

Wranglers firing on all cylinders in win over Wylie East

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By [Matthew Brice](#) Sep 27, 2018



West Mesquite Wranglers before second half kickoff (Photo: Matthew Brice, 247Sports)

The West Mesquite Wranglers opened up district play on Thursday with a 55-36 win over the Wylie East Raiders. The Raiders made it a point to take away the Wranglers' running game. However, Wranglers' quarterback **Neal Johnson** made them pay in a major way with his arm.

Johnson was 12 of 20 for 255 yards and 3 touchdowns. His first touchdown pass went for 37 yards on a go route to Texas A&M commit **Dylan Wright** on the Wranglers' second play from scrimmage. Wright finished the game with 139 receiving yards. Johnson would spread the ball around all night, as he would find running back **Ty Jordan** for a 21 yard score as well as sophomore Kobe Walton for a 32 yard score. Jordan would chip in with 2 more scores on the ground, with 1 being a 76 yard run around the left end untouched. Jordan ended the night with 184 yards on the ground. Johnson would also join in on the running activities with 45 yards and a scoring run of his own. Walton would add a score from the defensive side of the ball with a 40 yard fumble return.

"We played the number 3 team in the state and the number 7 team in the state so coming in, we were battle tested. Credit to Wylie East, they played a great game!", were Wrangler head coach Jeff Neill's postgame comments.

Wylie East wouldn't go away easily, though. The quarterback by committee duo of Zack

Haaland and Tim Gauthier would allow the Raiders to hang around until late. Haaland would end the night with 2 touchdowns through the air. He would find Xavier Smith for the first score and Dylan Deere for the second. Haaland would also score on a 65 yard touchdown run in the first half before moving to wide receiver and catching a nice jumpball from Gauthier, later on. Haaland would finish with 110 yards passing and Gauthier would finish with 113.

West Mesquite will have the chance to watch plenty of film for their next opponent, thanks to a bye week next week. They'll take the field again on October 12th when coach Ricklan Holmes and his Tyler John Tyler Lions come to Mesquite for a 7PM kickoff. Wylie East will be back in action next Friday when they take on the same John Tyler squad that the Wranglers will be preparing for.

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