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Around our district...

Come-from-behind win shows strength

There were no major surprises in the opening week of the 1986 high school football season, at least as far as District 23-3A teams are concerned.

There were three winners: the teams in Columbus, Sealy and Hempstead and three losers: in Bellville, Brookshire and at Rice.

The Cardinals in Columbus outscored district 25-3A favorite Giddings 27-20.

Sealy dominated district 10-4A member Magnolia 21-8.

No. 8 Hempstead struggled to a 17-13 decision over Caldwell and, on the other side of the coin:

The Brookshire falcons were nipped by Montgomery 7-6.

The district favorite Brahmas lost 28-10 and Rice made a good showing in its 28-15 loss.

The Cardinals' junior running back Bryan Chavis rushed for 142 yards and blue chipper Greg Waddle tallied another and caught a 10-yard scoring pass from Craig Tyler.

Columbus had to rally from an early 12-0 deficit to collect their season-opening win. In fact, the two teams were tied at 20-20 with just under eight minutes remaining when the Cardinals notched its winning drive.

Overcoming an interception deep in Giddings territory when the defender returned the favor with a fumble, Tyler hit Waddle for the clincher with 5:17 left.

Paced by the return of running back Joe Mark Kohlmann, the Sealy Tigers dominated Magnolia en route to their 21-8 victory.

Kohlmann, who was sidelined in the second game with a knee injury in 1985, rushed for 139 yards on 20 carries and scored two touchdowns on runs of 34 and 30 yards. He also had an impressive 67-yard TD romp called back due to a costly 15-yard penalty against Sealy.

The Tigers came within whiskers of a shutout. But quarterback Kenneth Pate lost control of the

football inside the Sealy five-yard line with less than a minute remaining and the Bulldogs recovered.

Magnolia scored one play later. Corey Scranton owned the other Tiger touchdown on a brilliant 46-yard scamper.

The class 10-4A Brahmas were simply no match for Brenham as the Cubs looked in mid-season form. They Cubs scored in every quarter and accumulated 352 yards in total offense while limiting Brenham to a mere 181.

The Brahmas scored on a Mike Leaks' eight-yard run in the second quarter to cut the deficit to 7-6 and Gabe Smith added a one-yard TD plunge in the third quarter. Greg Jackson tallied the two-point conversion following Smith's TD.

Sophomore tailback Robert Strait scored three touchdowns to lead Cuero to its 28-15 decision over the Raiders. Strait found the end zone with runs of 10, four and one yard.

The Gobblers other score came when Carlos Taylor recovered brother Carl's fumble in the end zone for a touchdown.

Quarterback Kevin Long triggered the Rice offense as he ran 28 yards for one score and then drilled Alvaro Barrios for an 85-yard strike.

Defensive back Derrick Tucker returned an interception 21 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter and Calvin Toliver kicked a 27-yard field goal in the third period to stake the Gobblers to their 17-13 squeaker over

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Raider opening attack exciting, short, 28-15

A young Rice High School Raider football team took it on the chin last Friday night at the hands of the Cuero Gobblers as Texas high school football opened its 1986 season.

Cuero, ranked No. 2 in the same class as unranked Rice, showed its presence on the football field with a powerful, smooth-working machine.

But, the Raiders, under new leadership at quarterback, and making up for other important positions lost to graduation last year, showed they have promise.

The final score was Cuero 28, Rice 15. There were mistakes the Raiders made that had the ball been handled better, Rice could have come out on top. All in all, it was one of the most exciting games seen recently on the Raider Stadium turf.

Unexpectedly, the Cuero Gobblers kept the ball on the ground, perhaps because they found they could run on the Raider defense.

That Rice defense, however, still kept the Gobblers penned up, allowing only 3.6 yards per Cuero carry. They totaled 192 yards on the ground. Rice managed only 108 yards rushing, but that was for an average of 3.4 yards per carry.

In the air game, Rice fans saw a difference. The Raiders threw nine times for four completions giving them an additional 145 yards. Cuero was two for four in passing, with only 42 yards. Therefore, the Raiders total yardage was 253 in 41 plays, while the Gobblers tallied 234 yards with 58 plays.

