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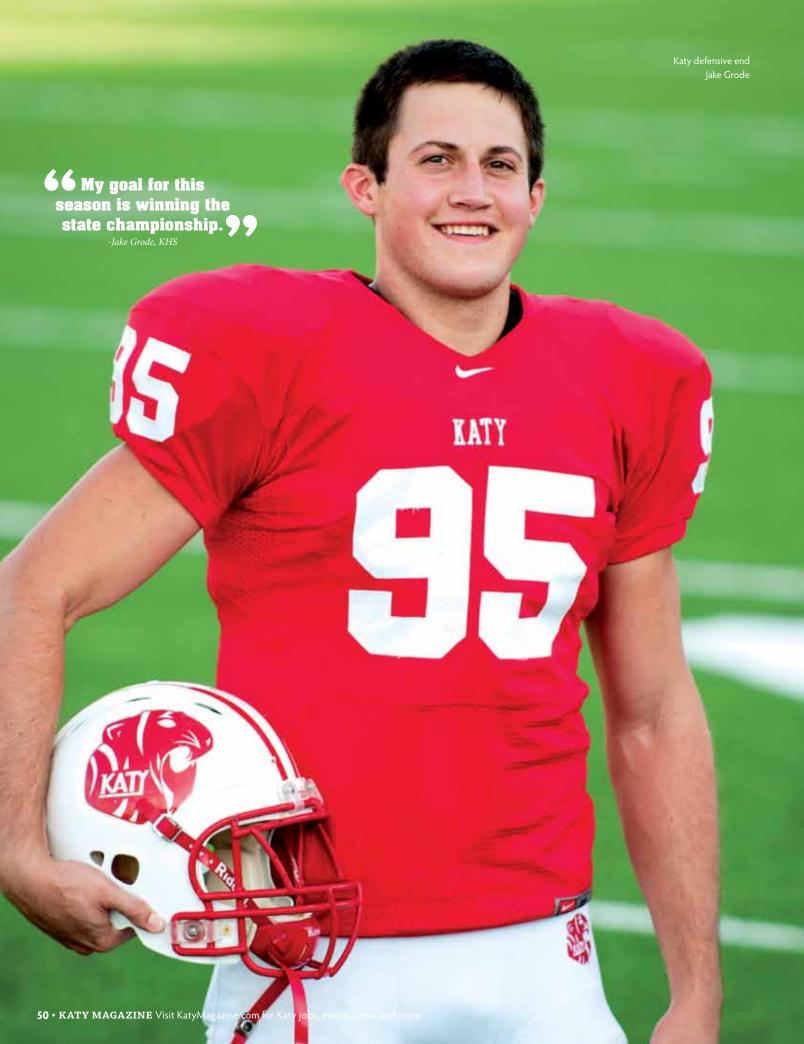
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# Are You Ready for Some Football?

#### High school football teams in Katy ISD gear up for the 2011 season

Written by Kenzie Stanfield | Photography by Suzi Issa

Athletic talent reigns throughout Katy ISD's six high school football teams, which boast some of the greatest ability the state will see during the 2011-2012 season. Top dog Katy looks to compete for a championship and redeem its heartbreaking, last-minute loss to Pearland in the state semi-finals last season. Cinco Ranch aims to impress again with one of the state's most gifted teams, and Taylor strives for consistency, with both teams grappling for a coveted spot that would allow them to go deep into the playoffs.

Seven Lakes, the youngest school in the district, aspires to grab hold of a postseason berth it barely missed out on last year to Taylor. Morton Ranch isn't satisfied with last year's record and the athletic team will look for opportunities to shock its way into a surprising playoff run. Mayde Creek seeks to redeem a losing season and invigorate the school with a resurgence of life and pride in its determined team. All six teams stand proud of their veteran leadership and the experience they bring to the field, confident in what each teammate can contribute to attain the ultimate goal - to be champions.

#### **Cinco Ranch Cougars**

After battling their way to the third round of district playoffs last year before losing to the Katy Tigers, the Cougars hope to continue building off the momentum of their team. "Being hungry for success and staying healthy will be important to the goals of our team," says Cinco Ranch head football coach Don Clayton. "Every year is a new one with its own identity. We are looking forward to the 2011 team creating a successful identity for themselves, their school, and their community." With team spirit running high, Cinco Ranch seniors Russell Cuellar and Alex Ludowig predict the Cougars will be a better team come playoff time this year.

