## Duncanville and Lancaster Set for Season Opener Clash

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ByMatthew Brice Aug 28, 2018

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Duncanville (top) and Lancaster (bottom) set to rush the field in 2018. (Photo: Nick Walters)

## Christmas in August!

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The most wonderful time of the year.

ONE — MORE — WEEK — #TXHSFB pic.twitter.com/cEZGXnSNMZ

— Nick Walters (@NickWaltersTV) August 23, 2018
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That's what we call week 1 of the Texas high school football season. It's what teams statewide have prepared themselves for going back to January when off-season workouts started. Weight rooms were filled with players working hard to get stronger. Track & field teams had players working hard to get faster. They would all eventually come together for August practices to work as a team to prepare themselves to do battle as brothers. However, some battles will turn into track meets on turf. That's what I expect to see this Friday night as the Duncanville Panthers host the Lancaster Tigers at 7:30.

A contender in Class 6A, the Panthers are fired up to get the 2018 campaign started in a major way. A heartbreaking loss to Euless Trinity in the second round of the 2017 playoffs left a bitter taste in the mouths of the Panthers. Led by do-everything junior QB Ja'Quinden Jackson, the Panthers have come into the season ready to show and prove that they are a force to be reckoned with. The Panthers also come in with 2 very good wide receivers in Karien Howard and Gyasi Smith. Defensively, the Panthers graduated a lot upfront in the trenches, as well as at linebacker. But there's still some talent at Duncanville to spare, as Tyler Quinn prepares to step in at linebacker and anchor the defense. On another note, Tre'Shon Devones, **Stacy Brown** and Chris Thompson all

return in a loaded secondary that could help contain the passing game of Lancaster. Week one couldn't get here fast enough for Jackson and the Panthers to show and prove. However, Friday night's showdown will not be handed to them on a platter.

The 5A-D1 Tigers also come into 2018 with a bitter taste in their mouths after missing the postseason in 2017. The Tigers finished 4-6 last year after a 2016 season where they finished 12-2 and went 4 rounds deep into the postseason. Led by junior running back **Kevontre Bradford**, the Tigers, just like the Panthers, are anxious to hit the ground running. Bradford will spearhead the Tigers rushing attack. This will be key as he'll have the opportunity to open up a passing game that features very talented wide receivers **LaTrell Caples**, Chris Green, and super sophomore **Majik Rector**. Defensively, lineman **Xavier Newman** and linebacker Courtney Shepherd will anchor the Tiger front 7. Willie Crawford and **Lorando Johnson** will hold down the fort in the secondary as they prepare to do battle with Duncanville's receivers of Howard and Smith.

Both teams are led by 2 of Texas' top coaches. Reginald Samples is starting his 4th season at Duncanville while Chris Gilbert is starting his 8th season at the helm for Lancaster.

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.@Duncanville_FB is Ø season ready.

Post-Scrimmage ☆ with Panthers.

□: @MDZgo ★: @jeterdallastx

□: https://t.co/IVQrpdiAgB pic.twitter.com/5ZwNSD9vTD

— The Old Coach (@TheOldCoach) August 25, 2018
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When it's all said and done, look for the offenses on both sides to be on full display in what should be a very fun game to watch. Also, with quite a few kids from Duncanville and Lancaster knowing each other, it would be best if you got there early to grab your seat. Don't meet me there, beat me there!

See you in Duncanville!

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