

Playoff bound Eagles looking to knockout Yellow Jackets

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By [Matthew Brice](#) Oct 25, 2018



Crowley running back Dominique Johnson vs Mansfield Legacy (Photo: Dallas Morning News, 247Sports)

The Crowley Eagles (6-2 overall, 5-1 district) have already clinched a playoff spot in the 5A-Division 1 playoffs. But there's still something to play for, which is a second place finish in district behind Azle. A second place finish will guarantee a home game for the Eagles in the 1st round of the playoffs, but they have to take care of business on Thursday evening at 7PM against the Fort Worth Arlington Heights Yellow Jackets (4-3 overall, 3-2 district). With the Yellow Jackets fighting for their own playoff lives, this is a match up that could very well turn into a dogfight.

Keys to the game

Crowley

Offensively, the Eagles will need to continue to stick with a balanced game plan in order to win. Running back Dominique Johnson (879 yards, 14 TDs) has been the key ingredient to success for the Eagles on the ground, as well as opening up the passing game. When teams have keyed in on him, quarterback Kevin Miller (1,163 yards 9 TDs) has taken advantage of his opportunities by finding receivers MJ Tillman and Raylyn Govan for big plays to keep drives alive. As a team, the Eagles average 149 yards per game on the ground and 151 through the air. Defensively, linebackers Reid Steele, **Mykol Clark** and

Elijah Deering should be ready for a lot of read option as well as counters from the run heavy Yellow Jacket offense. Containment is key from outside linebackers Deering and Clark, as they may see some jet sweeps coming their way. Defensive backs **Bryson Bonds**, Ronnie Sanders, Xavier Goynes and Darrell Talley III must also keep their eyes open for the occasional play action pass. But the main objective for the Eagles is stopping the run.

Arlington Heights

Offensively, the Yellow Jackets start and end with quarterback Trey Jones. Jones is a factor on the ground (534 yards, 3 TDs) as well as through the air (798 yards 6 TDs). However, the bread and butter is on the ground as the Yellow Jackets average 207 rushing yards per game to 114 in the air. Jones and running back by committee Bryce Long, Blake Benson and Darius McCloud will need to continue to run the ball well in order to win. But, Jones may also need to air it out a few times to keep the Eagle defense honest. With the Eagles looking for the run, this would be the perfect game to get receivers Myles Brawley and Tamikael Bibbs involved in the play action. Defensively, middle linebacker Carlton Coleman should be ready for quite a few meetings with Dominique Johnson. But defensive backs Jacorey Manear and DJ Glover will also play a key role in keeping an eye on a talented group of Eagle receivers.

The Eagles are determined to go into the postseason on a good note, which is finishing the regular season on a winning note. Will they maintain and win out? Or will the Yellow Jackets pull off a big win and keep their playoff hopes alive? Follow me to Fort Worth on Thursday night to find out.

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