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Stepp's Take: District 4-5A

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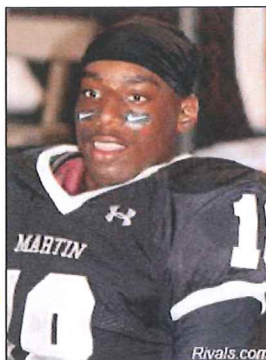


Talk about it in D/FW Metroplex Forum

THE PREDICTION

1. Arlington Bowie
2. Arlington
3. Arlington Martin
4. Arlington Lamar
5. North Crowley
6. Weatherford
7. Fort Worth Paschal
8. Arlington Sam Houston

THE LOWDOWN: It's the same story in a different year for District 4-5A as once again expect Bowie, Arlington and Martin to fight it out for the district championship. All three are capable of beating each other on a given night, so it's quite possible you see a three way split for the championship. Despite having fewer starters back than Arlington or Martin I give the edge to Bowie because they have the two best offensive weapons in the district in QB Kolby Listenbee and RB Russell Hansbrough. Listenbee missed a lot of 2010 with an injury, but when he returned the Vols offense took off. He's got game breaking speed and he's made tremendous strides in the passing game. Bowie does not have a go to receiver and that will be critical in developing balance. The defensive line should be outstanding as well. Arlington brings back a boatload of starters on both sides, but they must replace their QB and their leading tackler on defense. QB looks to be in good shape with Josh Greer set to take over, he started two games in 2010 but those starts came against bottom feeders, how he plays against the top level teams will be key. On defense Arlington brings back ten starters, but they struggled in key moments. A year of experience helps, but the Colts have a lot to prove. Martin has been the class of the district the last two years, but they suffered heavy losses on offense. 7 on 7 helped the Warriors gain confidence, but can they get it done in the fall? The defense should be stout with eight starters back led by one of the area's most fearsome pass rushers in Devonte Fields. The real battle could be for fourth place, Lamar still has a hold on that spot but North Crowley in year two under Coach Magee could push the Vikings. North Crowley is coming off a successful summer and they have a three year starter at QB in Josh Price, if they can develop consistency on defense they could overtake Lamar. Weatherford will transition from the triple option to a more wide open attack, but that style may suit their personnel a little better. Paschal should be more competitive as well as Coach Cook has more skill talent than he's had in the past. Sam Houston will be in a year of transition, they have a new coach and they lost all of their skill kids.



Arlington Martin DE Devonte Fields

DISTRICT DARKHORSE

North Crowley: The Panthers won't compete for the district title, but they could be a threat for that final playoff spot.

DISTRICT MVP

Kolby Listenbee QB, Arlington Bowie

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THE BIG GAME

September 22 Arlington Bowie vs. Arlington Martin: A Thursday night showdown at Cravens Field to open district play will go a long way in determining supremacy in 4-5A. Martin has had the edge the past two years, but Bowie's offensive explosiveness could be the difference.

WHO MAKES A PLAYOFF RUN?

Arlington: The Colts could be the team that makes the deepest run, simply because 5A Region I Division II doesn't look to have the firepower that Division I has. That could open the door for Arlington to be a contender to make a run.

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