## Wildcats shut down Jackson, ride Kirven to big win

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## ByMatthew Brice Nov 2, 2018



Kennedale head coach Richard Barrett after winning his 10th overall district title at Kennedale, and his 7th consecutive. (Photo: Matthew Brice, 247Sports)

Thursday night's match up between the Kennedale Wildcats and the Benbrook Bobcats was supposedly going to be one of the most competitive games of the high school season. But it was the total opposite as the Wildcats dismantled the Bobcats, 52-14. They would also clinch the district 6 4A-Division 1 title while doing so.

Running back **DJ Kirven** led the Wildcats with 262 rushing yards on 27 carries and three touchdowns. Quarterback Evan Jowers also participated in the scoring festivities with two touchdown passes and one scoring run. Jowers would find tight end Carrington Roblow on a play action pass for a 19 yard score to make it 7-0. A QB sneak from Jowers and a 2 point conversion would make it 15-0 in the first quarter. Kirven would score from 3 yards out at the beginning of the second quarter to increase Kennedale's lead, but Jowers wasn't done. He would comeback on another play action pass and find wingback Spencer Roof on a deep ball for a 54 yard score. **Antwone Parker** would add a 15 yard score on the ground and Kirven would round out the scoring for Kennedale in the 3rd and 4th quarters with runs of 77 yards and 4 yards.

While Kirven and the offense shined, the Wildcat defense might have been even better. **Jamal Marshall**, **Darrian Scott**, and Ethan Bishop anchored a defensive front seven that

shutdown the state's leading rusher, **Quintan Jackson**. Jackson came in averaging over 300 yards per game and 14 yards per carry. But the Wildcats held him to 44 yards on 15 carries, along with forcing the Bobcats to turn it over 5 times. The biggest turnover came in the second quarter when sophomore safety J.D. Coffey picked off **William Green** at midfield.

Green led Benbrook with 176 yards passing and two touchdowns through the air. He found Brady Lawson for a 29 yard catch and run on a screen for his first scoring touchdown. Green would find Brandon Johnson on a go route for his second touchdown pass, which went for 31 yards. With the Bobcats run game being silenced, their only threat of moving the ball came through the air. However, when they had the opportunity to get themselves back in it, the Kennedale defense would force a turnover.

Kennedale will have the opportunity to rest and study film for 2 weeks before their first round postseason game. That Wildcats will face either Brownwood, China Spring or Gatesville. Benbrook will finish up their regular season schedule next Friday night against the Castleberry Lions.

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