

District 7-2A Division I Team Capsules

By Mike Lee
Eagle Contributor

Goldthwaite Eagles

Enrollment: 170.
Last Year's Record: 7-4, 4-2 in District 7-2A Division I.
Last Playoff Appearance: 2016.
Last District Title: 2015.
Head Coach: Greg Proffitt, 10th year at Goldthwaite; fourth year as head coach.
Head Coach's Record: 22-13.
Returning Experience: 11 lettermen, 6 offensive and 6 defensive starters.
Returning Seniors: RB-DB Quaid Seward, 5-9, 175; OL-DL Hagen Hohertz, 6-2, 250; OL-DL Trevor Horton, 6-3, 270; QB-DB Christian Valencia, 5-9, 160; RB-DB Leo Garcia, 6-0, 180; TE-LB JP Gibbard, 6-3, 190; WR-DB McKennan Jones, 6-2, 180; WR-DB Kyle Schwartz, 5-10, 160; OL-DL Dylan Norton, 6-3, 260.
Returning Junior: HB-LB Trey Patterson, 6-1, 180.
Top Newcomers: WR-LB Darren Massey, 6-1, 180, Sr.; WR-DB TJ Watson, 6-2, 150, Jr.; QB-LB Drew Hermesmyer, 6-2, 180, Jr.; RB-DB Isaac Chavez, 5-9, 150, So.; OL-DL Decklyn Oliver, 5-10, 200, Jr.; OL-DL Zabreigh, Odom, 5-10, 190, Jr.; OL-LB Josh Butterfras, 6-0, 180, So.
Strengths: depth at skill positions, quickness, strength.
Weaknesses: line depth, speed.
Key Stats: The Eagles return their leading rusher, passer and receiving yardage leader from last year. RB Quaid

Seward rushed for 1,489 yards and 11 TDs last year, QB Christian Valencia passed for 1,378 yards and 9 scores, and WR Kyle Schwartz had 438 yards and 3 TDs receiving. ... LB Trey Patterson is the top returning tackler with 71 last year. Seward and Garcia combined for 102 tackles from the secondary. DB McKennan Jones intercepted a team-high 3 passes last year.

Noteworthy: The Eagles saw a 6-1 start diminish into a 7-4 finish last year in part because they finished with a minus-3 turnover ratio. ... The Eagles have made the playoffs 13 consecutive seasons – the longest streak in school history. ... District 7-2A DI favorite Crawford has beaten Goldthwaite the last three years by an average of 36-10.

De Leon Bearcats

Enrollment: 169.
Last Year's Record: 11-3, 4-2 in District 7-2A Division I.
Last Playoff Appearance: 2016.
Last District Title: 2010.
Head Coach: David Yeager, sixth year at De Leon; 20th year overall.
Coach's Record: 31-27 at De Leon, 139-81 overall
Returning Experience: 14 lettermen, 7 offensive and 7 defensive starters.
Players to Watch: QB-DB Kevin Yeager, 6-2, 180, Jr.; WR-DB Orson Sylva, 5-10, 180, Sr.; OL-DL Blake Bellomy, 6-0, 210, Sr.; RB-DB Chris Cox, 5-9, 165, Jr.; OL-DL Kyler Shafer, 6-3, 300, Sr.; OL-DL Bray Tovar, 5-7, 190, Jr.; WR-LB Kelan

Hodges, 5-9, 165, Jr.

Strengths: speed, overall experience, momentum from last season.

Weaknesses: size, inexperience at receiver.

Key Stats: QB Kevin Yeager has passed for 5,500 yards and 61 TDs in his career and is still just a junior.

Receiver Orson Sylva had 711 yards and 10 TDs receiving last year, and RB Chris Cox rushed for 1,036 yards and nine scores. ... DL Bray Tovar is De Leon's top returning tackler from last year with 87. LB Kelan Hodges logged 81 tackles last year, including 19 for losses and 8 sacks. De Leon has nine all-district players returning from last year, most in the district.

Noteworthy: De Leon improved from 3-8 in 2015 to 11-3 last year, including a berth in the Class 2A Division I state quarterfinals. It was the Bearcats' best season since 1990. It was made possible because the Bearcats rallied from a 20-point first-half deficit and beat Goldthwaite 38-35 in the regular-season finale. The win gave De Leon the No. 2 playoff seed and a more favorable bidistrict draw. ... David Yeager has made the playoffs 15 times in 19 seasons as a head coach at De Leon, Llano and Brackettville. ... The Goldthwaite-De Leon all-time series is tied at 20 wins each.

Hico Tigers

Enrollment: 177.

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City of Goldthwaite

GO EAGLES GO

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