



Contributed photos by Larry Overa

Bastrop's Herman Gonzales (30) celebrates with the Bears Friday night after knocking off Connally 23-19 at Cougar Stadium in Austin. The Bears are the talk of Central Texas and will play their biggest game in the last 11 years Friday at Westlake.

# Welcome to the party

## With all of Austin watching, Bastrop takes its biggest stage

BY MICHAEL ADAMS  
Sports Editor

Bastrop head coach Gerald Perry has been lucky so far.

He's avoided the Gatorade bath all season, due in large part to a rule that prevents Gatorade on turf fields and Bastrop not having water coolers on the sidelines during home games.

That is the reason Perry was dry after Bastrop's 41-26 thumping of Pflugerville.

Perry might not be so lucky if his Bears defeat Westlake Friday in what might be the biggest game Bastrop has seen in nearly 11 years.

"We preach the game that week is the biggest game of the year," Perry said. "Westlake is just another game to us. Are they going to see the hype? Sure. It's our jobs to keep them focused."

There will be plenty of distractions this week with all the media attention.

It's something Bastrop (5-0, 2-0 District 25-5A) is not as used to as Westlake.

There is a good bet that all five television stations in Austin will be at Chaparral Stadium Friday with their cameras pointed right on the Bears and



Bernard Blake (10) flies through the air Friday on his way to blocking an extra point attempt by Connally's Kevin Del Aguila.

Chaparrals.

The *Austin American-Statesman* has notched Bastrop-Westlake as its "Game of the Week".

Austin's ESPN affiliate "The Zone" 1300 AM will broadcast the game live and the game will be replayed on Time Warner Cable Sunday.

Bastrop will take center stage Friday in Central Texas' finest football venue with the beautiful Austin skyline watching in the distance.

"It's going to have a big game atmosphere," Perry said. "Westlake has a lot of tradition and our fans travel well. We are

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Bastrop High School students and fans have shown up in large numbers. The Bastrop Touchdown Club is asking fans to come out Friday to Westlake to show their support for the 5-C Bears.

### BASTROP AT WESTLAKE

**Where:** Chaparral Stadium, 4100 Westbank Dr., Austin.

**Directions:** Head west on Texas 71 toward Austin. Take Capital of Texas Highway/Loop 360 exit from Ben White/U.S. Highway 290/Texas 71. Take a right at Westbank Drive from Capital of Texas Highway/Loop 360. The stadium will be on the left.

**Parking:** Parking at Chaparral Stadium is limited and can be a hassle. Arrive early.

# BEARS: 25-5A title might be on the line

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confident and ready to play."

You can bet that Westlake hasn't forgotten what Bastrop quarterback Josiah Monroe did to the Chaparrals last year.

Monroe nearly gained as many yards as the entire Westlake offense and had his coming-out party against the Chaps.

"He could have a similar game," Perry said. "They do a lot of stunts, but people have been successful moving the ball on them. We can't make any mistakes because they will make you pay for them."

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"We can't make any mistakes because they will make you pay for them."

— **Gerald Perry,**  
**Bastrop head coach**

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Westlake (4-1, 2-0) will be without standout kick returner and defensive Louie Swope and safety James Robinson, who are out with injuries.

Going back to last year, Bastrop trailed the Chaparrals by 14, but did put up 36 points against Westlake's defense.

Perry, however, points out that this year's defense is much improved.

"I felt we were somewhat successful last year," he said. "The difference between this year and last year is our defense is much better."

Bastrop's defense might be the difference maker as the Bears are giving up just 192 yards of offense and 14 points per game.

Lee McMillan might also be a key player as his range gives Bastrop a special teams weapon that is essential in close games. McMillan has a long field goal of 49 yards.