Priority number one for the Cougars this season is to find a quarterback that can distribute the ball to super-talented running back Jamel James and wide receivers Ludowig and James Rhoden. Going into the pre-season, filling the quarterback position remained somewhat of a question. The offensive line, led by Trey Parker, should be stout and will give James the potential to eclipse the marks set by Southern Methodist University signee KC Nlemchi, which is no small feat.

Tackling machines Cuellar and linebacker Ayodele Illesanmi are capable of making plays all over the field and look to inspire a young defense that will be expected to grow up quick. Special teams should be a strength for Cinco Ranch this year, with returning punter Jack Steed and placekicker Jacob Farmen, both possessing impressive legs and plenty of experience.

#### **Katy Tigers**

Patience is a word coach Gary Joseph knows a thing or two about. It seems that by the end of every year, regardless of their returning

talent, the Tigers are in contention for a state championship, a true testament to the patience and hard work of a dedicated coaching staff. Despite returning only eight of 22 starters from last year's team, playing for the district championship and a state title run are readily attainable goals. "If there's one thing I want people to know, it's that we will be a good football team by the end of the year," asserts coach Joseph.

Following the lead of Andy Dalton and Bo Levi Mitchell, quarterback Brooks Haack will look to lead the Tigers to a state championship title. Haack and junior runningback Adam Taylor make up one of the area's most renowned backfields. Cameron Glover, Cole Gessler, and Aaron Sowell form the nucleus of a solid offensive line, and wide receivers Jordan Thompson and junior Kyle Fulks provide Haack with talented targets.

A tradition-rich defense should once again be unyielding and has strength and leadership at each level. Defensive linemen Jake Grode, Matt Dimon, and Jake Miller, linebackers Brandon Ebrecht and Bo Brown, and defensive backs Quinn Atwood and Drake Dowling will provide leadership and experience. Younger, talented players like sophomore Jacob Blomstrom and possible two-way starter Fulks look to have break-out seasons. Kicker Jeff Johnson led the district in scoring last season and shores up the special teams. The Tigers will play to represent their fans and more importantly, to make the community proud, say both Ebrecht and Grode.

#### **Mayde Creek Rams**

Returning to the playoffs is one specific goal that the Mayde Creek Rams look to attain during the 2011 season. While speed and experience are team strengths, work ethic and veteran leadership define this team, according to head coach Lance Carter. "The seniors are great young men that have worked very hard in their four years," he shares.

For the Rams offense, it all starts in the trenches with a big, talented offensive line, led by returning starters Jon Zepeda, Ivan Torres, Cameron Hodge, Ty Carter, and Andy Martinez. If they can give speedy running backs Troy McCormick, Donito Harris, Ronald Winston, and Basil Fares room to run, the ground attack should be very productive. Wide receiver Jordan Allen should also contribute as an offensive weapon.

On the other side of the ball, defensive tackle Alejandro Palana is the strongest player on the team and has a great motor, says coach Carter. Defensive backs Jermaine Cotton and Denman Watson lead a veteran secondary whose experience and play-making ability rival that of any other team in the district. While not big, the defense is aggressive and deep. "We might be small, but we are mean and a school with a lot of pride," says Hodge.

#### **Morton Ranch Mavericks**

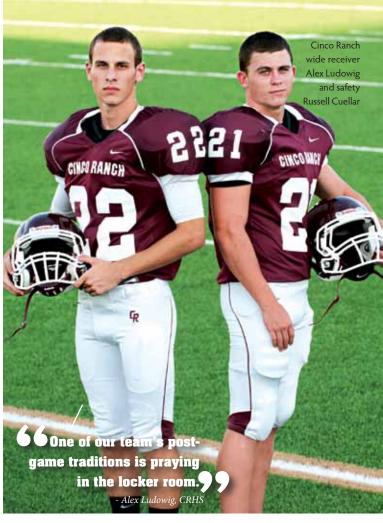
The youth of the past couple seasons has given way to experience and extreme athleticism on a greatly improved Maverick football team. "Morton Ranch football is coming alive," says head coach Dave Meadows. "We will compete for every yard, and will make ourselves known."

