

And the winner is...

This has been one of the more interesting football seasons in recent memory.

Bastrop is very good, Smithville is also good and Elgin is rebuilding.

The Bears shocked everyone last week by whipping up on Pflugerville and is now on everyone's radar.

Smithville is just as good, but the bad news for the Tigers is that District 25-3A appears not to be a cake walk.

Elgin should have all the pieces together in the second half of the season, but it should be a fun time heading down the home stretch.

Here is a look at the what the first half of the season has taught us:

Player of the Year watch:

Josiah Monroe (Bastrop) has to be the front runner as he has the Bears off to their first 4-0 start since 1998. Monroe leads Bastrop County in scoring and his 810 passing yards puts him on pace to throw for over 2,025 yards. It's unlikely, however, Monroe will peak the 1,000 yard rushing mark. Still, Monroe is turning some heads in Central Texas and there is talk of him being a candidate for the District 25-5A MVP. Other consideration should go to **Jordan Runnels** (Smithville) who leads the county in rushing and is a big reason the Tigers are 3-1.

What we know so far:

Bastrop is legit. The Bears are a team with destiny. The defense is stellar, the offense is coming together and the fans are large in numbers. If you're not already on, it might be time to jump on the bandwagon.

What's not right:

Elgin is 1-4 and an off week might be what the doctor ordered. The Wildcats have been hit hard with injuries. Manor

transfer **Bobby Roberson** suffered a season-ending ankle injury before the season started and running back **Da'Rick Nolan** was out last week with an injury. Wildcat coaches had high hopes for Elgin's running game with the addition of Roberson. Hopefully, a week off will allow coach Danny Lauve some time to put the pieces together.

Biggest surprise:

Take your pick: Bastrop at 4-0 or Elgin at 1-4. I'm going with Elgin at 1-4 because to me, this is the same Bastrop team as last year with a much better defense. Elgin is a much better team than a 1-4 record, but things just aren't going the Wildcats' way. Hopefully that will change when district play begins next week.

Mind-blowing stat:

Bastrop's defense giving up 13.3 points per game. Can you believe this is the same defense that gave up nearly 400 yards of offense per game in 2008?

Newcomer of the year:

Chris Fletcher (Bastrop) is giving Monroe a second target to throw to besides **Auston Shipley** and he is delivering with his 16.3 yards per catch.

Coach of the year:

The obvious choice here is Bastrop's **Gerald Perry**, who could end up being the Central Texas Coach of the Year if the Bears make the playoffs. I want to go an unprecedented route and say Coach of the Year right now should be Bastrop defensive

coordinator **Todd Patmon**, who has transformed Bastrop's defense into a juggernaut.

Game of the Year:

Bastrop-Pflugerville, hands down. This was Bastrop's coming out party and statement to Central Texas, District 25-5A and any other non-believers out there. A 31-0 lead over the Panthers at halftime shocked everyone. The dominating performance by Bastrop blew people away more than the brand new facilities.

— Michael Adams



Bastrop quarterback Josiah Monroe would have to be the front-runner for Bastrop County Player of the Year at the midpoint of the season.

Contributed photo by Larry Overal

TOP RECEIVER
Auston Shipley, Bastrop

91

YARDS

on 6 receptions
with no TDs,
averaging 15.2
yards per catch.



Season's Top 5

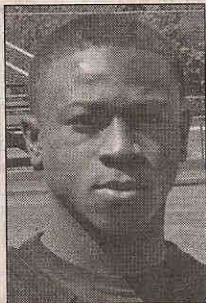
1. Wade Childress, Smithville, 5-148 2 TDs (Sept. 18 at Hallettsville);
2. Auston Shipley, Bastrop, 6-118 yds 2 TDs (Aug. 28 vs. Hays);
3. Auston Shipley 6-91 yds (Sept. 25 vs. Pflugerville);
4. Adam Mack, Bastrop, 3-80 2 TDs (Sept. 25 vs. Pflugerville);
5. Josh Taylor, Bastrop, 3-66 yds (Aug. 28 vs. Hays)

TOP PASSER
Josiah Monroe, Bastrop

258

YARDS

on 16-of-28 pass-
ing with 2 TDs
and 1 ints.



Season's Top 5

1. Josiah Monroe, Bastrop, 13-22-2 272 yds, 4 TDs (Aug. 28 at Hays);
2. Josiah Monroe, Bastrop, 16-28-1 258 yds, 2 TDs (Sept. 25 vs. Pflugerville);
3. Ace Fierro, Smithville, 10-22-0 180 yds, 2 TDs (Sept. 18 at Hallettsville);
4. Josiah Monroe, Bastrop, 18-32-2 164 yds TD (Sept. 11 at Shoemaker);
5. Josiah Monroe, Bastrop, 4-14-0 116 yds, TD (Sept. 4 vs. San Marcos)

Game Balls

FRIDAY'S GAME BALL (SEPT. 25)

Bastrop's defense gets their second game ball of the season after shutting out Pflugerville through one half of football and never letting up.

