6A Region I Season Preview

By ZACH THOMAS - Aug 7, 2018

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A handful of 6A Region 1's biggest stars. (Photo: Bryce Unterwagner)

With the offseason coming to a close, 6A Region 1 teams are gearing up for the 2018 season.

Some look to repeat as district champs while others look to claim their spot as new district titleholders. Now that the new 2018-2020 UIL Realignment will take effect during this upcoming season, anticipate these teams to sit atop their district.

District 1 - Montwood Rams

The 10-2 Montwood Rams led the district in receiving yards with 325.8 behind the talented wide receiver duo of **Tyreese Andrus** and Tury Cepeda who combined for 38 TDs on 2624 yards. In addition to the strong receiving game, the Rams also had an athletic dual-threat QB in Andrew Fernandez. Fernandez threw for 53 TDs on 3664 yards and rushed for 13 TDs on 1020 yards. Unfortunately for the Rams, Andrus, Cepeda, and Fernandez all graduated in 2018. Head coach Ariel Famaligi will look to replace his star QB with his younger brother, Jason Fernandez. The 5'8"150-pound senior QB has shown flashes of running the offense, including during a game against the Franklin Cougars last December. Fernandez threw for 191 yards and rushed for 19 for a total of 3 TDs. Despite a chunk of the Rams' offense graduating, expect them to win their district for the third straight season.

Tyreese Andrus

El Paso, TX (Montwood)

WR | 5-11 • 165 • CLASS OF 18

District 2 - Midland Lee Rebels

The 10-2 Rebels lost their dual-threat QB Colby Standard and DE Isaiah Nunez. Standard signed with Butler Community College to pursue a career in baseball, while Nunez committed to the Air Force Academy. Standard threw for 2366 total passing yards for 19 TDs and rushed for 1450 yards for 15 TDs. The 6'3" 230-pound Nunez provided a physical presence on the field by averaging 145 tackles, 19 tackles for a loss, and 9 sacks during the 2017 season. Despite the loss of Nunez and Standard, the Rebels still maintain part of their winning core. Senior QB Felix Hinojosa averaged 72 passing yards for 2 TDs and rushed for 145 yards for 3 TDs. Equally important is senior RB Joshua Traylor who averaged 1443 yards and a team-high 18 touchdowns. With San Angelo Central moving to District 3 and Permian QB Steve Steen out the door, expect the Rebels to reach the top of their district for the first time since 2013.

Josh Traylor

Midland, TX (Lee)

APB · 5-7 • 166 • CLASS OF 19

(Photo: gosanangelo.com)

District 3 - San Angelo Central Bobcats

Speaking of San Angelo Central, the Bobcats finished their season 11-1 last year behind District 2-6A Offensive MVP **Maverick McIvor**. The future Texas Tech QB scored 43 TDs on 3415 yards and rushed for 870 yards for 8 TDs. With the Bobcats senior linebacker, Daylon Green, returning to the team from a meniscus tear, expect the team's defense to improve. In Green's first two games he had a total of 33 tackles, twice as many than the next teammate. The Bobcats are coming off their fifth-straight district championship, and now after the new district realignment, anticipate teams such as Trinity to attempt to keep San Angelo Central from winning their sixth-straight district championship.

Maverick McIvor
San Angelo, TX (Central)

DUAL 6-2.5 • 195 •

CLASS OF 19

247Sports Composite® ★★★☆☆ 0.8642

District 4 - Arlington Martin Warriors

With 14 players who graduated and signed from last season's 11-2 team, head coach Bob Wager faces the challenge of filling in new roles. Losing District 4-6A MVP **Brayden Willis** to Oklahoma, will certainly leave a hole at that position. The versatile TE scored on a total of 27 TDs and 1679 yards. Not only did the Warriors lose their TE , but they also lost their QB in **Juma Otoviano** to Rice University. Otoviano threw for 1022 passing yards and rushed for 684 for a total of 28 TDs. Despite the loss of their QB and TE, senior RB **Montrell Smith** and RB Trejon Henderson showed potential last season by averaging 1060 yards and 8 TDs. Six defensive starters are returning including seniors Willie Roberts, **Jayce Godley**, and **Kelvin Spencer** who all combined for 179 tackles and 5 INTs. This team may have lost part of their offense, but the Warriors remain the best defensive team in District 4.

Jayce Godley

Arlington, TX (Martin)

S 6-0 • 190 • CLASS OF 19

247Sports Composite® ★★☆☆☆ 0.7953

Southlake Carroll of District 5-6A taking the field in 2017.

