

Fans have made season special

AUSTIN — Friday night football fever has hit Bastrop.

The Bears are now just one game away from hoisting the District 25-5A Championship trophy.

They get that chance Friday at home in front of the legion of fans that have followed them to Pflugerville, Killeen, Buda and all over Austin.

It's only fitting that this fairy-tale season will culminate this week at BISD Memorial Stadium in front of 6,000 screaming Bastrop fans, the same ones that followed them to every away game.

It's amazing to watch

MICHAEL
ADAMS



Bastrop fans fill up the visitors side of stadiums like Chaparral, Cougar and House Park as fast as the home side.

Just as impressive is seeing Bastrop fans outnumber home fans at many places they have been.

For their reward, Bastrop has the chance to go from worst-to-first on Friday when the last-place Akins Eagles

come to BISD Memorial Stadium.

It's the best gift this team has to offer their legion of fans.

And for Bernard Blake, it's just going to make it much more sweeter.

"This is my last year, my last game in a Bastrop uniform and this schools last year in 5A, what better way to end it," Blake said after Thursday's 14-7 win over Austin High.

Sure, Bastrop could make a deep playoff run and there is a long-shot they could win a state championship.

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But a district championship is the icing on the cake for a team that has had one winning season since moving to Class 5A in 2004, and hasn't won a district title in eight years.

The Bears weren't supposed to be here.

They weren't supposed to be even close to the top three in 25-5A.

Heck, Bastrop was even a long-shot for the playoffs when the season began.

However, there were thousands of fans, students, parents, coaches and school administrators that believed in Bastrop enough to follow them all over Central Texas.

Now Bastrop can win a district championship in front of its home crowd on the turf of its brand new stadium against a team that has never beat the Bears — Akins.

The Eagles are 0-5 against Bastrop and have been outscored 168-90 in those meetings.

Akins hasn't scored more than 14 points in the last three meetings.

But the Eagles have already doubled their win total from 2008, including an upset of Anderson in the district opener for both teams.

Head coach Gerald Perry said he doesn't want anyone to overlook Akins.

"(Akins) has a great coaching staff and their players play hard for them," he said. "They beat Anderson and no one thought they would win that game. That's why you play on Friday nights."

On this upcoming Friday night, Bastrop will have a chance to play the game and bring home a district championship to their loyal fans.

They will be loud. They will be out in large numbers.

I'd be willing to bet, Bastrop-Akins might be the first actual sellout at BISD Memorial Stadium.

There is no long-shot about that.



Contributed photos by Larry Overall
Bastrop's Mustafa Akbar leaps through the air to haul in a pass from quarterback Josiah Monroe Thursday night at House Park Stadium in Austin.