

7-5A DIV II

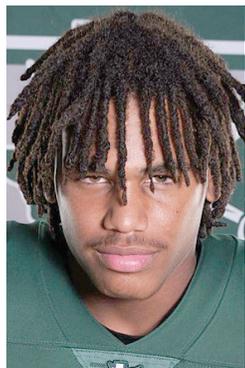
# Poteet PIRATES

As last season came to an end, Poteet found itself in unusual territory.

For the first time in a decade, the Pirates were on the outside looking in at the playoffs, as their 2-5 district record was not good enough to finish in the top four in District 7-5A Division II.

The road back to the postseason will not be easy against some very solid district title contenders in Melissa, Lovejoy and Terrell, among others, but with 14 starters back in the fold, Poteet does have reasons for optimism.

Senior Josh Hobbs endured some ups and downs during his first season as the primary starting quarterback, but he did throw for 606 yards and four



## PLAYER to watch

### KEVIN LONG LINEBACKER

While the Pirates work out some questions on offense, they will rely on the defense early on and Long will be one of the central figures. One of the most active players from his linebacker position along with Traelyn James, Long recorded 76 tackles, with seven for loss, four sacks, three pass breakups and a pair of forced fumbles last season and Poteet is expecting more of the same for the 2023 season.

touchdowns.

The Pirates used a number of different players in the backfield in the ground game a year ago. Senior Kamren Williams led the team with 92 carries for 313 yards and a touchdown, which earned him a spot on the all-district second team.

Poteet will also be looking for players to step up on the outside, though there are several candidates, including senior Cameron Cooper, who was named to the all-district second team last season, and junior Jaden Walker, who could be used in a variety of spots.

The Pirates feature several active players back on the defensive side of the ball.

In the middle, senior linebacker Traelyn James recorded 93 tackles, a pair of sacks and three forced fumbles.

Alongside James at linebacker, senior Kevin Long tallied 76 tackles, with seven for loss, four sacks, three pass breakups and a pair of forced fumbles.

Senior Christopher Latimer returns to anchor the secondary after he had 62 tackles, three pass breakups and a pair of interceptions last season.

If there is a key stretch of the



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season, it might be in the first month of 7-5A Division II play.

While Poteet will be an underdog against district favorite Melissa, its other

games take place with Princeton, Crandall and Greenville, all of which are likely to be battling for one of the final playoff spots.

## Varsity SCHEDULE

Aug. 24	Lake Highlands	Wildcat-Ram Stadium	7 p.m.
Aug. 31	West Mesquite	Mesquite Memorial Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	Forney	Mesquite Memorial Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	Princeton	Jackie Hendrix Stadium	7 p.m.
*Sept. 21	Crandall	Mesquite Memorial Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	BYE		
Oct. 6	Melissa	Coach Kenny Deel Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	Greenville	T.A. Cotton Ford Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	Lovejoy	Mesquite Memorial Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	Terrell	Terrell Memorial Stadium	7 p.m.
Nov. 2	Denison	Munson Stadium	7 p.m.

\*Homecoming



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