

Panthers face rugged schedule

Seven foes made the playoffs last season

By John Martin
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The schedule makers didn't do the Harrah Panthers any favors when they realigned the state's district football schedules for the next two years.

The Panthers are still in District 4A-2 and longtime nemesis Ada has been sent elsewhere along with Cleveland and Tulsa Central. Ada surprised everyone by making it all the way to the state finals before losing big time to Heritage Hall last year.

The Panthers ripped Tulsa Central, 44-18, in a fun game on the Braves' home field in Tulsa and pulled off a mild upset with a come from behind victory over Tecumseh to ruin the Savages' Homecoming celebration.

In all, 7 of the Panthers' 10 opponents made the 2017 playoffs led by holdovers from last year's 4A-2 lineup Bethany and Blanchard, both of them reached the state semifinals. Tuttle handed Ada its only district loss but fell to the Heritage Hall dynasty, 55-21, in first round action.

Seminole and McLoud were on the 2017 schedule and both ended up their season in the playoffs. Seminole had a hard-earned 14-0 win over the Panthers and went on to an 8-3 record, losing to OCS in the first round.

McLoud defeated the Panthers, 27-16, and made the playoffs in their final season in Class 3A. The annual rivalry game will be in McLoud this year.

A quick look at the upcoming schedule for Coach Phil Webb and his



-Photo by Jason Turner

Jeff Roberson, who handled the signal calling duties last year and carried most of the offensive load, is moving to his more natural position at I-Back this season.

2018 Panther crew:

1. Anadarko (away). The Warriors were 8-3 a year ago, losing only to Clinton and John Marshall during the regular season and then suffering an 8-6 heartbreaker to Seminole in the first round of the playoffs.

2. Seminole (away). The Chieftains were also 8-4, losing to Lincoln Christian, Plainview and Sulphur during the regular season and after defeating Seminole in the first round, lost to Oklahoma Christian School, 33-16, in the second round.

3. Chickasha (home). New on the Panthers' schedule this year, the Fightin' Chicks football team has not enjoyed the same success as the basketball squads. CHS was 0-10 a year ago but will have a host of returning starters who saw action a year ago as freshmen and sophomores.

4. After a bye week, the Panthers

ago. Seniors Shane Rodriguez and Damien Dye are ringleaders for the Redskins and Rusty Hall will have them ready to play.

5. Bethany will visit Harrah in week 6, coming off a 10-3 season with only district losses to Ada and Blanchard marring an 8-2 regular season. Wins over Weatherford and Hilldale propelled the Bronchos into the semifinals where they were eliminated by Ada.

6. Madill was 3-7, 0-6 in district play a year ago, and Harrah will have to make the long journey to Lake Texoma Country for the district game with the Wildcats.

7. Tecumseh remains in the 4A-2 district and Panther fans well remember the thrilling come from behind 30-27 victory by the Harrah club, ruining last year's THS Homecoming. The Savages were 4-6 a year ago.

8. Cushing is also new to the District and the Tigers were 6-4 in the regular campaign before losing to Sperry in the first round of the playoffs. They finished 4-2 to finish third in the district.

9. Tuttle has always proven to be a tough match-up for the Panthers and this year will be no exception. The Tigers handed Ada its only district setback a year ago. The Tigers lost to Plainview and Kingfisher in non-district play and were defeated by Bethany and Blanchard in league action.

10. Senior Night for the Panthers will be against Blanchard, which had an 11-2 record and reached the state semifinals before losing to Heritage Hall. They defeated Elk City and Wagoner in the first two rounds of the playoffs.

The Panthers' 10 foes had a composite record of 62-50 a year ago with seven of the 10 foes reaching the playoffs.

Harrah Schedule

Aug 24	at Anadarko
Aug. 31	at Seminole
Sept. 7	Chickasha
Sept. 21	at McLoud
Sept. 28	Bethany
Oct. 5	at Madill
Oct. 12	Tecumseh*
Oct. 18	Cushing
Oct. 26	at Tuttle
Nov. 2	Blanchard**

* Homecoming, **Senior Night

will open district play a short distance away at McLoud, which pulled off a 27-16 win in the first game in Harrah's new stadium a year