

Prestonwood Christian LIONS

Chalk up the first year of the Donnie Yantis era as a resurgent success for the Lions, who played in the TAPPS Division I state championship game for the first time since 2017.

Prestonwood went 9-3 on the season with two of those losses coming to the top private school team in the state, Parish Episcopal.

And while the Panthers are primed for another big year as the top-ranked group in TAPPS, the Lions hope to have their say following a full offseason under Yantis.

Prestonwood has its sights set on a return to the state final, and much of



PLAYER to watch

KELLEN TASBY QUARTERBACK

Although longtime starting quarterback Magurie Martin graduated in the spring, the Lions will be in capable hands behind center with Tasby at the controls. A transfer from Little Elm, Tasby got his feet wet competing in one of the state's elite football districts as a junior over in 5-6A, where he amassed an all-district second-team campaign with 2,289 passing yards and 16 touchdowns to just five interceptions on a 66% completion rate.

that effort will hinge on the development of an offense largely taxed by graduation. That includes four offensive linemen, three-year starting quarterback Maguire Martin, and all-area star rusher AJ Sibley.

And while the Lions were able to pound the rock with the best of them behind a brute-force run game last season, the strength on the Prestonwood offense shifts behind center with senior Kellen Tasby now at the controls.

Although Tasby is new to the Lions, he's plenty seasoned at the varsity level after throwing for 2,289 yards and 16 touchdowns at the UIL 6A level with Little Elm last season and has been named a team captain with the Lions.

Filling the void left by Sibley will be juniors Takashi Shaw and Caiden Collins at running back, while Prestonwood is optimistic about the prospects out wide with senior Tag O'Neal and junior Enzo Bingham.

A new-look offensive line



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE SICKMAN

is led by senior John Acker, with senior Ben Schug, junior Kaine Kozloski and sophomore Colt Hillhouse all stepping up during the offseason.

The Lions also figure to be young in the secondary, graduating its share of talent on the back end. Look for junior David Madison, senior Gunner Naivar, junior Campbell Panetti and junior Brady Palmer to emerge at

defensive back behind a seasoned front seven.

Prestonwood is in good hands up front with senior Nathan Laperi leading the way alongside Trinity Christian-Addison transfer and senior Jack Harwell.

But it all starts at linebacker, where all-area senior Hudson Lunsford is primed to build off an all-state season as a junior.

Varsity SCHEDULE

Aug. 25	Argyle Liberty Christian	Bowles Stadium	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 1	Houston Second Baptist	Lions Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	Little Elm	Lions Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	Fort Worth All Saints	Lions Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	San Antonio Cornerstone	Warrior Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	Bishop Dunne	Lions Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	Trinity Christian-Addison	Tom Landry Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	Fort Worth Nolan	Lions Stadium	7 p.m.
*Oct. 20	Bishop Lynch	Lions Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	BYE		
Nov. 3	Parish Episcopal	Gloria H. Snyder Stadium	7 p.m.

*Homecoming



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