District 5 - Southlake Carroll Dragons

With Trinity moving to District 3 after the new realignment, expect the Dragons to take control of District 5 behind QB/RB tandem **Will Bowers** and **TJ McDaniel**. The SMU commit **TJ McDaniel** rushed for 1862 yards on 23 TDs and led the district in rushing. Senior dual-threat QB **Will Bowers** threw for 2519 yards and scored on 30 TDs last season, while rushing for 856 yards and 8 TDs. Not to mention, Bowers made the 1st Team in District 5-6A behind the Dragon's stout offensive line that includes 2019 SMU commit **Henry Mossberg** and junior tackle **Andrej Karic**. On the defensive side of the ball, the Dragons have all-district linebacker Michael Parish who recorded 5 sacks, 4 forced fumbles, and 89 tackles for a total loss of 14 yards. The last time the Dragons won their district was in 2016. Expect them to return to the top of the mountain.

RJ Mickens

Southlake, TX (Southlake Carroll)

S • 6-1 • 188 • CLASS OF 20

247Sports Composite® ★★★★ 0.9814

(Photo: Greg Powers, 247Sports)

District 6 - Coppell Cowboys

The 11-2 Cowboys finished first in their district last season behind QB **Brady McBride**. The new Memphis Tiger, McBride, threw for 2414 yards and scored 35 TDs. McBride also provided a run game by rushing for 369 yards and scoring 8 TDs. With the loss of their dual-threat QB, head coach Mike DeWitt, will look to senior QB Walker Cain to fill McBride's former position. The Cowboys have seven offensive starters and four defensive starters returning to defend their district title. WR **Blake Jackson** and RB Ryan Hirt remain the team leaders in TDs, Jackson with 15 and Hirt with 14. Versatile athlete **Jonathan McGill,** who plays both WR and DB, recorded 465 yards and 5 TDs. Putting McGill on the defensive side of the ball along with senior OLB **Xavier Brown** and Jay Dempsey, who combined for 23.5 tackles for loss, makes the Cowboys a dangerous ball-hawking team.

Jonathan McGill

Coppell, TX (Coppell)

S 5-9 • 175 • CLASS OF 19

247Sports Composite® ⭐⭐⭐ 0.8755

(Photo: Jeremy Clark, 247Sports)

District 7 - Mansfield Lake Ridge Eagles

The 12-2 Eagles are coming off winning their district last season behind QB **Jason Bean** and RB **Cartraven Walker**. Now at North Texas, Bean, threw for 1308 yards and 16 TDs, while Walker rushed for 1003 yards and 13 TDs. Despite the loss of Bean and Walker, the Eagles have senior QB **Chandler Rogers** and RB Dewone Jackson to fill the roles of their former teammates. In the ten games Rogers played, he threw for 944 yards and 11 TDs. The senior QB also showed his potential as a mobile QB by rushing for 771 yards and 4 TDs. Senior RB Dewone Jackson rushed for 938 yards and scored 11 TDs putting him 4th in the district in rushing. The Eagles had a dominant season on the defensive side of the ball with players such as OLB Tavian Wallace, S Trejon Hugue, MLB **Jayden Williams**, and SS/FS **Darius Houston** ranked in the top 5 in tackles. Unfortunately for the Eagles, Houston will be the only player returning to the team on defense from the five. The senior SS/FS recorded 101 tackles and 4 sacks. With new competition in district 7, expect the Eagles to make a run for another district title.

Chandler Rogers

Mansfield, TX (Lake Ridge)

DUAL | 6-0 • 179 •

CLASS OF 19

247Sports Composite® ⭐⭐⭐☆☆ 0.8195

(Photo: Greg Powers, 247Sports)

District 8 - Duncanville Panthers

The Panthers Head Coach, Reginald Samples, led his team to back-to-back 11 win seasons including a district championship in 2017. The Panthers biggest win last season was against DeSoto who were riding a 23-game win streak going into the game. The defensive line of the Panthers held DeSoto to 64 yards rushing on 31 carries. Sophomore **Ja'Quinden Jackson** recorded three receptions for 47 yards and ran for 146 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries. On the defensive side of the ball, the Panthers have district 7-6A sophomore of the year **Chris Thompson Jr.,** the #1 safety in the class of 2020. With five offensive starters returning and three defensive starters returning, expect the Panthers to make a run to the top of their new district.

*247*SPORTS

Projecting the top 10 offenses of 2019

By **AUSTIN NIVISON** - Sun Feb 10 2019

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Defense may win championships, but great offenses don't hurt and they're typically more fun to watch. A look at this past season of college football proves that. Oklahoma, Alabama, and Clemson were some of the most thrilling teams to watch in the country.

Many of those teams that lit up the scoreboard will do the same in 2019. There are also some offenses full of young talent that are on the rise. Let's take a look into the future and see which teams will boast the most explosive offenses in 2019.

10. OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

In Taylor Cornelius and Justice Hill, Mike Gundy loses some fantastic players. However, he's known for replacing departing offensive talent and still scoring a lot of points every season. Running back Chuba Hubbard looks like a promising running back in Stillwater. The Cowboys will have a quarterback battle this spring and fall, but that rarely stops them from finding the end zone on a regular basis.

9. NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

After starting 0-6 in the 2018 season, Scott Frost's Huskers showed quite a bit of promise. Young quarterback Adrian Martinez gave Nebraska fans plenty of reasons for optimism. In 11 games as a true freshman, Martinez threw for 2,617 yards and 17 touchdowns. Martinez also rushed for 629 yards and eight touchdowns. J.D. Spielman will return at wide receiver to give Martinez a reliable option through the air. Frost should have this offense running like a well-oiled machine in 2019.

8. TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

(Photo: John Weast, Getty)

The Red Raider offense is normally one of the best in the country, no matter who is at the helm. However, a full season of Alan Bowman at quarterback may take it to another level. Bowman was only a true freshman in 2018, and his season was shortened by injury. That didn't stop him from throwing for 2,638 yards and 17 touchdowns. First-year Texas Tech head coach Matt Wells will inherit a fantastic player in an explosive system known for lighting up the scoreboard.

7. MISSOURI TIGERS

(Photo: John Glaser, USA TODAY Sports)

The Tigers may not be able to play in a postseason game, but that doesn't mean they won't have a potent offense. After losing Drew Lock, Missouri reloads at quarterback with the addition of Kelly Bryant out of Clemson. The addition of Bryant along with an elite weapon like Larry Rountree III in the backfield should put Missouri at the top of the statiscal charts on offense next season.

6. OREGON DUCKS

(Photo: Steve Dykes, Getty)

The Ducks return one of the best players in college football in the form of quarterback Justin Herbert. The Oregon signal caller was projected to be a top 10 NFL Draft pick in 2019. However, Herbert elected to play one more season in Eugene. Herbert alone will make the Ducks an impressive offensive force. Leading wide receiver Dillon Mitchell won't be back, but Herbert is good enough to elevate the rest of the receivers. However, running back C.J. Verdell will be in the backfield to terrorize the Pac-12 yet again.

5. TEXAS LONGHORNS

Sam Ehlinger emerged as one of college football's star quarterbacks in 2018 as he piled up over 4,000 yards of total offense and 41 total touchdowns. Leading receiver Lil'Jordan Humphrey won't be back, but second leading receiver Collin Johnson will be. The Longhorns also get a player in Bru McCoy would could have an immediate impact on the passing game. Replacing Tre Watson may be a challenge, but Keontay Ingram should be able to shoulder the load of being a true No. 1 running back.

4. OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

Exit Dwayne Haskins and enter Justin Fields. Over the weekend, former five-star recruit and Georgia quarterback Fields was cleared for immediate eligibility with the Buckeyes. Ohio State already has one of the nation's best running backs in the country in J.K. Dobbins, who is a back-to-back 1,000-yard rusher. If Fields lives up to his full potential, Ryan Day's first season as the head coach in Columbus will be a special one.

3. ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

(Photo: Marvin Gentry, USA TODAY Sports)

In 2019, Alabama boasted the best offense it has ever had in its illustrious history. That was due in large part to the connection between quarterback Tua Tagovailoa and wide receivers Jerry Jeudy, Jaylen Waddle, and Henry Ruggs III. Nick Saban will get all of those players back in 2019, so don't expect the Alabama offense to drop off too much. In the running game, Najee Harris may be one of the better running backs in the SEC. Alabama will be a lot of fun to watch again in 2019.

2. CLEMSON TIGERS

(Photo: Ezra Shaw, Getty)

Everyone saw what the Clemson offense did to Alabama in the national championship. Well, get used to it because there is a ton of great young talent on the Tigers' offense. Between quarterback Trevor Lawrence, running back Travis Etienne, and wide receivers Justyn Ross and Tee Higgins, Clemson has several players who could conceivably be in the running for the Heisman Trophy in 2019. The Tigers have an embarrassment of riches on an offensive unit that promises to be even better in the coming season.

1. OKLAHOMA SOONERS

(Photo: Denon McMillan, 247Sports)

Life isn't too bad for Lincoln Riley in Norman, Oklahoma. In his first two seasons as a head coach, he's had two consecutive Heisman Trophy winners under center in Baker Mayfield and Kyler Murray. In his third year, he'll have former Alabama quarterback Jalen Hurts leading the way. Hurts has a 26-2 record as a starter and has played in some big moments. On top of that, Kennedy Brooks will be back to run the football after rushing for over 1,000 yards. 1,000-yard wide receiver CeeDee Lamb also returns. It should be another explosive season for the Sooners.

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