





FOOTBA

High school teams exercise focus and determination on the field

Written by Dusty Stanfield Photography by Craig Mosley



The sound of weights clanging, instruments getting tuned, and fans cheering loudly in the stands can only mean the start of football season in Katy. Local schools boast some of the top teams in the state every year, and 2012 should bring lots of exciting moments. Cinco Ranch, Katy, and Morton Ranch will look to improve upon playoff seasons last year, while Mayde Creek, Seven Lakes, and Taylor will battle to claim playoff berths and hopefully make a run at the state title.

Cinco Ranch Cougars

Cinco Ranch head coach Don Clayton knows his team can stand out this year if they focus on the little things. "We do things the right way, on the field, in the classroom, and in our everyday walk," he shares. "We believe we are developing our young men to become the men, husbands, fathers, and leaders of tomorrow for our society. On the field, consistency in all three phases of the game is our goal."

In a district full of talented offenses, Cinco Ranch boasts what could be the most lethal. Quarterback Cole Thomas and running back Jamel James, a Notre Dame recruit, give Cinco one of the top skill combos in the district. The offensive line, led by senior Ian Hunter and Trey Parker, will play a large role in helping develop offensive consistency. The ability to run the ball with James could lead to some explosive offensive performances. The emergence of strong-armed junior quarterback Luke Klingler allows Cinco the option of moving Thomas around the offense to capitalize on his tremendous athletic ability. Wide receivers Thomas, Taylor Radomski, and Joey Waid have the potential to be a very good receiving corps.

The Cinco defense, while young, is full of playmakers like linebacker Taylor Holt and safety Kevin Colpoys. While the linebackers are the strength of the unit, young players like cornerback Nick Mika and safety Trent Soechting could give Cinco a very formidable defensive backfield. Kicker/punter Jarred Bararra is a great returning weapon for the Cougars.

Katy Tigers

Katy's football tradition is something that coach Gary Joseph feels strengthens his program and the community. "Our kids are not only representing themselves, but a great high school, administration, and community," he says. "We'll need patience as we grow this season and we'll need the support of Red Nation through the process." The program has prided itself on winning with scheme, toughness, and coachable players.

Running back and LSU recruit Adam Taylor looks to thunder back from an injury last season and lead a punishing rushing attack that will also feature super-sophomore running back Rodney Anderson. Offensive tackle Javier Lopez is the lone returning starter on the line, and an all-district performer, but offensive guards Aaron Sewell and Kyle Miller have drawn rave reviews for their performances this spring. Quarterback play will be key for the Tigers this season, and consistency is something that coach Joseph is looking for. Whoever wins the starting quarterback job will have a weapon in burner wide receiver Kyle Fulks.

Along with running back Taylor, Oklahoma recruit and defensive end Matt Dimon is a great leader and the face of the 2012 Katy Tiger team. Dimon headlines a defense that also features three-year starter defensive back Quin Atwood, three-year starter defensive back Fulks, defensive back Isaiah

Brown, and junior linebacker Jacob Blomstrom. The Tiger defense will strive to improve on its three shutouts from last season, with goals of winning the district title and having an opportunity to play for the state championship.

Mayde Creek Rams

"Our goal this year is to get back to the postseason," says coach Lance Carter of Mayde Creek High School. The Rams really feel like they have the pieces to accomplish that goal, returning a strong senior class. It all starts with do-it-all running back Troy McCormick. "He is a threat every time he touches the ball," says coach Carter.

The Rams will lean on McCormick, who doubles as the district's top return specialist, while they look for quarterback Zach Barker to take a leadership role in the offense. A young offensive line led by offensive tackle Ty Carter and center Adrian Sanchez must gel quickly. If it does, McCormick should be among the district leaders in yards from scrimmage, and Barker will be able to provide wide receiver Jesus Cortez with some big catch opportunities down the field.

Defensively, Mayde Creek will be strong up the middle with returning seniors defensive lineman Josh McKinnies, nose tackle Reno Dominquez, linebacker Ronald Winston, and linebacker Chane Bodden. The imposing McKinnies and Dominquez must control the line of scrimmage allowing Winston and Bodden, who have great instincts, to roam sideline to sideline. Kicker/punter Jan Pedroza is a three-year starter, who will battle to be the top kicker in the district. Pedroza, McCormick, and Carter give the Rams a good special teams unit. Coach Carter will be looking for some young players to step up this year, but there is no question he believes this Mayde Creek senior class is special.