Team standout and defensive end Dan Hunter is on a short list for the most talented football player in both the city and district and recently committed to play college ball for the LSU Tigers. Hunter, along with defensive end Donald Williams and linebacker Chris Tyler, will make life tough for opposing quarterbacks this year and should allow corner Brandon Tanksley and safeties Quandre Washington and John Navin to make plays in the secondary.

Quarterback and leader Terrion Poitier will be joined by the explosive and versatile Deion Williams and lightning-fast tailbacks Eli Hall and EJ Achelus to form a backfield that is capable of taking it the distance if given a little daylight. If linemen David Yee, Demarcus Johnson, Carlos Escobar, and Sahr Saffa can gel as a unit giving Poitier ample time to throw, wide receiver Brian Wiltz is another reliable threat. "We are a hard-working team and we are getting better," assures Poitier. "We want to show everyone what the Mavericks can do by winning football games."

#### **Seven Lakes Spartans**

Coach Kevin O'Keefe can sense his young Seven Lakes program is on its way to developing a successful football tradition. Veteran players are stepping up to lead, determined to take the Spartans back to the playoffs after just missing out last season. "This group has demonstrated a real commitment to winning throughout the off-season and spring and summer workouts," says O'Keefe. "Their





overall determination and toughness will be a big difference for us." There are plenty of offensive weapons in running backs John Oglesby and Denzel Guillard, along with wide receivers Jared Crosby, Cole Akard, and Karson Ota. If Spartan quarterback Kaleb Morton proves to be a good game-manager, Seven Lakes will be a team that gives others in the district trouble. The offensive line, anchored by center Cody Henderson, is young, but stout. "Limiting mistakes and making big plays when needed will determine our success this season," says Morton.

The defense returns key experience in linebackers Bryant Sugg, Joel North, Derek Orlando, and Spencer Evans, in addition to a big play-making safety, Adam Jones, who leads a capable secondary. Developing young, defensive playmakers up front and early in the season will determine how far this team goes.

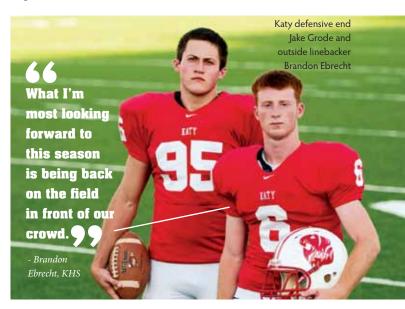
#### **Taylor Mustangs**

Taylor coach Flint Risien will lean heavily on his first senior class to take the Mustangs back to the playoffs after going two rounds deep last season. "What encourages and excites me about this team is their approach to all aspects of the game, especially practice," Risien says. "They are showing maturity in regards to preparation. Now we are looking for consistency."

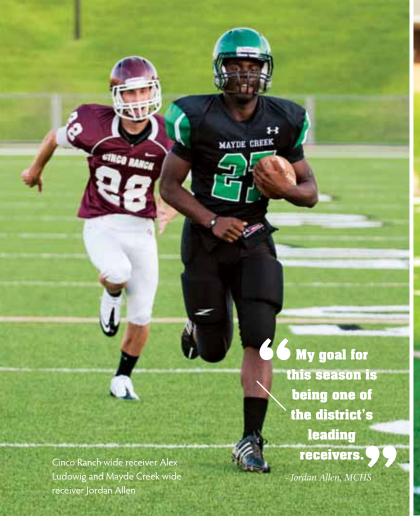
Last year's defense showed flashes of brilliance, pitching shutouts against two district opponents and limiting high-powered Memorial to just 14 points. Although the Mustangs have to replace nine of 11 starters, returning defensive tackle Connor Cella is one of the most highly regarded players in the area. Cella and defensive backs Justin Colondres and Markus Temple will look to lead the young, but athletic defense.

