

PREVIEW DISTRICT 5-5A DIV. I

>> **ADAMS COUGARS** >> **BIRDVILLE HAWKS** >> **MOLINA JAGUARS** >> **NEWMAN SMITH TROJANS**
 >> **R.L. TURNER LIONS** >> **RICHLAND ROYALS** >> **SUNSET BISON** >> **TIMBERVIEW WOLVES** >> **W.T. WHITE LONGHORNS**

Mansfield Timberview averaged the most points per game (51.93) of any team in the Dallas area last season, on its way to a perfect run through District 5-5A Division I. Longtime head coach James Brown left the program after 11 seasons, but the Timberwolves have promoted offensive coordinator Robert DeSanto to head coach.

Birdville enjoyed quite the turnaround last season, winning eight games after just four combined during each of the previous two seasons. Junior quarterback Noah Normand amassed 2,085 passing yards with 24 touchdowns last season, but he'll look to build chemistry with a new group of wide receivers after he lost his top three pass-catchers to graduation.

Richland is also coming off an eight-win season.

W.T. White rallied to outlast Newman Smith to claim the final playoff spot last season. But the Trojans have improved every year under head coach Robert Boone, who led Newman Smith to six victories last season. And with SMU commit and senior safety Jaylen Moses returning, as well as senior quarterback Pierson Rougeau and senior running backs Christopher Hughes Jr. and Jaden Coulter, expect Smith to compete for its first playoff berth since 2015.

Bryan Adams seeks to bounce back from a 3-7 season, while R.L. Turner will look to contend its upward trajectory under head coach Michael Farda Jr. Molina and Sunset combined to win three games a year ago.



DAVID WOLMAN / STAFF PHOTO

THE TOP FIVE: WHICH GAMES TO WATCH THIS YEAR

MOLINA AT BRYAN ADAMS, SEPT. 8

The two Dallas ISD rivals will kick off the district slate with a Week Three contest at Forester Field. Adams edged Molina, 14-13, in last season's meeting. After the teams played to a 7-7 tie at the end of the third quarter, the Cougars outscored the Jaguars 7-6 in the fourth quarter to squeak out the victory. Three touchdowns came on running plays. Adams alum Jon'Trevious Nunn accounted for both of his team's scores.

TIMBERVIEW AT BIRDVILLE, SEPT. 29

The Hawks will look to avenge their lone district loss from last season. The Timberwolves won, 54-28. Birdville got 206 passing yards from rising junior quarterback Noah Normand. Timberview outrushed Birdville, 361-43. The Timberwolves outscored the Hawks 20-0 in the second quarter. But the good news for the Hawks is that they won't have to worry about alum Jarvis Reed, who carved up the Hawk defense to the tune of 201 rushing yards.

RICHLAND AT BIRDVILLE, OCT. 20

Bragging rights will be on the line between the two North Richland Hills schools. Last season's meeting provided a thriller with the Hawks outlasting the Royals, 34-30. The win proved to be huge for Birdville finishing in second place in 5-5A Div. I. The Hawks outscored the Royals 13-3 in the fourth quarter. Normand threw for 259 yards and three touchdowns in a winning effort for Birdville.

NEWMAN SMITH AT W.T. WHITE, OCT. 26

Last season's meeting decided fourth place in 5-5A Div. I. Newman Smith led in the second half but W.T. White rallied to win 21-18. Trojans head coach Robert Boone has always praised his team for being able to learn from their mistakes, and he believes that this year is the one where Smith will turn the corner and attempt to make the postseason under his watch.

TURNER AT NEWMAN SMITH, NOV. 3

The two Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD rivals will renew their rivalry during the final week of the regular season at Standridge Stadium. Newman Smith has dominated in recent years with the Trojans having won six straight against the Lions. Turner's last win against Smith came in 2016. However, the Lions put up 34 points in the 2022 matchup after being held to 10 points or less in the five previous games.