



# Where's Bastrop's respect?

Auston Shipley (4) and the Bastrop Bears are looking to earn a little respect Friday with the Pflugerville Panthers coming to BISD Memorial Stadium

Contributed photo by Larry Overall

# Win over Pflugerville will prove Bears place in 25-5A

**BY MICHAEL ADAMS**  
*Sports Editor*

The Bastrop Bears have a chip on their shoulder heading into district play Friday.

Despite being one of three teams entering District 25-5A action this week undefeated, Bastrop is still not getting the respect as another 3-0 team — Anderson.

Anderson's three wins have come against teams with a combined record of 2-10, including a win against Hays, a team Bastrop also defeated. The Bears' non-district opponents have a combined record of 1-11.

So why is Bastrop at 3-0 not looked at in the same light as a team like Anderson?

"We still have a lot to prove," said senior Pete Rodriguez. "Being 3-0 isn't enough. We have to go out and win games we aren't supposed to win. That will be when we earn it."

Bastrop (3-0 can start Friday with a win over traditional power Pflugerville, which will be without star running back Stormy Woods.

Woods left the Panthers game Friday with a knee-injury.

Pflugerville head coach George Hermann told the *Pflugerville Pflag* Monday that Woods is listed as "week-to-week and it's doubtful he'll play this week."

Bastrop head coach Gerald Perry said even without Woods, the Panthers are still a good football team and for the Bears to start earning respect, they have to beat teams like Pflugerville.

"They have a lot of athletes," he said. "Until we start winning district games, we aren't going to get the respect."

The Bears are also looking for a little revenge from last year's 28-10 loss to the Panthers in Pflugerville.

Pflugerville scored 21 points off of three Bastrop turnovers which proved the difference in the game.

The Bears are much more disciplined and have just four turnovers in three games in 2009, including one fumble.

"Last year is last year," said senior lineman Jose

Lerma. "We are a different team and we just have to prove to everyone we can beat teams like Pflugerville."

Bastrop's Achilles heel at this point in the season is penalties.

The Bears have been called for 19 total penalties for 159 yards, which has cost them at least 28 points.

"We spent a lot of time in our off week correcting the little things and not worrying about Pflugerville as much," Perry said. "You expect some mistakes when you have a young offense like ours, but it's time now to correct them."

Bastrop is more rested than the Panthers, who lost to Round Rock last week while the Bears were in the stands.

Could it be that a healthy, rested Bastrop team are the favorites Friday night against their banged up district rivals?

Rodriguez, who had two interceptions in Bastrop's last game, thinks so.

"We are going to win," Rodriguez said. "We just have to do everything coach tells us and work hard."