



CLOSE TO IT — Covington (left) lines up against Alcoa in last year's Class 3A state championship game. The Chargers have made four trips to the state title game, only to come up short each time. The Chargers are poised to make another appearance this fall.

Milan has all of the gold; All other Region 7-3A teams want what the Bulldogs have

One team in Region 7-3A is a gold-digger and that team is Milan.

The Bulldogs are the hoarders of all of the gold with four state championships and an impressive 81-35 worksheet in the playoffs. No other team in the region has a golden football in its possession.

Covington has come close with four state final appearances in both Class 3A and 4A. Covington's most recent trip a championship was in 2014 as a Class 4A school.

Westview has tasted the finals one time in 2001, but the Chargers are usually a stalwart in the playoffs.

Bolivar, the team that could make a strong run for a BlueCross Bowl appearance, has yet to make it out of the quarterfinals. McNairy Central has only made to the quarterfinals once and that was nearly 20 years ago.

Bolivar

All-time record: 9-14
Best season(s): 2007 - Class 3A quarterfinals

2007 - beat Fayette Ware 48-20, lost to Lipscomb Academy 38-20

Covington

All-time record: 39-20
Best season(s): 1971 - Class 3A finals, 2003 - Class 3A finals, 2012 - Class 4A finals, 2017 - Class 3A finals

2003 - beat Raleigh Egypt 14-13, beat Ripley 17-14, beat Brighton 34-6, beat Greenbrier 20-6, lost to Fulton 46-9

2012 - beat Hillcrest 55-0, beat Sheffield 42-6, beat Trezevant 23-18, beat Liberty

34-14, lost to Fulton 39-14

2017 - beat Melrose 24-12, beat Milan 21-14, beat Raleigh-Egypt 35-16, beat Pearl-Cohn 31-28, lost to Alcoa 31-20

McNairy Central

All-time record: 6-17
Best season(s): 1998 - Class 3A quarterfinals

1998 - beat Giles County 38-22, beat Spring Hill 26-6, lost to Page 35-34

Milan

All-time record: 84-36
Best season(s): 1971 - Class 2A state champions, 1977, Class 2A state champions, 1998, Class 2A state champions, 1999 - Class 3A state champions

1971 - beat Marshall County 27-0, beat Kingston 7-0

1977 - beat Jackson North Side 14-0, beat Brentwood Academy 27-0, beat MUS 14-6, beat Maryville 28-6

1998 - beat Richland 56-21, beat Huntingdon 17-13, beat Union City 10-0, beat David Lipscomb 16-6

1999 - beat Montgomery Central 59-8, beat Crockett County 45-7, beat Jackson South Side 29-8, beat Covington 28-6, beat Portland 21-14

South Gibson

All-time record: 1-5
Best season(s): 2017 - beat Trezevant 36-8, lost to Raleigh-Egypt 26-14

Westview

All-time record: 28-23
Best season(s): 2001 - Class 2A finals

2001 - beat Memphis Booker T. Washington 42-0, beat Milan 40-21, beat Union City 41-7, beat McKenzie 35-0, lost to Goodpasture 14-0

Friday nights will be fun in Region 7-3A; Big games abound throughout the season

Region 7-3A The Places To Be...

Aug. 17: Westview at Dresden (Hardy Graham Stadium)

The Chargers came close to knocking off the 2016 Class A state champions in the first game of the season. This will be a good one to start off the 2018 campaign.

Aug. 17: Munford at Covington

This is a match-up between two playoff teams from last year. Covington was the Class 3A state runner-up, while Munford got to the second round of the Class 5A playoffs.

Aug. 24: Milan at Trenton

This is a rival game and one that should be a good game to see. The stakes in this one would be even higher if it were a region game. Pride is still on the line, which always makes this an exciting game.

Aug. 31: Westview at Milan

Both teams will want to set the tone for the region. The Chargers can make a huge statement with a win over the Bulldogs, while Milan will look to get its new head coach his first regional win.

Sept. 1: Bolivar at South Gibson

Both teams lost a ton of players to graduation. The Hornets had 20 graduate in May, while the Tigers may not have lost that many, they still got hurt with two high-profile players gone to Division I college programs.

Sept. 14: Milan at Covington

This could be the gateway game to the region title if both teams won their region opener the previous week.

Sept. 14: South Gibson at Westview

A loss by either team will not be the end of the playoff hopes. The winner will be in better shape at making the playoffs.

Sept. 21: Milan at Huntingdon

Forget that the Bulldogs and Mustangs are in different classifications. All of that is thrown out the door when these two teams meet on the gridiron.

Sept. 28: Covington at Westview

Westview will know by the end of the game whether or not it has improved from Week 1. Covington will be Westview's toughest test of the season.

Sept. 28: Milan at Bolivar

This game was thought to be the one for the region title last year. This season it could be for the final playoff spot.

Oct. 19: Westview at Bolivar

The Chargers could clinch a playoff berth for the first time under head coach Clay Cantrell.

Oct. 26: Milan at South Gibson

It is hard to imagine that one of these teams may not be going to the playoffs when this one is over.

R7-A

(Continued from Page 8)

Aug. 31: Dresden at Lake County

This is the one to watch in Region 7A as the winner will most likely go on to claim the region title.

Sept. 7: West Carroll at Dresden

The Lions have had their way with the War Eagles in recent years. West Carroll has improved each of the last two seasons. This may not be the pushover game Dresden has been accustomed to.

Sept. 14: West Carroll at Gleason

Gleason's youth and speed will be put the text against the size and strength of the War Eagles. West Carroll got a shutout over Gleason last year.

Sept. 14: Dresden at Greenfield

County rivalry games always bring out the fans and this one should be a good one with two playoff teams from a year ago. Each team has the potential to put a lot of points on the scoreboard.

Sept. 21: Dresden at Trenton

The Golden Tide snapped Dresden's winning streak last year. The Lions will be looking for some payback in this one.

Sept. 28: Humboldt at Greenfield

The Yellowjackets got their first-ever win over the Vikings last season. They will attempt to make it two straight in front of the home crowd.

Oct. 5: Gleason at Humboldt

The Bulldogs won this game at home last year. Now they will get a chance to see if they can get one on road.

Oct. 5: Obion County at Dresden

The Rebels were a Class A playoff team last year after reeling off four straight wins midway into the season, which included a big one over Dyersburg.

Oct. 12: Greenfield at Gleason

Parks Edward Field is such a fun place attend a football game and this one will be full of fans of both teams.

Oct. 19: Gleason at Dresden

Whatever the standings may be when these two team play each other, it is always a good atmosphere between these rivals.

Oct. 19: South Fulton at West Carroll

A berth in the playoffs could be on the line if these two teams are still in the hunt at this juncture of the season.

Oct. 26: Greenfield at West Carroll

This game had playoff implications one year ago and it could be that way once again.

Oct. 26: Gleason at South Fulton

One or two things could come into the play in this season finale — pride and a possible spot in the playoffs for at least one of these teams.

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