Morton Ranch Mavericks

"Morton Ranch will make our mark in District 19-5A," asserts coach Dave Meadows. Many in the area believe that coach Meadows has already accomplished that, leading the Mavericks to the playoffs for the first time in school history last season. Returning a core group of veteran players, the Mavericks expect to be hard to beat and have goals that include winning some playoff games. "We gained great confidence with our season last year, and we have had a super off-season together," says coach Meadows. "Our team will play with much determination this year."

On offense, the athletic skill is jaw-dropping. Quarterback Quandre Washington, who was a star defensive player last year, is a difference-maker with good size and great leadership ability. Teams will be hard-pressed to focus on Washington, however, due to a thunder-and-lightening duo of running backs Deion Williams and E.J. Achulus. Wide receivers Justin Paige and Natrail Gurley will give opposing defenses fits. Both receivers are well-rounded and willing blockers. Demarcus Johnson, who has great technique and excellent feet, will anchor the offensive line.

All-district performers, defensive end Donald Williams and linebacker Chris Tyler lead the defense. Tyler is a big hitter who sets the tone for a squad that will forcefully look to cause turnovers. Defensive backs Darian Davis, Denzel Mosely, and Washington, who could also see time on defense, should

have plenty of opportunities to make plays on balls in the secondary.

Seven Lakes Spartans

"Our goals in 2012 are to be the most physical team on the playing field and to make the playoffs," says new Seven Lakes coach Lydell Wilson. Coach Wilson, who won a state championship at Lamar Consolidated High School in 2007, knows that the Seven Lakes' faithful are hungry to take that next step. Coming off the first winning season in school history, a playoff birth is well within their reach.

Led by monster offensive tackle Caleb Benenoch, who has college offers from everywhere, and versatile offensive lineman Davis Beard, the Spartans are as talented up front as any team in the area. Although the offense heads into the fall with a few question marks at the skill positions, the Spartans have some talent in quarterbacks Jon Duplantier and Kyle Postma, running back Julian Turner, and running back John Oglesby.

A crew strong on leadership and experience will man the Spartan defense. Linebackers Spencer Evans and Derek Orlando are very active and combined with four returning players in the secondary, Ryan Sigers, Ryan Capel, Rodrick Champion, and Daryl Blunt, give the Spartans a savvy core group of defenders. Throw in a pair of young, but extremely impressive-looking, book-ends in Jarrett Johnson and Gavin Peterson, and you have a group that should be able to contend with any offense in the district.

Taylor Mustangs

For coach Flint Risien at Taylor, the goal is to make it back to the playoffs for the fourth time in five years. Coach Risien was very pleased with his team's spring practice and says the Mustangs worked with great attitude and effort. "They have great camaraderie, are very accepting of each other, and are committed to helping each other grow," he says.

Leading the way will be young quarterback Clay Holgorson, who brings starting experience having played at Clements High School last year. It will be fun to watch just how explosive this offense can get with weapons everywhere, starting in the backfield with retuning running backs Josh Aming and Z' Basey. Wide receiver Grant Phillips, who was hurt last year but is extremely talented, and Robby Wells are among several dynamic targets Holgorson will be able to choose from. Tight end/wide receiver Wells was Taylor's starting quarterback last season, but his development as a receiver had the district buzzing over the spring. Left tackle Tyler Brown is enormous and anchors the offensive line.

On defense, a veteran secondary, led by defensive backs Justin Colondres and Aaron Saldivar, will make it tough going for opposing passing attacks. The emergence of defensive linemen Caleb Peganyee and Josh Cason this spring and the return of linebacker Stephen Barletta give the Mustang defense a stout core of impact players. **KM**

DUSTY STANFIELD is a local football enthusiast and professional in the sports industry. He loves Katy area football and is proud to call this place home.









