

PREVIEW DISTRICT 3-5A DIV. II

>> ARGYLE EAGLES >> CREEKVIEW MUSTANGS >> DENTON BRONCOS >> EMERSON MAVERICKS
 >> INDEPENDENCE KNIGHTS >> LAKE DALLAS FALCONS >> MEMORIAL WARRIORS

Argyle was moved up to Class 5A in time for the 2022 season and it was business as usual for the Eagles. Head coach Todd Rodgers guided Argyle to a 14-1 overall record and a perfect 6-0 District 3-5A Division II record. The Eagles are 72-1 in district play since 2008 and will look to continue to master the conference schedule in 2023.

Argyle won every district game last year by at least 14 points, but Frisco Emerson, Frisco Independence and Lake Dallas, amongst others, have the experience to knock the Eagles off their perch.

Emerson had a dream start to its football program, having finished 9-2 in its inaugural season. And the Mavericks achieved that feat with underclassmen. With everyone returning from last season, Emerson has a chance to not only improve on their record but also compete for the district title.

Independence won eight games for Nick Stokes, who was elevated to Knights head coach following the retirement of Kyle Story.

Lake Dallas ended a four-year play-off drought last season, winning seven games and finishing 2022 as a bi-district finalist.

Frisco Memorial saw change at the top. Frisco Centennial offensive coordinator Jeff Jackson was named head coach on July 19 following the departure of Derick Roberson, who became the athletic director for Duncanville ISD in June.

Creekview will look to bounce back from a 0-10 season, while Denton begins the post-Coco Brown era. Brown rushed for 3,844 yards and 36 touchdowns in three seasons.



RICK ROGERS / STAFF PHOTO

THE TOP FIVE: WHICH GAMES TO WATCH THIS YEAR

ARGYLE AT MELISSA, AUG. 25

Melissa will christen Coach Kenny Deel Stadium in the first week of the regular season with one of the most anticipated non-district contests of the 2023 season in the Dallas area. Both teams are coming off long playoff runs. The Eagles went five rounds deep in the playoffs, while the Cardinals went four rounds deep in the 5A Division II playoffs. Argyle won last season's game, 37-18. The Eagles pitched a shutout over the game's final three quarters after the Cardinals led 18-14 after one quarter of play.

NEWMAN SMITH AT CREEKVIEW, SEPT. 1

The two Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD schools will renew their rivalry at Standridge Stadium. Creekview is still a young team, but a lot of underclassmen that gained experience last season are ready to help the Mustangs make significant strides in the right direction. Newman Smith barely missed out on the playoffs last season and with several key starters back in the fold, the Trojans hope to build on a six-win season. Newman Smith won last year's game, 28-2.

LAKE DALLAS AT FRISCO MEMORIAL, SEPT. 29

A rematch of one of the most thrilling 3-5A Div. II games from last season, Lake Dallas will look to make it three in a row against Memorial. In last year's game, the Falcons got 273 passing yards and four passing touchdowns from rising senior quarterback Cade Bortnem and 151 rushing yards and two scores from junior running back Dylan Brauchle in a 54-48 overtime victory. With the victory, Lake Dallas improved to 6-0.

EMERSON AT ARGYLE, OCT. 13

The Mavericks had an inaugural season to remember, and with everyone returning from last season's 9-2 team, the expectations are high for Emerson. The Eagles handed the Mavericks their only loss of the regular season last year, so Emerson it out for revenge. And with Allen transfer Mike Hawkins ready to steer Emerson's high-powered offense — although junior DJ Shelton is competing for the starting job — the Mavericks will look to unseat Argyle atop the district standings.

EMERSON AT INDEPENDENCE, NOV. 2

Playoff seeding could very well be on the line at the Ford Center. The Knights enjoyed a turnaround in 2022 under the direction of now second-year head coach Nick Stokes, who guided Independence to an eight-win season and a playoff appearance. In last season's game, Emerson erased a 21-7 first-quarter deficit to rally for a 42-28 victory. Shelton threw for 190 yards and two touchdowns and the Mavericks forced two Knights turnovers.