



Championship REALITY

Bears can lay claim to 25-5A crown Friday

BY MICHAEL ADAMS
Sports Editor

A district championship isn't something many thought would happen this fast.

On Friday, however, the Bastrop Bears can turn that dream into a reality and capture a share of the District 25-5A Championship with one simple action — defeat last-place Akins.

More importantly, a win over Akins (2-6, 1-4 District 25-5A) will preserve Bastrop's undefeated season and clinch the top seed from 25-5A in the playoffs.

"We preach every week that this week's game is the biggest game of the year, but this one has a little more truth

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Contributed photos by Larry Overall
Josiah Monroe (8), pictured in top photo, and Bernard Blake, above left, have a chance to help the Bears win a share of the District 25-5A Championship Friday when Bastrop hosts Akins.

POLL POSITION

Bastrop takes top spot in area polls

The Bastrop Bears football team has continued to reach new heights and have taken over the top spots in several area polls.

Bastrop was ranked No. 1 in the Austin Community Newspapers Class 5A poll and the Fox 7 High School polls.

The Bears were ranked No. 2 in the Austin American-Statesman upper class (5A-4A) poll behind Lake Travis.

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BASTROP: Bears to take on Eagles

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to that," said head coach Gerald Perry. "There is so much riding on this game with the district title, playoff seeds and of course our undefeated season. We want to be 10-0 at the end of the year and we don't plan on backing down."

If Bastrop were to finish the season undefeated it would be the first time in 65 years a Bears football team finished the season undefeated.

In 1991, Bastrop did finish the season 10-0, but later had to forfeit two games for playing an ineligible player.

The last time Bastrop has "officially" finished the season 10-0 was in 1944.

"We aren't backing down to anyone," Perry said. "The kids want a district title. They want to be undefeated going into the playoffs."

The Bears (8-0, 5-0)

are going to be stingy and not interested in sharing the district championship with anyone, especially Westlake.

District rules call for a co-champion if two or more teams finish the season with the same record.

Bowie, Westlake and Pflugerville all shared the district championship last year.

Bowie and Westlake shared it the year before.

Bastrop cannot win the district title outright without winning its final two games or winning Friday against Akins and having Austin High knock off Westlake.

"We are going to be stingy," Perry said. "We don't want to share this title."

The Bears can't overlook Akins this weekend.

Sure, the Eagles are 0-5 against Bastrop and have never scored more than 14 points against the Bears, but they are

capable of pulling off an upset.

Just ask Anderson.

"I tell the kids all the time, 'they beat Anderson,'" Perry said. "They are out of the playoff picture and have nothing to lose. They are a scrappy team and a break here or there and it could change the outcome of the game."

There is a huge crowd expected for Friday's game, something that has become a mainstay regardless of whether Bastrop is playing at home or on the road.

Friday is senior night and the Bears final home game of the season, which will add to the excitement of the possibility of winning a district championship.

"The fans are great and I expect Bear Nation to be out in full force," Perry said. "Our focus is going to be going into the playoffs and be firing on all cylinders."

POLLS

ACN FOOTBALL TOP 10

CLASS 5A	LW
1. Bastrop (4)	2
2. Cedar Park (1)	3
3. Stony Point (1)	1
4. Westlake	5
5. Leander	3t
6. Pflugerville	6
7. Westwood	7
8. Austin High	8
9. Bowie	9
10. Anderson	10

How sports editor Michael Adams

voted: 1. Bastrop, 2. Cedar Park, 3. Stony Point, 4. Westlake, 5. Leander, 6. Pflugerville, 7. Austin High, 8. Bowie, 9. Westwood, 10. Anderson.