

West Mesquite

WRANGLERS

West Mesquite has a unique football history. The Wranglers were 0-10 in their inaugural 1982 campaign, but actually posted winning records in five of the next 10 seasons, but because of the structure of the time, never made the playoffs.

West Mesquite finally broke through in 1995 with a perfect regular season and followed that up with another trip to the playoff the following year.

After a 10-year drought, the Wranglers embarked on their most successful stretch in program history, qualifying for the postseason in 10 of 11 years from 2006-2016.

It has been tough sledding since then, with just one winning season, but West Mesquite can reflect on its history to realize that getting back to the top of the Mesquite ISD mountain is possible.

Last year, it was a tale of two seasons.

The Wranglers came out firing with three straight victories by an average margin of margin of 31.3 points, including a 51-21 rout of rival Poteet.

But things turned sour with the start of district play and West Mesquite



PLAYER to watch

DEMETRIS BALLARD QUARTERBACK

Ballard was a key member of the defense last season, starting at safety, but is expected to make the move to the other side of the ball this year at quarterback. Ballard does have some experience running the offense as he did take snaps last season, where in limited action, he completed 26-of-49 passes for 335 yards and three touchdowns and he also showed ability to make things happen on the ground when plays break down.

closed the season on a seven-game losing streak.

Junior Demetris Ballard played safety last season but is expected to take over the full-time quarterback role this fall.

Ballard did see some action under center last year, completing 26-of-49 passes for 335 yards and three touchdowns.

West Mesquite will be looking for playmakers to step around Ballard after graduating top wide receiver Javion Jackson, as well as its top three rushers, but junior wide receiver Sean Hunt is a candidate.

The Wranglers do return an all-district performer on the offensive line with senior Sammy Aguilar.

The defense should be improved with six returning starters.

That group does not

include any all-district honorees, but there are candidates for this season's list with senior linebacker Emanuel Rose, senior defensive back Brenden Gaines, senior linebacker Chris Watts and senior lineman Rayshon Hawkins.

One key for West Mesquite this season will be to get off to a good start, as it has a brutal closing stretch of games against Lancaster, Lufkin and Longview.



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Varsity SCHEDULE

Aug. 25	Kimball	Sprague Stadium	7 p.m.
Aug. 31	Poteet	Mesquite Memorial Stadium	7 p.m.
*Sept. 7	Fort Worth Chisholm Trail	Mesquite Memorial Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	Forney	City Bank Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	North Mesquite	Mesquite Memorial Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	BYE		
Oct. 5	McKinney North	McKinney ISD Stadium	
Oct. 13	Tyler	Mesquite Memorial Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	Lancaster	Beverly D. Humphrey Tiger Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	Lufkin	Abe Martin Stadium	7 p.m.
Nov. 3	Longview	Mesquite Memorial Stadium	7 p.m.

*Homecoming