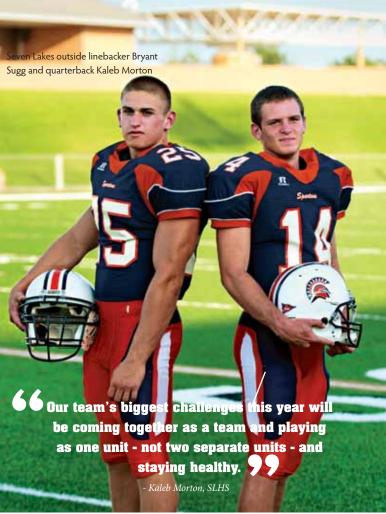
Quarterback Hunter Riggs, the district's top returning passer, looks to air it out again this season. With four of five starters returning on the offensive line, including Jason David, Anthony Keverline, Ryan Arebalos, and Tommy Gavrel, the talented Riggs should have plenty of time to target wide receiver Josh Aming and several young, impressive newcomers. According to Cella and David, leadership from Taylor's veteran players is key for them to make a playoff run this season. **KM** 

KENZIE STANFIELD is a mother of four and wife to her high school sweetheart Dusty. She enjoys time with her family and friends and documenting life through her family blog.









# **TMJ**

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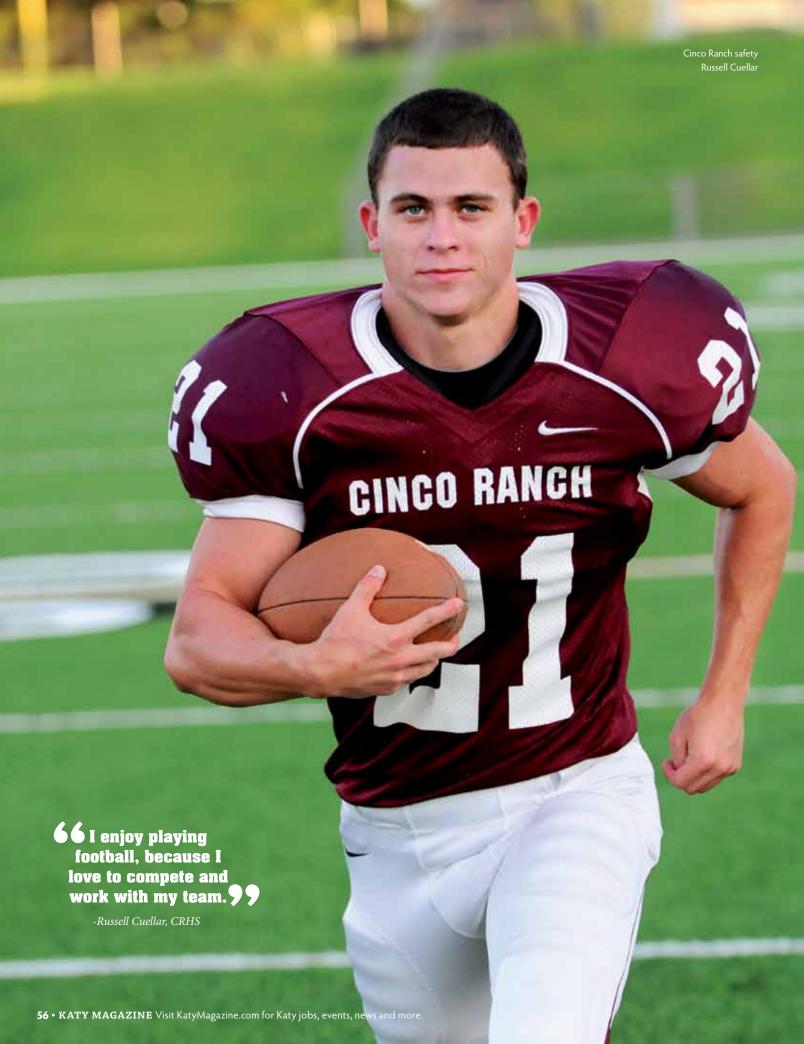
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# Katy ISD Football 2011 Key Players

#### **CINCO RANCH**

Russell Cuellar, S Jake Farmen, PK Ayodele Illesanmi, LB Jamel James, RB Alex Ludowig, WR Trey Parker, OL James Rhoden, WR

#### **KATY**

Bo Brown, LB
Brandon Ebrecht, LB
Cameron Glover, OL
Jake Grode, DE
Brooks Haack, QB
Adam Taylor, RB
Jordan Thompson, WR

#### **MAYDE CREEK**

Jordan Allen, WR Jermaine Cotton, DB Cameron Hodge, OG Alejandro Palana, DT Ivan Torres, OG Denman Watson, DB Jon Zepeda, C

#### MORTON RANCH

Carlos Escobar, OL Eli Hall, RB Dan Hunter, DE John Navin, S Terrion Poitier, QB Chris Tyler, LB Deion Williams, FB

