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Arlington counting on desperation against Abilene

Football Insider

Arlington hopes to bounce back on the road.

Arlington Bowie defeated Arlington High last week in a high-stakes game that proved the Bowie Volunteers are a dangerous team entering the football playoffs.

On the other side, the Colts' five-game winning streak and chance to grab a share of the District 4-5A championship disappeared with the loss. Now, Arlington is back on the defensive, just as it was after starting the season 1-4.

And the Colts (6-4) are just fine with that.

"We play our best football in desperate times," Arlington coach Scott Peach said. "I think after five straight wins in dis-

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trict play we felt pretty good about ourselves. We got knocked off; now we are back in that desperation mode, where we have to throw everything on the line. I think that when our backs are against the wall, we play our best football. That's what we have to do."

The playoffs start Friday with a difficult matchup for the Colts, who have to travel to play Abilene High (7-3) in what will be a home-field atmosphere for the Eagles at Shotwell Stadium in Abilene.

"When we show up there, they will have a packed house," Peach said.

"Football is important to their whole community. Knowing those things, we have to come ready to play. We have to be able to handle an atmosphere that will be against us from the time we walk in there. If we handle those things, we will be fine."

The Colts will rely on running back Tavarreon Dickerson, who has rushed for 1,631 yards and 22 TDs, and QB Josh Greer, who has thrown for nearly 2,500 yards and 22 TDs.

Arlington will face an Abilene team that is used to winning playoff games.

"They have a tremendous storied high school program," Peach said. "Look back at the past 60 years, and they have one of the best teams in the state year in and year out. They

are well coached by Steve Warren, and they do not make mistakes. You are going to have to beat them. They are built for the playoffs. They don't turn the football over and they don't give up the big plays."

The game is also a rematch of last year's 5A Division II Region I bi-district game, which Abilene won 31-28.

"The teams are different this year, but it's still two good programs with two good football teams," Peach said. "It's not going to be any different this year."

Arlington is hoping to recapture the spark it had after beating Arlington Martin 47-16 to start the five-game winning streak.

"If you can get some momentum going in the

playoffs, a lot of good things can happen," Peach said. "But it has to start with that first win."