



TRENDING

The All-22 Impact Team: 2019 recruits who will play right away

Whittington's big day leads Cuero to state title 40-26

By TIM VERGHESE - Dec 21, 1:21 PM

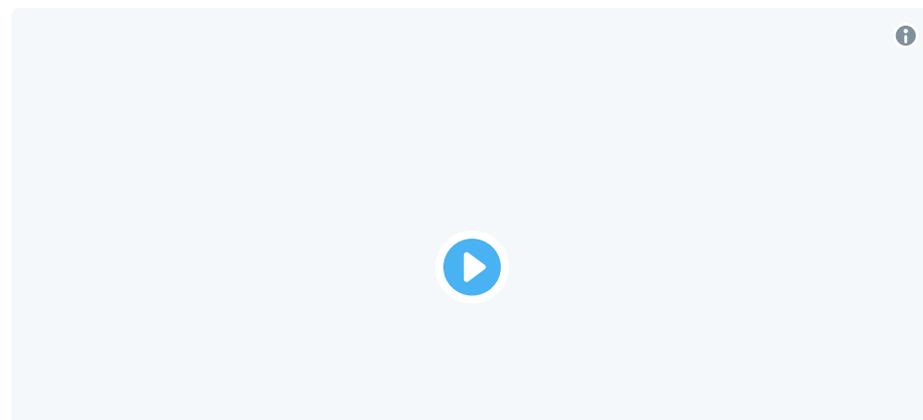
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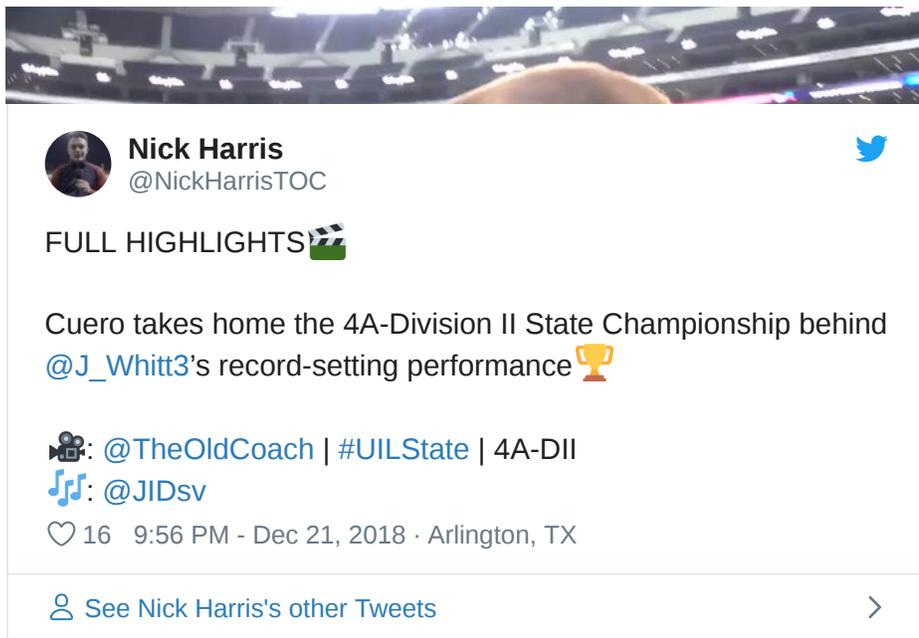
1 Comments



(Photo: Derek Johnson)

Cuero didn't lead for two and a half quarters. Then **Jordan Whittington** happened. Led by the Texas signee, who finished with 314 rushing yards and six touchdowns on the day, Cuero defeated Pleasant Grove 40-28 to win the 4A-DII title.





The Hawks dominated the first 21 minutes of the first half, before Whittington took matters into his own hands. From there, Cuero relied on the Texas signee to carry them to the title.

Pleasant Grove opened with the ball, quickly establishing a run game and pounded their way to the Gobble 12 yard line. With 8:46 left in the first quarter, Bruce Garrett punched it in from twelve yards out for a 7-0 lead. Cuero didn't waste any time responding, as **Whittington** lined up in the wildcat formation and took it 69 yards to tie up the game on the first Gobbler play from scrimmage.

