

Hico Tigers

Enrollment: 162.

Last Year's Record: 7-4, 4-2 in District 7-2A Division I.

Last Playoff Appearance: 2017.

Last District Title: 2014.

Head Coach: Randy Thornton, second year at Hico.

Coach's Record: 7-4 at Hico, 55-58 overall.

Returning Experience: 13 lettermen, 8 offensive and 7 defensive starters.

Players to Watch: QB-DB Briley Johnson 5-10, 170, Sr.; RB-LB Luc Hyles, 5-5, 130, Sr.; RB-DB Brandon Luna, 5-6, 145, Sr.; FB-DE Hunter Koosman, 5-10, 200, Sr.; RB-LB Adrian Jimenez, 5-7, 165, Sr.; OL-DL Karson Zant, 5-10, 210, Jr.

Strengths: six returning all-district players, second year in Coach Thornton's system.

Weakness: size, depth.

Key Stats: DB Brandon Luna last year intercepted 9 passes, the top total for any returning Class 2A defender. QB Briley Johnson adapted the Tigers' option-based offense last year, rushing for 872 yards and 13 TDs. The third-year QB has passed for 1,200 yards in the last two seasons. The Tigers last year averaged 23 points per game and allowed 18. Hico's defense allowed only 22 combined points in its four district wins over Hamilton, Val-

ley Mills, San Saba and Goldthwaite.

Noteworthy: DB Brandon Luna and QB Briley Johnson are two of Hico's six returnees who made first-team all-district last year. The others are OL Karson Zant, PK Jordan Harrison, DL Hunter Koosman and LB Luc Hyles ... Hico leads the all-time series with Goldthwaite 9-6-1.

San Saba Armadillos

Enrollment: 183.

Last Year's Record: 3-7, 1-5 in District 7-2A Division I.

Last Playoff Appearance: 2012.

Last District Title: 2012, 1991 outright.

Head Coach: Jerod Fikac, second year at San Saba.

Coach's Record: 3-7.

Returning Experience: 14 lettermen, 9 offensive and 9 defensive starters.

Players to Watch: TE-DL Joseph Watson, 6-0, 205, Sr.; QB-DB Sean O'Keefe, 6-2, 170, Jr.; RB Eli Salinas, 5-8, 185, Jr.; OL-DL Clayton Pierce, 5-8, 225, Sr.; RB-LB Erik Argote, 5-7, 170, Sr.; WR-DB Logan Glover, 6-5, 170, So.; QB-LB Risien Shahan, 5-10, 195, So.

Strengths: young impact players, second year in Coach Fikac's system.

Weaknesses: line depth, no playoffs in six years.

Key Stats: Joseph Watson logged 40 tackles and 6 sacks last year, and he scored 3 TDs on offense. Watson at tight end and Clayton Pierce in the defensive line made first-team all-district last year ... San Saba last year averaged 20 points per game and allowed 31. The 20 points were a 12-point improvement over 2016, when the Armadillos were shut out four times in district.

Noteworthy: San Saba last year ended a 13-game district losing skid with a 48-6 win over Valley Mills. The Armadillos improved their win total from zero in 2016 to three in 2017 under new coach Jerod Fikac, but their five district losses were by an average of 24 points ... The Armadillos hope to get immediate help from last year's 9-0 JV team ... San Saba is 13-47 since dropping to the current Class 2A in 2012 ... San Saba leads the all-time series 57-39-4, but Goldthwaite has won 18 of the last 21 meetings.

Crawford Pirates

Enrollment: 172.

Last Year's Record: 11-3, 5-1 in District 7-2A Division I.

Last Playoff Appearance: 2017.

Last District Title: 2016.

Head Coach: Delbert Kelm, 11th year at Crawford.

Coach's Record: 117-23 at Crawford.

Returning Experience: 14 lettermen, 4

offensive and 4 defensive starters.

Players to Watch: OL-DL Seth Kohlscheen, 5-10, 285, Sr.; RB-DB Trey Lucina, 5-8, 155, Jr.; OL-DL Landry Bruce, 5-10, 215, Sr.; WR-DB Tate Abel, 5-10, 140, Jr.; RB-DB Casey Ewing, 5-10, 175, Sr.; OL-LB Luke Brookshire, 5-10, 165, Sr.

Strengths: Quickness, tradition.

Weakness: size, must replace key play-makers.

Key Stats: Crawford's Trey Lucina was a first-team all-district selection last year at fullback and defensive back as a sophomore ... Crawford averaged 34 points per game last year and allowed 18 ... De Leon beat Crawford 38-18 in last year's district opener, handing the Pirates their first district loss since 2014.

Noteworthy: Crawford maneuvered with injuries to key playmakers through last year's district schedule, then the healthier Pirates put together a run to the state quarterfinals ... Crawford has posted a winning record in 29 of the last 30 seasons. Within the last three seasons, the Pirates have been the state runner-up once, a state semifinalist once, and a state quarterfinalist once ... Crawford is 4-0 all-time against Goldthwaite, with all four meetings since 2014. The Pirates have beaten the Eagles by an average of 32-9.

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