#### **SEVEN LAKES**

Jared Crosby, WR Cody Henderson, C Adam Jones, S Joel North, LB John Oglesby, RB Derek Orlando, LB Bryant Sugg, LB

#### **TAYLOR**

Josh Aming, WR Ryan Arebalos, OL Connor Cella, DT Justin Colondres, DB Jason David, OL Anthony Keverline, OL Hunter Riggs, QB



### A LOOK AT LAST SEASON'S STATS

#### Katy



Record: 13-1, 7-0 Mascot: Tiger Coach: Gary Joseph Enrollment: 2,794 (4) PPG: 49.2 PAPG: 17 Margin: 32.2

WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	W/L
0	8/27/10	North Shore	44-6	W
1	9/4/10	Alief Taylor	45-20	W
2	9/10/10	Open		
3	9/18/10	Beaumont West Brook	45-21	W
4	9/24/10	Seven Lakes	62-21	W
5	10/1/10	Strake Jesuit	45-14	W
6	10/7/10	Morton Ranch	63-10	W
7	10/14/10	Mayde Creek	61-10	W
8	10/23/10	Memorial	49-28	W
9	10/30/10	Taylor	56-14	W
10	11/6/10	Cinco Ranch	56-3	W
11	11/13/10	Bellaire	41-6	W
12	11/20/10	Cy-Fair	55-20	W
13	11/27/10	North Shore	32-27	W
14	12/4/10	Pearland	35-38	L

#### Mayde Creek



Record: 2-8, 1-6 Mascot: Ram Coach: Lance Carter Enrollment: 2,779 (5) PPG: 15.8 PAPG: 34.7 Margin: -18.9

WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	W/L
0	8/27/10	Cy Springs	14-12	W
1	9/3/10	Willowridge	6-17	L
2	9/9/10	Tomball	10-42	L
3	9/17/10	Open		
4	9/23/10	Cinco Ranch	7-48	L
5	10/1/10	Memorial	14-37	L
6	10/7/10	Taylor	0-33	L
7	10/14/10	Katy	10-61	L
8	10/22/10	Seven Lakes	23-44	L
9	10/28/10	Strake Jesuit	7-23	L
10	11/5/10	Morton Ranch	67-30	W

#### Seven Lakes



Record: 4-6, 3-4 Mascot: Spartan Coach: Kevin O'Keefe Enrollment: 3,174 (1) PPG: 30.6 PAPG: 33.9

			IVI	Margin: -3.3	
WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	W/L	
0	8/27/10	Kempner	34-30	W	
1	9/3/10	Dulles	35-36	L	
2	9/9/10	Foster	14-27	L	
3	9/17/10	Open			
4	9/23/10	Katy	21-62	L	
5	10/1/10	Cinco Ranch	38-49	L	
6	10/7/10	Strake Jesuit	59-35	W	
7	10/14/10	Morton Ranch	28-7	W	
8	10/22/10	Mayde Creek	44-23	W	
9	10/28/10	Memorial	10-35	L	
10	11/5/10	Taylor	23-35	L	

#### Cinco Ranch



Record: 10-2, 6-1 Mascot: Cougar Coach: Don Clayton Enrollment: 2,826 (3) PPG: 37.7 PAPG: 27.3 Margin: 10.4

WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	W/L
0	8/26/10	Klein Forest	42-21	W
1	9/2/10	Cy Ridge	27-15	W
2	9/11/10	Clear Springs	38-35	W
3	9/17/10	Open		
4	9/23/10	Mayde Creek	48-7	W
5	9/30/10	Seven Lakes	49-38	W
6	10/9/10	Memorial	35-28	W
7	10/15/10	Strake Jesuit	41-22	W
8	10/23/10	Taylor	66-7	W
9	10/30/10	Morton Ranch	48-21	W
10	11/6/10	Katy	3-56	L
11	11/13/10	Houston Lamar	27-23	W
12	11/20/10	Cy Creek	28-54	L

#### **Morton Ranch**



Record: 1-9, 1-6 Mascot: Maverick Coach: Dave Meadows Enrollment: 3,074 (2) PPG: 15.2 PAPG: 45.5 Margin: -30.3