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Both defenses forced back to back punts before the Hawks found a rhythm. At the end of the quarter, Garrett did it again, punching it in from nine yards out to give the Hawks a seven-point after the first twelve minutes. Cuero's offense was stalling and had no answer initially. The Gobbler defense was gashed for a 69-yard touchdown by Garrett late in the half to put the Hawks up by 14. Things seemed to be spiraling out of control for Cuero.

Then, **Jordan Whittington** took over.

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With just over three minutes before the half, the Texas signee turned on the jets for a 54-yard touchdown to put Cuero back within striking distance. After the defense came up with a huge stop, the Gobblers had the chance to tie the game up before the half. With just two seconds left on the clock, Michael Barta turned to Whittington, who broke the defensive coverage to haul in his third touchdown of the game.

At halftime, Pleasant Grove's lead had been cut down to just one point.

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Cuero opened the half with the ball and turned to the ground in an attempt to run down the clock. The Gobblers took 8:20 off the clock but came up short, turning it over on downs. Pleasant Grove's offense was still reeling from the end of the first half, punting it back to the Gobblers. This time, the Gobblers did not miss.

Powered by Whittington, the Gobblers rolled into Pleasant Grove territory, taking their first lead of the game on a one-yard rush by Whittington himself to put the Gobblers up 26-21.

The Hawks were shell-shocked and needed to make a statement. Facing fourth and short in their own territory, Pleasant Grove attempted to pull momentum back their way on a quick pitch to get the first down. However, the Gobblers came up with a huge stop and had a chance to put the finisher on the game.

Whittington, who'd done it all, did it again, this time from twelve yards out to put, what seemed to be the finisher, on Pleasant Grove, 33-21.

The Hawks weren't out just yet. With just under six minutes left in the game Garrett threw it to Harmon on a trick play to bring the Hawks down to the Cuero half-yard line. One play later, the Hawks were back in it, down just 33-28, following a one-yard rush by Harmon.

The ensuing onside kick fell just out of the Hawks' hands and Cuero had the ball with under four minutes left. As he'd done all game, Whittington avenged the third overturned touchdown, with his sixth touchdown, this one from 20 yards out, to put the Gobblers up 40-28 with 2:54 left in the game. The touchdown put the cap on the Hawks' chances, who needed two touchdowns in three minutes. Caleb Brown ended any hope of a last second comeback, with an interception to seal the victory for the Gobblers, their first state title since 1987.



1
COMMENTS

The Gobblers' season ends at 14-1 with another state title to add to their water tower. Meanwhile for Pleasant Grove, a "rebuilding year" fell short but the future is bright for the Hawks who failed to repeat, but have a chance a two championships in three years.

Comments (1)

247SPORTS

Zachary Evans jumps to No. 1 in 2020 class

By **CHRIS HUMMER** - Tue Feb 12 2019

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22 Comments



Zachary Evans is the new No. 1 player in the 2020 class.

Evans jumped to No. 1 in the 247Sports Composite player rankings following an industry update Tuesday. The Houston running back ranks No. 6 in the Top247, but 247Sports on Feb. 20 will update its rankings for the 2020 class.

The rising high school senior headlines an excellent group of ball carriers in 2020 cycle. Evans is one of six running backs in 2020 that hold a five-star distinction in the 247Sports Composite. For

context, the 2018 and 2019 classes combined featured six 247Sports Composite five-star rushers total.

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But Evans, one of the best backs in Texas high school history, might be in a class all his own.

The 6-foot, 213-pound North Shore High School product is already a state champion in Texas' highest classification, having led his team a year ago with 1,483 yards and 27 touchdowns. North Shore finished the year with an undefeated record in 6A, winning the state championship on a Hail Mary.

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(Photo: Greg Powers, 247Sports)

Evans' recruitment promises to be a contentious one.

Texas currently leads in the Crystal Ball with 43 percent of the projections, followed by Texas A&M (29 percent) and Oklahoma State (14 percent). Make no mistake, though, this will be a national recruitment. Evans showed heavy early interest in Alabama and LSU, and he recently visited Georgia and Tennessee.

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Evans runs a verified 4.5-second 40-yard dash, but his real strength is his vision and suddenness in the open field.

If Evans were to hold on to the No. 1 spot in the 247Sports Composite rankings, he'd be just the fourth running back ever to hold that title joining **Adrian Peterson**, **Joe McKnight** and **Leonard Fournette**.

22
COMMENTS

The Top247 rankings for the 2020 cycle are currently led by Maryland defensive end **Bryan Bresee**.

Comments (22)



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