at Van Vleck* 7:30 p.m.	Burl McKinney Stadium
Oct. 4	Tidehaven* 7:30 p.m.	Memorial Stadium
Oct. 11	at Schulenburg* 7:30 p.m.	Shorthorn Stadium
Oct. 18	Ganado** 7:30 p.m.	Memorial Stadium
Oct. 25	at Bloomington* 7:30 p.m.	Bobcat Field
Nov. 1	Danbury* 7:30 p.m.	Memorial Stadium

*District 14-3A, Division II game **Homecoming

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Wade Bosse
Record at School: 34-6 (3 years)
Career Record: 37-33 (6 years)
Location: East Bernard, TX
Home Stadium: Memorial Stadium

2018 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	District
Scoring	30.5 ppg	2
Rushing	254.5 ypg	2
Passing	69.2 ypg	4
Total	323.7 ypg	2
Defense	Per Game	District
Scoring	9.4 ppg	1
Rushing	143.6 ypg	3
Passing	64.9 ypg	2
Total	208.5 ypg	2

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Carson Little, 4-8, 115 yds, 0 TDs, 1 INTs
Rushing: Kobe Brown, 64 att., 667 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Kobe Brown, 6 recs., 187 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Reagan Whitley, 131
Interceptions: Carson Little, 5

4-YEAR TREND

2018: 13-2; State semifinals; Lost to Newton
2017: 10-2; Region semifinals; Lost to Boling
2016: 11-2; Region semifinals; Lost to Lexington
2015: 12-3; State semifinals; Lost to Franklin



East Bernard Brahmas

New faces, same results

East Bernard doesn't rebuild, instead reloads

BY RYAN DUNSMORE

rdunsmore@fbherald.com

A preview for the East Bernard High School football program could begin and end with the assertion that the Brahmas will play stout defense and control the action on offense with the slot-T.

Admittedly it would be ignoring the fact that the Brahmas won a regional championship last season, graduating 17 seniors this spring.

But that opening statement reflects on the fact that coach Wade Bosse has been able to keep the Brahmas rolling for the past three seasons with 10-plus wins in each.

"It doesn't matter if (opponents) have more athletes on the other side if your kids believe in themselves," Bosse said. "That is half the battle.

"I think they are very hungry and that they can make another run like that again."

The Brahmas will be playing in a renovated Memorial Stadium with new stadium seating, press box and re-sodded field. But Bosse isn't expecting that to make an impact in the motivation for East Bernard.

"I haven't gotten a feel for it yet," Bosse said. "We have some real unique kids here, unique in the sense that they don't need a big surprise to fire them up. The little things, can get them going."

"I know they are giddy about (the renovated stadium) because it is new. I think they're nervous

about it since it's not done. They are excited about it, but I don't think it's brought any more kids out. I don't think we have many more kids to bring out."

The Brahmas are coming off a season in which East Bernard pushed the eventual Class 3A DII champion Newton to the brink in the state semifinals.

"We go and play Newton last year and I don't think anyone around gave us a chance," Bosse said. "No chance to beat them."

"After the weekend (ahead of the Newton game), we knew we could play with them and we go out and do that. At some point during the game, we knew we could have beaten them. But we didn't."

"So after Christmas, it was great to see they were hungry.

"We just played for 15 weeks of football and after Christmas and (final exams), they would have been tired.

"But they came back and they were still hungry.

"They are still hungry and that tells me they think that they should have won the game. So we haven't had to say a whole lot."

Even with only nine starters returning, East Bernard has plenty of talent coming back, including senior running back/cornerback Carson Little.

Little was named all-state after collecting over 100 tackles and five interceptions last year.

Senior safety/wide receiver Reagan Whitley will further bolster the secondary for East Bernard, as he also had over 100 tackles and four interceptions.

The backfield will be locked down by senior running back Tanner Baggett and junior running back Kobe Brown. The pair combined for nearly 2,000 yards rushing and 20 touchdowns last year.

The biggest question is who Bosse will call on at quarterback. The early front runner is sophomore Dallas Novicke.

"We've got to find a new quarterback, but we've got two good options," Bosse said. "And it helps to have our running backs returning."

If the Brahmas can find the answers to roster questions, it could result in another trip to the top of the standings in Class 3A DII.