The Raider passes were exciting too. The new rice quarterback, Kevin Long, connected on one to Alvaro Barrios to set a new school record. The ball was thrown from the Rice 15 by Long, in Barrios' direction.

The length was perfect, and one of the two Cuero defenders tipped the ball before Barrios caught it. The Raider receiver was long gone as the Cuero men snatched into each other and were unable to make pursuit.

The 85-yard scoring completion bettered (by one yard) the previous school record held for the past seven seasons. Ironically, by Barrios' brother, Robert.

The conversion was another pass, but it was from the bag of tricks department. The Raiders lined to kick, but Greg King got the ball and threw it to Mickey Scott who ran in for the two points.

In another play from the same bag, earlier in the game, Rice kicked the ball but only 10 of the 11 Raiders on the field moved. While they were faking a play off to the right, the 11th Raider picked up the ball and scampered down the left side for a big gain.

But, to show how the Raiders show promise of making another championship team if they continue to work hard, Long led the team into the end zone with an excellent piece of running. With the ball on the Cuero 28, he took the snap, turned to the right for a fake hand off, then continue to wheel around for a run around the left end. About midway to the goal line with two Gobblers about to make contact, Long abruptly changed direction. The move fooled the pursuit, allowing him to score.

The low points of the game that the Raiders will be working to eliminate included allowing a punt to be mis-handled. The Raider defense, continuing its good play, had stopped one of the Gobbler drives,

forcing them to punt. But the kick went through Kevin Long's hands. Cuero fell on it, then scored six plays later.

Twice the Raiders were within ten yards of the Cuero goal line, but mistakes cost them the ball. On the other hand, Cuero mistakes weren't as costly. When Cuero fumbled only a yard short of making another score, the ball went into the Raider end zone and a Gobbler fell on it to make six points.

In preparation for this game, the Raiders lost the services of Mark Kucharka, a 220 pound offensive tackle who suffered a knee injury in practice. While the loss is a blow to the Raider defense, head coach Clifton Darden said that the attitude of the players will help overcome the void.

On defense, Johnell Diggins was the leader, raking in 10 tackles and four assists. Clarence "Flip" Weeks was close behind with four tackles and eight assists. Ernest Lemmons had six and four, and Michael Rhodes had four and four.

Here are the game statistics:

CUERO

32-108 Rushes/Yards 54/192

9-4 Passes/Comp. 4/2

145 PASSING YARDS 42

41-253 Plays/Total Yards 58/254

4-30-5 Punt/Avg. 4-34.5

3 Fumbles Lost 1

1 Interceptions Thrown 0

4-64 Kick Returns 4/45

4-22 Punt Returns 1/7

4-40 Penalties/Yards 2/10

8 First Downs 15

DEFENSIVE ACTION:

Players Tackles Assists Totals

DOGGINS 10 4 14

WEEKS 4 8 12

LEMMONS 6 4 10

RHODES 4 4 8

TILLMAN 6 1 7

DOPPLAUF 4 2 6

FOSTER 4 1 5

KING 2 2 4

Scott 12/58 Tillman 8/19

King 1/17 Long 11/14

NOTE: Long's stats include deductions for quarterback sacks; without those deductions he is credited with 57 yards rushing

Freshman Standings District 23-AAA

Area Freshman report

Here are the results from area Freshman teams:

Rice Raiders 34 at Cuero 9

Columbus 14 at Giddings 14

at Sealy 6 vs. Magnolia 12

at Bellville 16 vs. Brenham 14

Brookshire, East Bernard and Weimar do not field freshman teams; Hempstead combined its freshman team with the JV last week, and Brookshire does not field a Freshman team.

JV Football Roundup

Including East Bernard & Weimar

Although district competition has yet begun, half of the Junior Varsity teams in District 23-3A won their season opener last Thursday, while the other half lost.

The Rice Raiders were one of the losing teams, taking a 34-0 drubbing at the hands of Cuero.

Here are the complete results of area JV team outings (Boldface denotes winners):

Rice 6 at Cuero 34

at Sealy 34 vs. Magnolia 0

at Bellville 27 vs. Brenham 33

Hempstead 12 at Caldwell 6

at Brookshire 16 vs. Montgomery 20

Columbus 7 at Giddings 6

The East Bernard JV team open with a strong win in Schulenberg, 28-6, while the Weimar JV took the worst area beating of opening night, losing 46-0 at the hands of Smithville.

