

Plano East PANTHERS

The Panthers began the Tony Benedetto era in impressive fashion last season, opening the year with their first 3-0 start since 2018—the program's last playoff appearance.

However, the brunt of a challenging district schedule, coupled with injuries and some hard-luck close games, contributed to an 0-7 finish to the year.

During the offseason, Benedetto and his staff made it a point to develop depth by teaching skill players both sides of the ball in the event injuries occur. Coupled with a full offseason under the



PLAYER to watch

CHIMA CHINEKE DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

A mainstay on the Panthers' defensive front since his sophomore year, Chineke amassed 31 tackles and seven sacks last season. A multi-sport athlete who also plies his craft on the basketball court, Chineke will continue his football career into college after verbally committing to Iowa in July. A three-star prospect, Chineke teams with fellow senior Jadyn Lindsey as part of a unit that should be among the Panthers' strengths this fall.

head coach and stronger continuity within the team's offensive and defensive systems, East hopes to take another step towards playoff contention this fall.

It helps to have a leg up

behind center, particularly in a district where six other teams graduated their starting quarterback, and East has senior Drew Devillier back at the controls for his third year as a starter. Verbally committed to Rice to play both football and baseball, Devillier passed for 2,210 yards and 18 touchdowns last season.

East figures to have speed on the outside between seniors Jaylon Hatcher and Ezra O'Neal III, both of whom qualified for the state track meet last spring, with seniors Caden Warner and Josh Palma bringing additional experience to the receiver position.

Sophomore Travis Agee is a name to watch amid a young stable of running



MATT WELCH / STAFF PHOTO

backs, while senior Desmond Smith could also see time as a rusher after impressing in the spring.

The Panthers should be in good hands up front where four starters return, led by seniors Corbin Glass, an Air Force commit, and Ralee Jackson.

East has plenty of talent in the trenches on the other side of the ball as well, with senior Chima Chineke, verbally

committed to Iowa, back for his third year starting on defense. He'll help anchor the defensive line alongside seniors Jadyn Lindsey and Ire James.

In addition to spelling East's rushers in the backfield, Smith will lead the way as a three-year starter in the secondary. Junior Andrew Earls is another defensive back who the Panthers have high hopes for this fall.

Varsity SCHEDULE

Aug. 25	Rowlett	Kimbrough Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 1	Naaman Forest	Williams Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	Prosper Rock Hill	Children's Health Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	BYE		
*Sept. 22	Plano	Kimbrough Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	Hebron	Brian Brazil Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	Flower Mound	Kimbrough Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	Coppell	Buddy Echols Field	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	Plano West	Kimbrough Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	Lewisville	Max Goldsmith Stadium	7 p.m.
Nov. 3	Marcus	Kimbrough Stadium	7 p.m.

*Homecoming

WELLNESS AWAITS

- Chiropractic Care
- Sports Injuries
- Headaches
- Physical Therapy
- Auto Accidents
- Back & Muscle Pain
- Rehabilitation
- Neck Pain
- Joint Pain

Garland G. Fulcher, DC



Open Monday thru Saturday, schedule an appointment today!

972.424.2225 | PrimeLifeChiropractic.com

2504 K Avenue, Suite 500, Plano

Prime Life
CHIROPRACTIC

ACCEPTING PRIVATE PAY (CASH), MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND MOST OTHER INSURANCE POLICIES

CAR TROUBLE?

We Fix Everything!

Jerry Kezhaya ~ Owner

GET ACQUAINTED OFFER

\$25 OFF

any repair over \$100

Does not include state inspections, batteries, or oil service.

Seasonal Check-Up & Free Oil Special

INCLUDES:

- Up to 5 qts. Regular 5W30 Motor Oil
- New Oil Filter and Tire Rotation
- FREE Multi-Point Inspection
- Check Antifreeze and All Fluids
- Complete Brake Inspection
- Check Exhaust System
- Inspect Belts, Hoses and Lights
- Text Battery and Charging System
- Consultation on any problems

\$59.97

Plus Tax and Disposal Fees \$89.95 value

Most Cars/Light Trucks. Not valid with any other offer.

Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:30pm

Since 1981

THE AUTO SHOP

2560 East Plano Parkway, Plano
www.theautoshop.com

972-578-0588