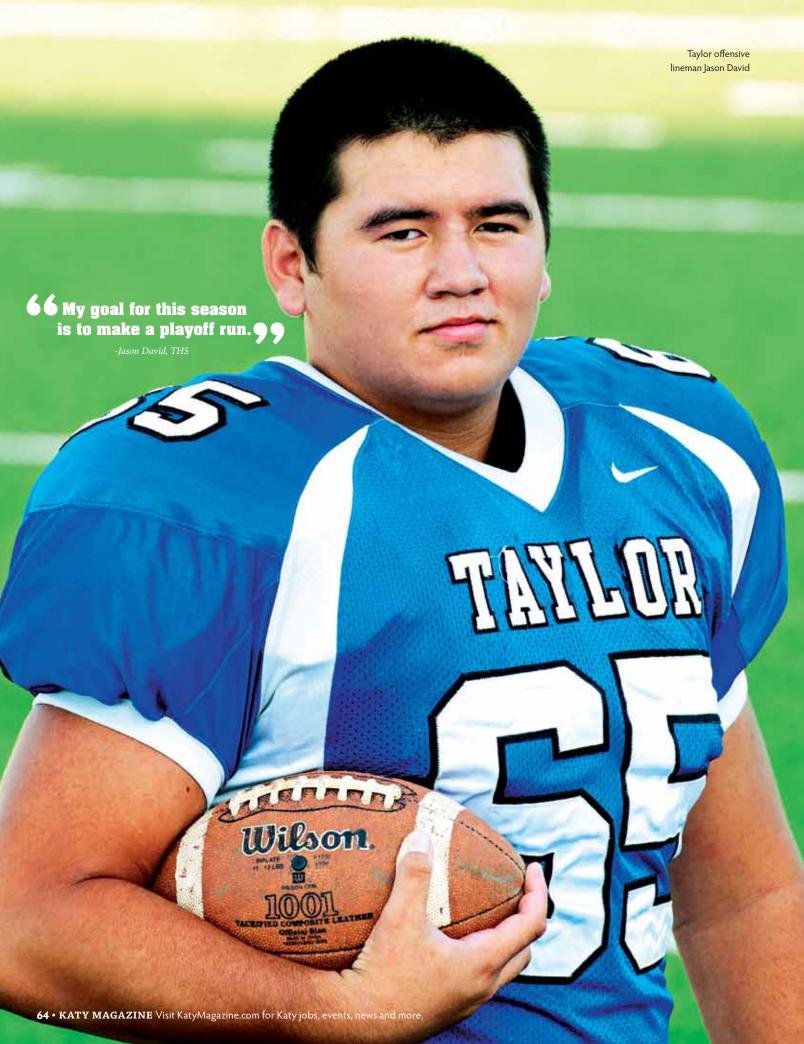
WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	W/L
0	8/28/10	Tomball	16-45	L
1	9/3/10	Cy Falls	0-48	L
2	9/10/10	Spring	21-49	L
3	9/17/10	Open		
4	9/23/10	Memorial	6-42	L
5	10/1/10	Taylor	27-20	W
6	10/7/10	Katy	10-63	L
7	10/16/10	Seven Lakes	7-28	L
8	10/22/10	Strake Jesuit	14-45	L
9	10/30/10	Cinco Ranch	21-48	L
10	11/5/10	Mayde Creek	30-67	L

#### **Taylor**



Record: 6-6, 4-3 Mascot: Mustang Coach: Flint Risien Enrollment: 2,511 (6) PPG: 22.5 PAPG: 28.9 Margin: -6.4

WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	W/L
0	8/27/10	Cy-Fair	20-21	L
1	9/3/10	Klein	7-28	L
2	9/9/10	Westside	37-14	W
3	9/17/10	Open		
4	9/23/10	Strake Jesuit	35-0	W
5	10/1/10	Morton Ranch	20-27	L
6	10/7/10	Mayde Creek	33-0	W
7	10/14/10	Memorial	17-14	W
8	10/22/10	Cinco Ranch	7-66	L
9	10/28/10	Katy	14-56	L
10	11/5/10	Seven Lakes	35-23	W
11	11/12/10	Houston Chavez	38-31	W
12	11/20/10	Cy Woods	7-67	L



