

# SportsDay **HS** Football Week Zero

## It's never too early to make predictions

Expect Allen and Euless Trinity to meet early in playoffs again

The long-awaited first day of football season has arrived, and along with it, all the excitement and wonder of things to come. It's a little like Christmas morning, but with the winter wonderland replaced by a summer blowtorch.

It might not feel like football season yet, but the first kickoffs are at 7 p.m. So it's time to get in a few final predictions that shouldn't melt away as the season heats up and temperatures, hopefully, cool down.

**Allen and Euless Trinity will be ... meeting again in the second round of the playoffs.**

Allen and Trinity are the top teams in the area 5A rankings, but that won't earn them an easy playoff draw. The top seeds from District 6-5A and 8-5A will again be placed in the same spots in the Division I and Division II brackets, setting up a second-round meeting of district champs.

Trinity, which beat Allen, 37-35, in last year's second round, has won six straight district titles. Allen has won five in a row. If those streaks continue, the only way they'll avoid each other is if schools with larger

### HIGH SCHOOLS



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enrollments make the playoffs.

In 6-5A, Trinity would move to the Division II bracket if Irving MacArthur and Irving Nimitz make the playoffs. In 8-5A, Plano and Plano East must make the playoffs to push Allen to Division II.

Plano and Nimitz made the playoffs last season, Plano East and MacArthur did not.

**5A Region I will be ... a beast.**

Some of the area's top 5A teams are in Region II, including DeSoto and Skyline, but Region I will be unmatched in quality and quantity. In the state rankings, seven of the top 15 teams — Allen, Trinity, Coppell, Southlake Carroll, Arlington Martin, Denton Guyer and Cedar Hill — are from Region I.

**The area's best 5A district will be ... debated all year. Based on the power at the top of the district, it could be 4-5A (Arlington, Arlington Bowie, Arlington Martin), 7-5A (Coppell, Denton Guyer, Southlake Carroll) or 11-5A (DeSoto,**



John F. Rhodes/Staff Photographer

**Allen running back Jonathan Williams (center) may get a chance to help his team avenge a 37-35 loss to Euless Trinity in the second round of the playoffs last season.**

Longview, Mesquite Horn). But as far as the best district from top to bottom, 8-5A still leads the way.

Last year, the four teams in 8-5A that didn't make the playoffs — Hebron, Plano East, Lewisville and Plano West — were a combined 9-3 in non-district play. Their three losses

were by an average of three points.

**The area's best 4A district will be ... a tough call between 4-4A and 10-4A. District 4-4A includes last year's Division I state runner-up, Denton Ryan, and regional finalist Wichita Falls Rider. District 10-4A includes Highland Park and Wy-**

lie, which lost to Ryan in the semifinals.

You could also throw 15-4A into the mix because of its depth. But the safest prediction with 15-4A, which last year sent Mesquite Poteet, West Mesquite, Lancaster and Corsicana to the playoffs, is that it will be the most unpredictable dis-

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**Friday night chat:** From 7 to 11 p.m. talk high school football with your favorite SportsDay writers on SportsDayDFW.com **SportsDayHS on Fox Sports Southwest, The Ticket:** At 11 p.m. tune into Fox Sports Southwest or Sportsradio 1310 AM The Ticket and get the full recap of Friday night's action with Corbett Smith and David Newbury.

trict. It's loaded with competitive teams whose fortunes last year zigzagged like the printout of a polygraph test.

It was hard to find the truth in 15-4A. Poteet beat Lancaster by three, Lancaster beat Corsicana by 14, and then what happened when Poteet played Corsicana?

Corsicana won by 34. Then Corsicana lost in the first round of the playoffs and Poteet advanced to the state semifinals, where it nearly knocked off undefeated Aledo. Go figure.

But that's high school football. It's always difficult to predict.

And it's always easy to get excited about.