Continued on Page 11

Varsity Standings District 23-AAA

Team Won Lost Tied % Won Pts Scd Pts Allowed

Columbus 1 0 0 100.0 27 20

Sealy 1 0 0 100.0 21 6

Hempstead 1 0 0 100.0 17 13

Rice 0 1 0 0.0 15 28

Bellville 0 1 0 0.0 14 28

Brookshire 0 1 0 0.0 6 7

Garwood-Sheridan Football Season underway with first game this week

Football at Garwood and Sheridan schools got underway last week, marked by equipment being issued to 71 students on this year's combined team.

Practice started last Thursday, and the first game of the season is this Thursday, Sept. 11, at the football field next to the Sheridan School.

The opponent will be St. Michaels of Weimar, game time for all Garwood-Sheridan games is 5 p.m.

According to coaches Mike Michalka in Garwood and Bennie Machac in Sheridan, the following players have turned out for this year's team:

From Garwood, Cesar Hossaye, Roy Johnson, John Stovall, Joe Stovall and James Wenzelki from the 8th grade, and Terry Carter, Andrew Castaneda, Matthew Gallagher, Mark Johnson, Truman Scott, Derek Sewell, Shan Stovall and Bryant Williams from the 7th grade.

From Sheridan, players are David Brown, Daniel Alan, from

the 8th grade, and Antone Bujnoch, Raymond Fred, Norman Botard, Shawn Simone, Eric Garza, and Mike Mansfield from the seventh grade.

For two small, rural schools that are 15 or more miles apart, it might seem that fielding a combined football team would be difficult.

That's not the case with Garwood and Sheridan, probably because of the relationship the coaches at the schools have.

Bennie Machac is starting his tenth year as coach in Sheridan and Mike Michalka is starting his 8th year in Garwood. Add to that long-term relationship the fact that both are from Fayette County (Machac is from Schulenberg and Michalka is from La Grange), and you can see how a good working partnership can develop.

They work so well together, Michalka said last week, that during a football game both men will even suggest the same play.

For practice, the coaches bus their players from their respective schools

to the practice fields at Rice High School. Meeting half way works out better than attempting to rotate between practice sessions at Garwood or Sheridan.

Neither coach is considered "head coach," as over the years they have worked out responsibilities.

Sheridan's Machac coaches the offensive line and defensive line and linebackers, while Michalka coaches the offensive backs and the defensive secondary. During a game, Michalka pretty much runs the offense, and Machac operates the defense.

Are they successful? According to two yardsticks, they are. The first would be the willingness of kids to participate. At Michalka's school, all the boys in the 7th and 8th grade turn out for the team—and all get to play.

The coach said that on Thursday the object is to win the game, but it also is the opportunity to play that a student looks forward to. The second yardstick would be the win-loss record. Last year's Machac-Michalka combination won

six, lost none and tied one. Michalka said he enjoys coaching at the junior high level, and sometimes thinks that coaches who start at the high school level are missing out. For junior high coaches, their job is to teach the basics, with coach Michalka putting the emphasis on the word basic. The first day of practice is spent teaching the would-be players how to put on their equipment. They progress from there to various stances of a football player, on to positions and the play of the game.

If there was a change Michalka could make, it might be in the making of a schedule. Garwood and Sheridan schools are not in a district so there is no built in schedule to make. They have to find schools that are willing to play them. This year, after Michalka and Machac thought the schedule was set, St. Phillips in El Campo had to cancel for a Catholic league.

With enrollment down slightly, Machac is concerned that this year's

team might be a bit "young," but he still is looking forward to the start of the season. Between the two of

them, the players should have an athletically educational year of sports ahead of them.

The 1986 Garwood-Sheridan Football Schedule

Date Opponent Place

Sept. 11 St. Michaels of Weimar Sheridan

Sept. 18 St. Rose of Schulenberg Schulenberg

Sept. 25 Sacred Heart of Hallettsville Sheridan

Oct. 2 Columbus Junior High B Team Columbus

Oct. 9 Louise Garwood

Oct. 16 Open Date

Oct. 23 Schulenberg 7th Grade Schulenberg

(All games begin at 5 p.m.)

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