

PREVIEW DISTRICT 7-4A, DIV I

>> CARROLLTON RANCHVIEW WOLVES >> CELINA BOBCATS >> DALLAS CARTER COWBOYS >> DALLAS PINKSTON VIKINGS
>> FRISCO PANTHER CREEK PANTHERS >> NORTH DALLAS BULLDOGS >> WILMER-HUTCHINS EAGLES

A change of scenery and plethora of new opponents didn't deter Celina's pursuit of another district championship. The Bobcats navigated their 7-4A Division I schedule without a loss, finishing atop the conference in resounding fashion with six wins by an average of 45.8 points.

No team in the district played Celina closer than 20 points, and the Bobcats are primed for another big year as the state's No. 6-ranked team entering the fall.

Time will tell if one of the other six teams in the district can crack that top tier. Carter has the offense to make things interesting, led by one of the top running backs in the area in reigning district MVP Kaeden Landry, who logged 2,329 yards on the ground last season.

Wilmer-Hutchins returns the majority of its starters on both sides of the ball, and that's something fellow playoff qualifier Frisco Panther Creek has working in its favor with its entire roster back for the program's sophomore campaign.

Continuity should work in the favor of North Dallas, Pinkston and Ranchview as well. Although all three teams fell short of a playoff spot last year, they're all projected to bring back at least 15 starters overall.



MATT WELCH / STAFF PHOTO

THE TOP FIVE: WHICH GAMES TO WATCH THIS YEAR

INDEPENDENCE AT PANTHER CREEK, AUG. 25

As Panther Creek looks to build off its inaugural year of varsity football, which included a playoff appearance, there's a familiar challenge waiting in Week One when they collide with fellow Frisco ISD bunkmate Independence. It'll be a worthy challenge for upstart Panther Creek, whose introduction to varsity football came with a 49-14 loss to the Knights last season. But the Panthers should be much improved with their entire roster back for the rematch.

ANNA AT CELINA, SEPT. 15

Anna was one of the great comeback stories of the 2022 season, and the Coyotes turned plenty of heads with a pair of victories of longtime rival Celina. The Bobcats bested Anna six times between 2010-19, but the Coyotes got the better of two games decided by three points each last season, including a 27-24 verdict in the regional semifinals. Celina gets a chance to right the ship next month.

PINKSTON AT WILMER-HUTCHINS, SEPT. 22

Wilmer-Hutchins has had Pinkston's number for some time, winning nine straight meetings since 2014. Several have been blowouts, but that wasn't the case last year as a late rally by Pinkston fell short in a 20-14 loss to an Eagles team that wound up securing a playoff spot. In fact, two of the past three games between these two have been close calls decided by six points or less. We'll see if Pinkston gets over the hump this year.

PANTHER CREEK AT CARTER, OCT. 5

Consider this one a litmus test of sorts for Panther Creek. While Celina remains the team to beat in 7-4A Div. I, Carter is a force to be reckoned with and the Panthers learned that the hard way by succumbing to a 26-2 loss last season. As Panther Creek raises the bar for Year Two, this early-October rematch gives them a chance to gauge their progress against one of the top teams in the district.

CELINA AT CARTER, OCT. 20

The Bobcats didn't meet much resistance en route to a 7-4A Div. I championship last season, but if there's an offense with the firepower to make Celina sweat a bit, it could be Carter. The Cowboys have eight starters back on offense, including district MVP Kaeden Landry at running back. Containing him will be the focal point of Celina's always-potent defense.