

PREVIEW DISTRICT 5-6A

>> ALLEN EAGLES >> DENTON BRASWELL BENGALS >> DENTON GUYER WILDCATS >> LITTLE ELM LOBOS
>> MCKINNEY LIONS >> MCKINNEY BOYD BRONCOS >> PROSPER EAGLES >> PROSPER ROCK HILL BLUE HAWKS

One of the premier football districts in the state, 5-6A lived up to its billing and then some last season with two teams from the conference, Prosper and Denton Guyer, advancing to the state semifinals, plus another in McKinney who made it to the regional semifinals.

Allen rounded out the playoff equation for

a top four that's on par with any in the state.

One thing to monitor within the heavy-weight district for the upcoming season: Between graduation and transfers, all eight teams will have a new starting quarterback.

As those new passers acclimate to the varsity limelight, all challengers will be squared on dethroning Guyer. The Wildcats

went unbeaten in district play last season and did so in style, winning seven games by an average of 34.3 points.

Defending that district title won't come easy, however. There's a plethora of college-caliber talent scattered elsewhere in 5-6A. McKinney is chalked in blue-chippers as it looks to build off its deepest playoff run

in 30 years, while Prosper and Allen could mount worthy challenges as well.

McKinney Boyd hopes to restore its playoff luster under second-year head coach Daniel Foster, while Denton Braswell, Prosper Rock Hill and Little Elm are all in search of their first playoff appearances at the 6A level.

THE TOP FIVE: WHICH GAMES TO WATCH THIS YEAR

GUYER AT PROSPER, SEPT. 15

The Eagles and Wildcats have developed quite the rivalry over the years, including three consecutive seasons from 2019-21 where the two 5-6A powerhouses met in the playoffs. Both advanced to the state semifinals last season and are primed to contend once again this fall, and this mid-September meeting should provide a noteworthy look into how these two stack up among the district's elite.

PROSPER AT ROCK HILL, SEPT. 22

Last season marked the first-ever meeting between these city rivals, and the inaugural "Pride of Prosper" game did its part to draw plenty of fanfare between the two student bodies. The elder statesman of the group, Prosper, got the better of that 2022 meeting, and Rock Hill will get its chance to return the favor next month.

BOYD AT MCKINNEY, SEPT. 22

Speaking of games that never lack in fanfare, across any sport for that matter, McKinney and Boyd's annual Crosstown Showdown is one of Collin County's top rivalries. Momentum has ebbed and flowed between the Lions and Broncos in recent years, with the two teams splitting their last six matchups 3-3. Five of those games were decided by 12 points or less.

ALLEN AT MCKINNEY, OCT. 13

Maybe the most entertaining game from last year's 5-6A schedule saw McKinney take state-ranked Allen down to the wire before falling 31-28. It was a sign of things to come, however, as the Lions proved capable of hanging with the state's elite. With one of the most talented rosters in program history on tap this season, McKinney will try and get over the hump.

GUYER AT ALLEN, OCT. 20

This game was broadcasted to a national audience via ESPN last season, and what a showcase it was for the reigning 5-6A champions. Guyer got a longtime monkey off its back in a big way by thrashing Allen 49-7, and the Eagles will be anxious for a chance to level the score when the action shifts to their home field for the late-season rematch.



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