Kobe Brown



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2019 SCHEDULE

Aug. 30	at FB. Christian	7:30 p.m.	FBCA Eagles Stadium
Sept. 6	at Ganado	7:30 p.m.	Indian Stadium
Sept. 13	Danbury	7:30 p.m.	Cougar Stadium
Sept. 20	St. John XXIII	7:30 p.m.	Cougar Stadium
Sept. 27	at Rice Cons.	7:30 p.m.	Veterans' Memorial Stadium
Oct. 4	Louise*	7:30 p.m.	Cougar Stadium
Oct. 18	at Yorktown*	7:30 p.m.	Wildcat Stadium
Oct. 25	Wiemar*	7:30 p.m.	Cougar Stadium
Nov. 1	at Kenedy*	7:30 p.m.	Cougar Stadium
Nov. 8	Shiner*	7:30 p.m.	Lion Stadium

*District 14-3A, Division II game #Homecoming

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Ryan Roecker
Record at School: 0-0 (First year)
Career Record: 0-9 (1 year)
Location: Wallis, TX
Home Stadium: Cougar Stadium

2018 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	District
Scoring	30.9 ppg	3
Rushing	233.6 ypg	3
Passing	156.9 ypg	1
Total	390.4 ypg	2
Defense	Per Game	District
Scoring	26.0 ppg	3
Rushing	192.7 ypg	4
Passing	101.7 ypg	3
Total	294.3 ypg	4

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jaylin Vela, 15-43, 376 yds, 3 TDs, 0 INTs
Rushing: Jaylin Vela, 67 att., 467 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Jaylin Vela, 26 recs., 511 yds., 8 TDs

4-YEAR TREND

2018: 7-5; Region semifinals; Lost to Mason
2017: 4-6; Bi-District; Lost to Lexington
2016: 5-6; Bi-District; Lost to Lexington
2015: 3-7; No playoffs



Brazos Cougars

Roecker's new crew

Cougars hope to continue success with new head coach

BY RYAN DUNSMORE

rdunsmore@fbherald.com

House cleaning.

A task that not even a head football coach could get out of, especially at the Class 2A level.

In a midsummer day in Wallis, new Brazos head coach Ryan Roecker and his staff were making sure every piece of equipment was accounted for and each locker room was clean ahead of the new school year.

Roecker, the former Anahuac High School offensive coordinator, will have been on the job for two months when school starts.

The Cougars' new head man has focused on the details and setting expectations for his program.

"If you're going to be a champion, you have to be a champion in all areas of your life," Roecker said. "You can't be a champion on the field and have a messy locker. You can't be a champion on the field and be a mess at home or in the classroom. It just doesn't work. It will take over your life. The kids change but the standards don't."

Roecker was hired at Brazos in late June to take over for Ned Barrier, who left for 5A Conroe Caney Creek in May.

This isn't Roecker's first rodeo. He served as head coach of Palmer High School from 2009-2010.

Roecker takes over a Cougar

football team that is coming off one of its strongest seasons in program history with a trip to the regional semifinals.

The coaching staff is going to be flexible in hopes of making a return to the third round of the playoffs for only the second time since the 1980s.

"We know more of what we're going to do on offense," Roecker said. "Obviously, we'll combine some of the option stuff that I've traditionally run with the power spread."

"Defensively, we're going to have to mold the kids on whether we're going to be an odd or even front."

But the mindset that Roecker wants is clear:

"Our motto this year is attack ev-

erything," Roecker said. "I hate that the defense gets called the aggressor. I hate that the offense is thought of as the passive side."

"We're going to set the tone offensively. We're going to be able to go fast, slow and no-huddle. We're going to be able to do what we need to do to attack the weakness of the (opposing) defense."

"We're going to have that mindset from day one that we're going to be on the attack."

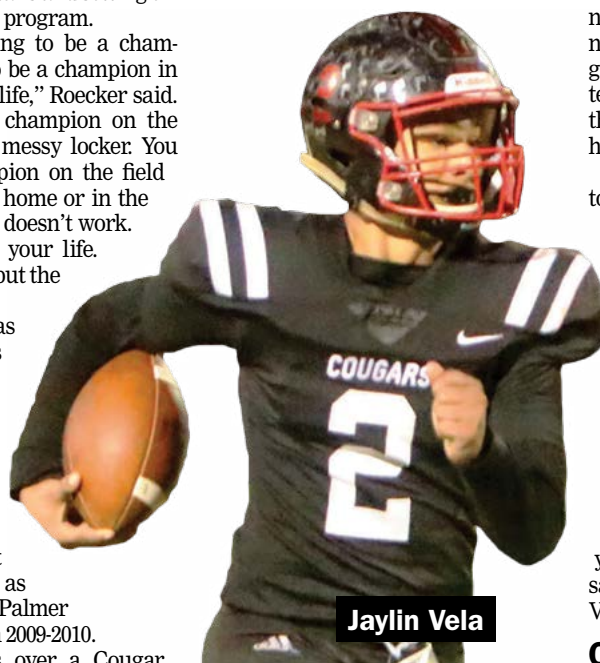
It will help that the Cougars have plenty of talent returning including all-district first-team selections Kolton Marke, Jaylin Vela and Ira Minters back.

