

PREVIEW TAPPS

>> DALLAS CHRISTIAN CHARGERS >> FRISCO LEGACY CHRISTIAN EAGLES >> JOHN PAUL II CARDINALS
 >> MCKINNEY CHRISTIAN MUSTANGS >> PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN LIONS

The Dallas area has long been the standard bearer for excellence on the private school gridiron, and that remained the case in 2022 with Parish Episcopal (Division I) and Dallas Christian (Division III) both capturing Texas Association of Private and Parochials Schools state championships.

The Chargers hoisted a title for the 10th time in program history and are primed for another big year with the all-state connection of quarterback Luke Carney and all-purpose threat Will Nettles back at the controls.

And whereas Parish remains the team to beat in Div. I, Prestonwood Christian hopes to make that race interesting following a state runner-up finish in its first year under head coach Donnie Yantis.

The Lions should contend once again, while Frisco Legacy Christian looks to halt a two-year playoff hiatus in a challenging district.

McKinney Christian has some promising skill-position talent that should bolster the team's hopes for an improved 2022 in Dan Whitsett's second year at the helm.

John Paul II, meanwhile, undertakes an independent schedule for the second straight year as the former state title contender continues to rebuild.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE SICKMAN

THE TOP FIVE: WHICH GAMES TO WATCH THIS YEAR

JOHN PAUL VS. SACRED HEART, SEPT. 9

For the third consecutive year, the Cardinals will take the field at The Ford Center at The Star in Frisco as part of the annual Catholic Bowl. After two years of competing against Houston St. Thomas, John Paul takes on a quality Sacred Heart team that could contend for a state title in TAPPS Division IV.

TRINITY CHRISTIAN-LUBBOCK AT MCKINNEY CHRISTIAN, SEPT. 22

The Mustangs figure to be improved with a plethora of returning starters and they'll get to gauge their progress against Trinity in a playoff rematch from last season. MCA had no answer for the Lions' potent slot-T offense on the way to a 42-0 loss, but the Mustangs won't be getting that same Trinity squad in this mid-September rematch with a new coaching staff now on board with a revamped offensive scheme.

FORT WORTH CHRISTIAN AT DALLAS CHRISTIAN, SEPT. 29

The Chargers scaled the mountain top for a TAPPS Div. III title to finish the year at 13-1. That one loss, however, came to a Fort Worth Christian team that has become a regular on Dallas' preseason schedule. The two perennial contenders meet once again in September, this time on the Chargers' home field as the reigning champs look to return the favor.

GRAPEVINE FAITH AT LEGACY CHRISTIAN, OCT. 27

For two teams that finished on opposite ends of their district, this game wound up being hotly contested as Legacy managed to take Faith to overtime before falling 17-10. A win over a quality program like Faith would go a long way towards righting the ship for the Eagles, and they'll try and get over the hump by welcoming the Lions in the penultimate week of the regular season.

PRESTONWOOD AT PARISH, NOV. 3

A state championship game rematch is always worth noting, and everyone in TAPPS Div. I is playing catch-up behind Parish in its pursuit of a fifth consecutive state title. The Lions have struggled to string together four solid quarters against the powerhouse Panthers and will try their luck on the final week of the regular season in a game that could carry district title ramifications.