

R. L. Turner LIONS

RL Turner has been on an upward trajectory ever since Michael Farda Jr. took over as Lions head coach in 2020, and he hopes that a successful offseason in the weight room will translate into more victories.

Last season, Turner won three games for the first time since 2016. The Lions have won at least two games every year under Farda's watch. The Lions are just four years removed from back-to-back 0-10 seasons.

The good news for Turner is that it will return eight defensive players that were either starters or played significant minutes last season, and on offense, senior quarterback Jonathan Moreno will be back under



PLAYER to watch

JONATHAN MORENO QUARTERBACK

Moreno returns for his final season under center to operate the Lions' wing-T offense. Last season, he threw for 720 passing yards and 10 total touchdowns. Moreno threw for three touchdowns and 153 yards in a 35-8 win over Dallas Sunset. He will be surrounded by a cast of new weapons as Turner lost its top five leading rushers and top two wide receivers to graduation.

center. Moreno passed for 720 yards with 10 total touchdowns as he operated Lions' wing-T offense.

Moreno will have new weapons around him this season as Turner has to replace its top five statistic leaders in rushing yardage and top two receivers from last season. The

plan is to relocate players on Turner's defense to help bolster the Lion offense, including senior defensive back/outside linebacker Kaiden Rosser, senior starting inside linebacker Martinez, Caden Braggs, Tamorion Tucker and Edgar Cantu.

To help Moreno get acclimated to his new running buddies in the Lions' offense, Turner hosted a 7-on-7 summer pride league with Ranchview and Irving Nimitz every Wednesday in June. Farda said that he is not opposed to competing in a 7-on-7 state-qualifying tournament, but given the structure of the wing-T offense, he believes time is better served perfecting that offense in their summer-pride league.

Mansfield Timberview steamrolled to a perfect 8-0 District 5-5A Div. II mark last season with 7-1 Birdville and 6-2 Richland accounting for the second and third playoff



MATT WELCH / STAFF PHOTO

positions, and 5-3 W.T. White outlasted 4-4 Newman Smith to clinch the final postseason spot. Farda expects the district to

again be a dogfight. He hopes that his Lions can improve on their standing and qualify for the playoffs.

Varsity SCHEDULE

Aug. 25	South Garland	Standridge Stadium	7 p.m.
Aug. 31	FW Diamond Hill-Jarvis	Handley Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	Birdville	Standridge Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	Mansfield Timberview	Mansfield Sports Complex	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Dallas Molina	Standridge Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	Dallas Sunset	Kincaide Stadium	7 p.m.
*Oct. 6	Richland	Standridge Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Dallas Adams	Forester Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	W.T. White	Standridge Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	BYE		
Nov. 3	Newman Smith	Standridge Stadium	7 p.m.

*Homecoming

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