KATY ISD 2012

VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

	CINCO RANCH	KATY	MAYDE Creek	MORTON RANCH	SEVEN LAKES	JAMES E. Taylor
WEEK O	Cy Ranch (H) Fri., Aug. 31, 7:30 p.m. BBVA Compass Stadium	Klein (H) Fri., Aug. 31, 7:30 p.m. Reliant Stadium	PARENT NIGHT Cy Springs (H) Thurs., Aug. 30, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Tomball (V) Fri., Aug. 31, 7 p.m. Tomball Stadium	Kempner (H) Fri., Aug. 31, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Cy-Fair (H) Sat., Sept. 1, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium
week 1	Cy Ridge (V) Sat., Sept. 8, 6 p.m. Pridgeon Stadium	PARENT NIGHT Alief Taylor (H) Fri., Sept. 7, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Cy Lakes (H) Sat., Sept. 8, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Austin (H) Thurs., Sept. 6, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Clear Brook (V) Fri., Sept. 7, 7 p.m. Veterans Memorial Stadium	Klein (V) Fri., Sept. 7, 7 p.m. Klein Memorial Stadium
^{WEEK}	North Shore (V) Fri., Sept. 14, 7 p.m. Galena Park Stadium	The Woodlands (V) Sat., Sept. 15, 6 p.m. Woodforest Stadium	Tomball (H) Fri., Sept. 14, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	PARENT NIGHT Alief Hastings (H) Thurs., Sept. 13, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Travis (V) Sat., Sept. 15, 6 p.m. Mercer Stadium	PARENT NIGHT College Park (H) Sat., Sept. 15, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium
WEEK 3	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
$\overset{ ext{week}}{4}$	PARENT NIGHT Memorial (H) Sat., Sept. 29, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Morton Ranch (H) Thurs., Sept. 27, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Seven Lakes (V) Fri., Sept. 28, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Katy (V) Thurs., Sept. 27, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	HOMECOMING Mayde Creek (H) Fri., Sept. 28, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Strake Jesuit (V) Fri., Sept. 28, 7 p.m. Crusader Stadium
week 5	Morton Ranch (V) Fri., Oct. 5, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Mayde Creek (V) Sat., Oct. 6, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Katy (H) Sat., Oct. 6, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	HOMECOMING Cinco Ranch (H) Fri., Oct. 5, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Taylor (V) Thurs., Oct. 4, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Seven Lakes (H) Thurs., Oct. 4, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium
week 6	Mayde Creek (H) Thurs., Oct. 11, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	HOMECOMING Taylor (H) Fri., Oct. 12, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Cinco Ranch (V) Thurs., Oct. 11, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Memorial (V) Fri., Oct. 12, 7 p.m. Tully Stadium	Strake Jesuit (H) Sat., Oct. 13, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Katy (V) Fri., Oct. 12, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium
week 7	HOMECOMING James E. Taylor (H) Sat., Oct. 20, 11 a.m Rhodes Stadium	Seven Lakes (V) Fri., Oct. 19, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Memorial (H) Sat., Oct. 20, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Strake Jesuit (V) Fri., Oct. 19, 7 p.m. Crusader Stadium	Katy (H) Fri., Oct. 19, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Cinco Ranch (V) Sat., Oct. 20, 11 a.m. Rhodes Stadium
WEEK	Seven Lakes (H) Fri., Oct. 26, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Strake Jesuit (H) Sat., Oct. 27, 1 p.m. Tully Stadium	Morton Ranch (V) Sat., Oct. 27, 1 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Mayde Creek (H) Sat., Oct. 27, 1 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Cinco Ranch (V) Fri., Oct. 26, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Memorial (V) Fri., Oct. 26, 7 p.m. Tully Stadium
9	Katy (V) Sat., Nov. 3, 11 a.m. Rhodes Stadium	Cinco Ranch (H) Sat., Nov. 3, 11 a.m. Rhodes Stadium	Strake Jesuit (V) Fri., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Crusader Stadium	Taylor (V) Fri., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	PARENT NIGHT Memorial (H) Sat., Nov. 3, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	HOMECOMING Morton Ranch (H) Fri., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium
week 10	Strake Jesuit (H) Sat., Nov. 10, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Memorial (V) Fri., Nov. 9, 7 p.m. Tully Stadium	HOMECOMING Taylor (H) Fri., Nov. 9, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Seven Lakes (H) Sat., Nov. 10, 11 a.m. Rhodes Stadium	Morton Ranch (V) Sat., Nov. 10, 11 a.m. Rhodes Stadium	Mayde Creek (V) Fri., Nov. 9, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium

To purchase tickets for these games, please contact Katy ISD's athletic office or the school's athletic booster club. Please verify dates and times with the schools, as schedule changes may have been made after our print dates.