"Looking at the roster, we bring back a lot of juniors and they are now seniors," Roecker said. "We're not running out an inexperienced group and they know that last year's team had some dudes that carried the load, and someone is going to have to step up."

"We've got athletes that are ready to take a leadership role. They are ready to move the standard even higher."

It will also help to have Vela back to potentially lead the offense at quarterback. He spent much of his time at wide receiver last season before Luke Demmy went down with an injury, forcing Vela to switch roles to signal-caller during the Cougars' playoff run.

"At any level, if you have a play maker (like Jaylin), that makes your team even better," Roecker said. "With the proven success that Vela has had, obviously teams will



Jaylin Vela

Continued on page 35

Continued from page 34

have to account for him.”

Vela was in the top 10 for rushing (467) and receiving (511) yards among players in District 15-2A DI.

Speaking of the district, the ability to make the playoffs remains high, but so does the competition. Shiner still remains the top dog despite replacing head coach Steven Cerny with defensive coordinator Daniel Boedeker.

“People are obviously going to say you only have to win one game (to make the playoffs),” Roecker said.

2019 District 14-3A DII season preview

Bloomington

Enrollment: 245. **Coach:** Chris Horn

2018 record: 1-9/0-6 district.

Key Returners: QB Isaiah Solis.

Notes: The Bobcats can only go up from their 2018 season, after finishing last in yards gained (186.5) and yards allowed per game (421.1) in District 13-4A DII.

Danbury

Enrollment: 230. **Coach:** Trey Hermann.

2018 record: 13-2/6-0 district.

Key Returners: LB James White, WR/LB Deegan Bang, WR Brett Neubauer.

Notes: The Panthers had seven players named to the 2018 District 14-3A DII all-district team, six of whom were seniors. Coach Trey Hermann will have to rebuild depth while getting acclimated to the job after being hired in July.

East Bernard

Enrollment: 324. **Coach:** Wade Bosse.

2018 record: 13-2/6-0 district (state semifinals).

Key Returners: DB/RB Carson Little, RB/DB Kobe Brown, FS/WR Reagan Whitley, OL/DE Cole Lee.

Read the full East Bernard team preview on page 32.

Ganado

Enrollment: 227. **Coach:** Brent Bennett.

2018 record: 4-6/2-4 district.

Key Returners: RB Ethan Guerra, LB Colton Teague, WR Riley Hurt, DB/WR Gavin Sanchez.

Notes: Ganado finished second in passing offense (168.1) and first in pass defense (59.4) per contest last season. The passing attack will be helped by the return of district reception leader sophomore Riley Hurt, who had 43 catches for 608 yards and five touchdowns. Also back is senior running back Ethan Guerra, who had 565 rushing yards and 11 touchdowns last season.

Schulenburg

Enrollment: 247. **Coach:** Brandon

“The problem is everyone in the district is trying to win that same one game. I look forward to the true competition.”

Roecker is more focused on his own team's execution than whoever will be waiting for the Cougars on the other sideline on Friday nights.

“We're going to be the best-coached, the most-disciplined and the best-trained team. So when it gets to game time, we're just going to go out there and play fast, play hard and play together,” Roecker said.

It is a game plan that could create a strong foundation in Wallis.

Brown.

2018 record: 7-4/3-3 district (bi-district).

Key Returners: RB Brayden Duarte, QB/LB Brett Janacek, CB Trinity Houston, TE/DL Jaxon Fietsam.

Notes: The Shorthorns look to build on a return to the playoffs last season under head coach Brandon Brown. It helps to have the No. 2 rusher in District 14-3A DII back in senior Brayden Duarte, who rushed for 1,104 yards and 14 touchdowns last season.

Tidehaven

Enrollment: 295. **Coach:** David Lucio.

2018 record: 7-7/4-2 district (regional finals).

Key Returners: QB Blake Garcia, WR/DB Mason Perales, DE Grant VonGontard, OL Kyus Saha.

