

High school football tour: District 17-5A

By CRAIG MALVEAUX
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Aug. 17, 2011, 10:08AM

Key issues

1. Who is the dark horse in one of the toughest districts in all of Houston? Watch out for Langham Creek this year. The Lobos have an explosive offense and plenty of experience with 16 starters returning to compete with the district heavyweights. They were one win away from a playoff spot last year and are considered long shots due to how competitive the district is but the experience they have could be the difference in 2011.

2. In such a tight race, what will be the deciding factor in who wins the district crown? Home-field advantage. In order for 17-5A favorites Cypress Woods to win the district championship, they will have to beat Cypress Creek and Cy-Fair, district crown contenders. Luckily for the wildcats, they host both teams this year giving them the best chance to come out victorious

3. Which playoff team from last year is most vulnerable to finding itself on the outside looking in this season? Cypress Creek returns only seven starters and 13 lettermen from last year's team that finished 7-2 in district, three of which are on offense. They still have Devan Demas who will rush 300 plus times but a brand new signal caller with several inexperienced pieces around him could spell trouble early for coach Greg McCaig.

Key games

Cy Woods at Cy Falls
6 p.m., Sept. 10

Great opportunity to see how Cy Woods' quarterback, Gabe West, fairs against a defense that gave up the second fewest points in district last year.

Cy-Fair at Katy Taylor

6 p.m., Aug. 27

One of Cy-Fair's important games. A win or loss could tip the scales in terms of confidence.

Cy Creek at Langham Creek

7 p.m., Oct. 28

The winner ultimately could grab the last playoff berth from this division.

Projected finish

1. Cy Creek
2. Cy Woods
3. Cy-Fair
4. Cy Ridge
5. Cy Falls

6. Langham Creek

7. Cy Ranch

8. Cy Lakes

9. Jersey Village

10. Cy Springs

Players to watch

DE Dave Blacklock, senior, Cypress Falls

BlackLock is offensive tackle's nightmare during pass situations as evidenced by 12 sacks last season.

RB Keith Ford, junior, Cypress Ranch

Ford looks to build upon his breakout season as a sophomore where he produced 1600 total yards and 14 touchdowns.

RB Devan Demas, senior, Cypress Creek

Demas adequately filled in last year accumulating 1,859 yards and 24 touchdowns in his junior season.

QB Connor Feist, junior, Langham Creek

The pro-style quarterback slung the football down the field for 2,673 yards, had 29 touchdowns in the air and eight touchdowns on the ground as a sophomore

CB Josh Holley, senior, Cypress Woods

The defensive back compiled 70 tackles, 12 passes broken up and two interceptions last year.

(<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/sports/hso/7700557.html>)