

PREVIEW DISTRICT 6-6A

THE TOP FIVE: WHICH GAMES TO WATCH THIS YEAR

LEWISVILLE AT HIGHLAND PARK, SEPT. 1

One of the marquee non-district games in the Dallas area, the Farmers will look to exact revenge for one of their two losses last season and attempt to hand the Highlanders a rare home loss. In last year's game in Lewisville, the Highlanders outscored the Farmers 24-10 over the final three quarters to earn a 31-17 victory. However, Lewisville followed with 11 straight wins, capped off by the Farmers' first appearance in the fourth round of the playoffs since 1996.

PLANO EAST AT HEBRON, SEPT. 29

It will be a special night at Hebron as the Hawks will hold a pregame ceremony to rename the stadium in honor of the late Brian Brazil, who served as the team's head coach from the program's inception in 1999 until 2021. Hebron won last year's matchup, 35-23 – a game in which the two teams combined for 1,015 total yards. East senior quarterback Drew Devillier, a Rice commit in baseball and football, threw for 391 yards in the loss.

MARCUS AT FLOWER MOUND, SEPT. 29

It doesn't get better than the Mound Showdown. The two teams have alternated wins over the past two seasons. The Jaguars edged the Marauders, 17-14, in 2021 to snap a two-game losing streak to their crosstown rival. Marcus returned the favor last season with a 30-21 triumph. This year's meeting will be the first appearance in the Mound Showdown for first-year Marauders head coach Mike Alexander.

PLANO WEST AT PLANO, SEPT. 29

The two Plano ISD schools will renew their rivalry at Clark Stadium, looking to get up in the race for the 6-6A title. Plano made the playoffs last season for the first time since 2017. The Wildcats went 3-0 to begin 6-6A play, which included a 30-17 triumph over the Wolves. Plano is under the direction of first-year head coach Cody White. West seeks a return trip to the playoffs for the first time since 2020.

LEWISVILLE AT COPPELL, SEPT. 29

The winner of this game will have a big leg up in the race for the district crown. Coppell and Lewisville combined to go 21-4 last season, with the Farmers winning their first conference championship since 2001. Lewisville won last season's matchup in convincing fashion, holding Coppell to a field goal in a 38-3 victory. It was the only regular-season loss for the Cowboys. However, Coppell will have home-field advantage this time around.

Lewisville FARMERS

6-6A

Lewisville head football coach Michael Odle and his staff have rekindled the level of success that the Farmers enjoyed on their runs to state championships in 1993 and 1996.

Odle's Farmers have improved their record each season, and the 2022 season was their best since he took over the reins in 2017, leading Lewisville to its first outright district title since 2001 and to the fourth round of the playoffs for the first time since 1996.

With a bulk of their experience returning from last



PLAYER to watch

JAYDAN HARDY DEFENSIVE BACK / WIDE RECEIVER

The Lewisville football team's coaching staff has lined up Hardy, an Oklahoma pledge, at just about every skill position on the field. And while his game statistics don't jump off the charts, Hardy's impact has been felt in all three phases of the game, and a big reason why he was named the co-MVP of District 6-6A last year. Hardy had three receiving touchdowns, had two more that went for a rushing score, recorded 10 2-point conversions, made 32 solo tackles and intercepted one pass with two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.

season's 12-2 team, Lewisville has its sights set on another

long postseason run in 2023.

Lewisville returns just about every starter on offense. Senior quarterback Ethan Terrell is 23-4 as a starter and the Jackson State commit could become the first Farmer signal-caller to win 30 games. Terrell will have four returning starters on the offensive line ready to provide pass protection for him and also spearhead a Lewisville rushing attack that churned out 3,453 rushing yards and 39 touchdowns last season. Junior tackle Michael Fasusi, a five-star recruit, lists 33 offers.

Terrell and senior running back Viron Ellison were both 1,000-yard rushers last season. Ellison recorded 1,504 yards



DAVID WOLMAN / STAFF PHOTO

on the ground with 15 total touchdowns. Terrell also threw for more than 1,000 yards, and he'll have his leading wide-out, senior Lamar Kerby, back in the fold.

Odle added that the team's most versatile player, Oklahoma commit and reigning District 6-6A MVP Jaydan Hardy – who saw action at safety, wide receiver, running back and kick returner last season – will have an even bigger role in the Farmers' offense.

Defensively, Lewisville will have to replace key pieces

that were lost to a unit that surrendered 13.3 points per game in 2022 – most notably in the secondary and defensive line; alums Mason Johnson and Rendell Carter combined for 171 tackles, eight sacks and 46 tackles for loss.

Odle said senior outside linebacker Omar Lockhart had a “good spring,” while juniors Rhyen Sewell and Sean Oliver have been “just tough to handle.” Arizona State commit Tony-Louis Nkuba is back to anchor the Farmer secondary.

Varsity SCHEDULE

Aug. 25	Naaman Forest	Max Goldsmith Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 1	Highland Park	Highlander Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	Mesquite	Mesquite Memorial Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	BYE		
Sept. 22	Flower Mound	Max Goldsmith Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	Coppell	Buddy Echols Field	7 p.m.
*Oct. 6	Plano	Clark Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	Plano West	Max Goldsmith Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	Marcus	Marauder Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	Plano East	Max Goldsmith Stadium	7 p.m.
Nov. 3	Hebron	Brian Brazil Stadium	7 p.m.

*Homecoming