# KATY ISD 2011 VARSITY FOOTBALL

	CINCO RANCH	KATY	MAYDE CREEK	MORTON RANCH	SEVEN LAKES	JAMES E. TAYLOR
<b>O</b>	Klein Forest (V) Sat., Aug. 27, 7 p.m. Klein Memorial Stadium	North Shore (H) Fri., Aug. 26, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Cy Springs (H) Thurs., Aug. 25, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Tomball (V) Fri., Aug. 26, 7 p.m. Tomball Stadium	Kempner (V) Thurs., Aug. 25, 7 p.m. Mercer Stadium	Cy-Fair (H) Sat., Aug. 27, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium
WEEK	Cy Ridge (H) Fri., Sept. 2, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Alief Taylor (V) Fri., Sept. 2, 7 p.m. Crump Stadium	Willowridge (H) Sat., Sept. 3, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Cy Falls (H) Thurs., Sept. 1, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Dulles (V) Fri., Sept. 2, 7 p.m. Mercer Stadium	Klein (V) Fri., Sept. 2, 7 p.m. Klein Memorial Stadium
<sup>WEEK</sup>	Clear Springs (V) Sat., Sept. 10, 1 p.m. Veterans Memorial Stadium	Open	Tomball (V) Fri., Sept. 9, 7 p.m. Tomball Stadium	Spring (H) Fri., Sept. 9, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Foster (H) Sat., Sept. 10, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Westside (V) Sat., Sept. 10, 6 p.m. Butler Stadium
3	Open	Westbrook (H) Sat., Sept. 17, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Open	Open	Open	OPEN
WEEK 4	Mayde Creek (V) Thurs., Sept. 22, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	HOMECOMING Seven Lakes (H) Fri., Sept. 23, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Cinco Ranch (H) Thurs., Sept. 22, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Memorial (H) Sat., Sept. 24, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Katy (V) Fri., Sept. 23, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Strake Jesuit (V) Fri., Sept. 23, 7 p.m. Crusaders Stadium
5	Seven Lakes (H) Thurs., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Strake Jesuit (H) Fri., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. Rice Stadium	Memorial (V) Sat., Oct. 1, 6 p.m. Tully Stadium	James E. Taylor (V) Fri., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Cinco Ranch (V) Thurs., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	HOMECOMING Morton Ranch (H) Fri., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium
6 WEEK	HOMECOMING Memorial (H) Fri., Oct. 7, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Morton Ranch (V) Thurs., Oct. 6, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	James E. Taylor (V) Sat., Oct. 8, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Katy (H) Thurs., Oct. 6, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Strake Jesuit (V) Fri., Oct. 7, 7 p.m. Crusaders Stadium	Mayde Creek (H) Sat., Oct. 8, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium
7	Strake Jesuit (V) Fri., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. Crusaders Stadium	Mayde Creek (V) Thurs., Oct. 13, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Katy (H) Thurs., Oct. 13, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Seven Lakes (V) Sat., Oct. 15, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Morton Ranch (H) Sat., Oct. 15, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Memorial (H) Fri., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium
8	James E. Taylor (H) Sat., Oct. 22, 11 a.m. Rhodes Stadium	Memorial (V) Fri., Oct. 21, 7 p.m. Tully Stadium	HOMECOMING Seven Lakes (H) Fri., Oct. 21, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Strake Jesuit (H) Sat., Oct. 22, 6 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Mayde Creek (V) Fri., Oct. 21, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Cinco Ranch (V) Sat., Oct. 22, 11 a.m. Rhodes Stadium
9	Morton Ranch (V) Thurs., Oct. 27, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	James E. Taylor (H) Sat., Oct. 29, 11 a.m. Rhodes Stadium	Strake Jesuit (V) Fri., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. Crusaders Stadium	Cinco Ranch (H) Thurs., Oct. 27, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	HOMECOMING Memorial (H) Fri., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Katy (V) Sat., Oct. 29, 11 a.m. Rhodes Stadium
10	Katy (H) Sat., Nov. 5, 11 a.m. Rhodes Stadium	Cinco Ranch (V) Sat., Nov. 5, 11 a.m. Rhodes Stadium	Morton Ranch (V) Fri., Nov. 4, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	HOMECOMING Mayde Creek (H) Fri., Nov. 4, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	James E. Taylor (H) Thurs., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. Rhodes Stadium	Seven Lakes (V) Thurs., Nov. 3, 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.