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Non-District, continued

Goldthwaite won last year 34-14. Jim Ned's last win in the series was 62-6 in 2003 with Colt McCoy at quarterback. McCoy went on to quarterback at the University of Texas and is now with the NFL's Washington Redskins. ... Last year's playoff berth ended a six-year postseason drought for the Indians, who are still only 14-47 over the last six seasons and haven't had a winning season since 2009.

Little River Academy Bumblebees

Enrollment: 406 (Class 3A Division I).
Last Year's Record: 5-6, 2-3 district.
Last Playoff Appearance: 2015.
Head Coach: Mike Nichols, seventh year at Academy.
Coach's Record: 26-38 at Academy.
Returning Experience: 21 lettermen, 7 offensive and 5 defensive starters.
Players to Watch: RB-LB Grayson Edwards, Sr.; QB-DB Jake Nichols, Jr.; RB-LB Caden Costa, Jr.; OL Brycen Bland; DL Chad Pajestka; TE-DL Kyler Schreier.

Strengths: veteran offensive line, overall numbers, made playoffs two straight years.

Weaknesses: inexperience on defense and offensive skill positions.

Key Stats: Top OL returnees are Brycen Bland, who had 65 pancake blocks last year, along with Boone Denton and Clay Johnson. RB Grayson Edwards ran for 490 yards and 6 TDs last year. QB Jake Nichols gained starting experience last year as a sophomore. The top defender is LB Caden Costa, who made 122 tackles last year. The Bumblebees last year averaged 24.9 points per game and allowed 24.7. Academy's defense allowed 213.8 yards per game during the 2015 regular season.

Noteworthy: Academy has now been to the playoffs in back-to-back years, including their first playoff game in nine years during the

2014 season. ... Academy and Goldthwaite have played three times. The Bumblebees won 14-7 in a Class 2A bidistrict game in 1999, and they also won 24-14 in 2014. Goldthwaite won last year 21-14 after rallying from a 14-0 halftime deficit.

Junction Eagles

Enrollment: 207 (Class 2A Division I).
Last Year's Record: 8-4, 4-2 in district.
Last Playoff Appearance: 2015.
Last District Title: 2003.
Head Coach: Mitch McLemore, third year at Junction.
Coach's Record: 12-11 at Junction.
Returning Experience: 14 lettermen, 6 offensive and 7 defensive starters.
Players to Watch: WR-DB Darius Carrington, Sr.; QB-DB Adam Carpenter, Sr.; OL Martin Wright, Sr.;
WR-DB Trevor Humiston, Jr.; TE-LB Hudson Hearn, Jr.; LB Danny Perez, Sr.
Strengths: overall experience, third year in same system, two straight playoff berths.

Weaknesses: depth, speed.

Key Stats: WR Darius Carrington returns after posting 946 receiving yards and 14 TDs last year. So does QB Adam Carpenter, who passed for 1,733 yards last year. WR Chandler Wilson, OL Martin Wright and OL Josh Richardson all are third-year starters. ... Junction averaged 28 points per game last year and allowed 21. ... Third-year coach Mitch McLemore last year guided Junction to its first playoff win and winning record since 2009.

Noteworthy: Junction opened last season 3-0 with wins over Ingram, Grape Creek and Roscoe by a combined 156-48. However, the Eagles were 5-4 after their fast start, including district losses to Mason (49-7) and Johnson City (34-20). ... Goldthwaite has won two of its three all-time meetings with Junction, including a 40-0 win in the 2009 1A DI state quarterfinals.

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