Notes: The Tigers showed their improvement last season by pushing district champion East Bernard in the Region IV-3A DII championship game. Do-it-all quarterback senior Blake Garcia returns to lead Tidehaven after posting nearly 1,000 yards rushing and passing last season.

Van Vleck

Enrollment: 328. **Coach:** Robert Blackmon.

2018 record: 11-2/5-1 district (regional semifinals).

Key Returners: WR/DB Cameron Franklin, OL/LB Derek Buckalew, CB/WR Jalen Williams, QB Joshua DeLarosa.

Notes: The Leopards had the No. 1 offense (469.2) and No. 2 defense (166.2) in yards per game last season but Van Vleck was unable to dethrone East Bernard. Now coach Robert Blackmon has to replace the No. 1 rusher in the district last season, Demetri Monroe (1,854 rushing yards) and the No. 2 passer (1,693 passing yards). Senior quarterback Joshua DeLarosa and junior running back Sam Bree are the early frontrunners to fill those holes.

2019 District 15-2A DI season preview

Brazos

Enrollment: 222; **Coach:** Ryan Roecker

2018 record: 7-5/2-2 district (regional semifinals).

Key Returners: QB/WR Jaylin Vela, RB/LB Ira Minters, FB/LB Kolton Marek, DL Drake Aguilar.

Read the full Brazos team preview on page 34.

Kenedy

Enrollment: 214; **Coach:** Shawn Alvarez.

2018 record: 0-10/0-4 district.

Key Returners: WR/LB Oscar Hinojosa, QB Jaydin Chapa, TE/DE Nahjel Felix-Gely, C/NG Justin Connell.

Notes: Cuero assistant Shawn Alvarez takes over a football program looking for its first victory in nearly three seasons. The Lions finished last in yards gained (219.2) and allowed (400.4). Senior wide receiver Oscar Hinojosa (41 receptions, 511 yards, 4 touchdowns) and junior tight end Nahjel Felix-Gely (31 Rec, 578 YDs, 8 TDs) return after leading the district in receptions.

Shiner

Enrollment: 208. **Coach:** Daniel Boedeker.

2018 record: 11-2/4-0 district (regional semifinals).

Key Returners: RB/DB Donyai Tay-

lor, RB Doug Brooks, TE Cole Patek, QB/RB/SS Tyler Palmer.

Notes: District MVP Donyai Taylor and newcomer of the year Doug Brooks return to help stabilize a Shiner offense in transition on the offensive line and at quarterback.

Weimar

Enrollment: 208; **Coach:** Ryan McIver.

2018 record: 8-3/3-1 district (area).

Key Returners: RB Ravon'Dre Wicks, LB Vicente Cabrera, OL Eddie Flores, DB/WR Dyerick Ellison.

Notes: The Wildcats have both the district offensive MVP, senior running back Ravon'Dre Wicks, and co-defensive MVP, senior linebacker Vicente Cabrera, returning to build on another solid season.

Yorktown

Enrollment: 165; **Coach:** John David Caffey.

2018 record: 6-5/1-3 district (bi-district).

Key Returners: TE/DE Corey Pargmann, RB/LB Zack Latta, C/DT Devin Leister, QB/DB Josh Garcia.

Notes: Yorktown senior quarterback Josh Garcia finished second in District 15-2A DI in passing with 945 yards despite playing in only one district contest due to injury. Garcia returns his top target, senior tight end Corey Pargmann.

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WR: Cody Jackson, Jr., Foster

WR: Cameron Dotson, Sr., Lamar Cons.

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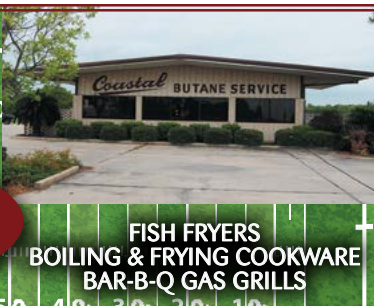


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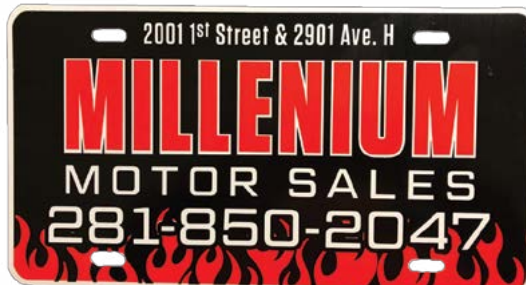
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