

Eagles' 2020 Nondistrict Opponents Capsules

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Crawford Pirates

Enrollment: 174 (Class 2A Division I).
Last Year's Record: 9-4, 4-1 in District 7-2A Division I.

Last Playoff Appearance: 2019.
Last District Title: 2016.
Head Coach: Greg Jacobs, first year as head coach.

Returning Experience: 15 lettermen, 6 offensive and 7 defensive starters.

Players to Watch: QB-LB Tanner Merenda; RB-DL Garrett Pearson; RB-DB Breck Chambers; OL-DL Cooper Gohlke; OL-DL Carter Hooser; WR-LB Chance Connally.

Strengths: tradition, experience, improved line and linebackers.

Weakness: speed, depth.

Key Stats: Merenda made first-team all-district on offense and defense last year after passing for 826 yards and 10 TDs and making 84 tackles at linebacker. RB Chambers rushed for 886 yards and 8 TDs and earned Freshman of the Year honors in District 7-2A. Crawford has lost only four district games over the last six years.

Noteworthy: The consistent Pirates have had only two losing records in the last 32 seasons ... Crawford drew a No. 12 preseason ranking in Class 2A DI by Texas Football magazine ... Greg Jacobs, who was promoted from within, takes over for Delbert Kelm, who was 130-34 in 13 seasons as the Pirates' head coach. Kelm also was promoted from within ... Crawford is 6-0 all-time against Goldthwaite, with all six meetings since 2014. The Pirates have beaten the Eagles by an average of 35-7.

Cross Plains Buffaloes

Enrollment: 100 (Class 2A Division II).
Last Year's Record: 7-4, 2-2 in District 7-2A DII.
Last Playoff Appearance: 2019.
Last District Title: 1994.
Head Coach: Daniel Purvis, 10th year at Cross

Plains.

Head Coach's Record: 51-47, all at Cross Plains.

Returning Experience: 12 lettermen, 7 offensive and 8 defensive starters.

Players to Watch: RB-LB Cody McWilliams; RB-DB Cason Allen; DL Riley Conlee; OL-LB Strait Oskins; WR-LB Ketch Thomas; WR-DB Noah Moses.

Strengths: experience at skill positions, coaching continuity.

Weaknesses: line experience, overall depth.

Key Stats: RBs McWilliams and Allen last year combined for 1,203 yards and 10 TDs rushing. Allen also had 304 yards and 6 TDs receiving. He intercepted 3 passes on defense. DL Conlee is the top returning tackler with 68 stops last year. LB McWilliams added 65 tackles last year, LB Thomas had 51 tackles and LB Oskins had 43 stops.

Noteworthy: Goldthwaite leads its all-time series against Cross Plains 17-10. The Eagles have won the last eight games in the series that were played between 1982 and 2005. Although Goldthwaite and Cross Plains haven't played in 15 years, they scrimmaged the last two seasons ... The Buffaloes have made the playoffs five straight seasons, but have only one postseason win during that time ... In its seven wins last year, Cross Plains averaged 42 points and allowed 9.5 points. But in their four losses to Christoval twice, Albany and Hamlin, the Buffaloes averaged 10 points and allowed 34.

Olney Cubs

Enrollment: 161 (Class 2A Division II).
Last Year's Record: 0-9, 0-4 in District 4-2A DI.
Last Playoff Appearance: 2006.
Last District Title: 2000.
Head Coach: Jody Guy, 16th season overall, third at Olney.

Coach's Record: 34-119 overall, 2-17 at Olney.
Returning Experience: 13 lettermen, 7 offensive and 6 defensive starters.

Players to Watch: OL-DL Hector Hernandez; WR-DB Carter Hinson; RB-LB Bryan Hernandez;

OL-LB Luis Marquez; RB-DE James Coleman.

Strength: third year in Coach Guy's system.

Weaknesses: depth, lack of winning tradition.

Key Stats: LB Hernandez made 56 tackles last year, and is the Cubs' top returning rusher with 202 yards in 2019. WR Hinson had 286 yards and 4 TDs receiving last year. Olney was outscored by an average of 52-15 last year. The closest the Cubs came to winning was a 48-26 loss to Petrolia. Olney allowed 45 points or more in eight of nine games last year.

Noteworthy: Olney is mired in an eight-year slump that has seen the Cubs lose 76 of 79 games -- including six winless seasons. The Cubs haven't finished with a winning record since going 8-2 in 2007. Jody Guy is the Cubs' fifth head coach since 2008 ... Goldthwaite and Olney have never met on the football field. They played three times in the boys' basketball playoffs between 2014 and 2019, with the Cubs winning all three games.

Florence Buffaloes

Enrollment: 347 (Class 3A Division II).
Last Year's Record: 1-9, 0-4 in District 8-3A DII.
Last Playoff Appearance: 2017.
Last District Title: 1958.
Head Coach: Drew Bridges, fourth season overall, second at Florence.

Coach's Record: 2-28 overall, 1-9 at Florence.
Returning Experience: 15 lettermen, 5 offensive and 5 defensive starters.

Players to Watch: QB Victor Bonilla; OL-DE Said Reyes; RB-DB Abraham Hernandez; OL-DL Angel Maldonado; TE-DE Jared Jimenez.

Strength: line experience.
Weaknesses: inexperienced skill players, loss of 15 seniors, lack of tradition.

Key Stats: Florence's lone win last year was a 42-34 victory against Chilton. The Buffaloes were outscored by an average of 54-14 last year. Their offense was limited to 7 or fewer points six times while their defense allowed 56 or more points seven times.

Noteworthy: Goldthwaite and Florence have played four times, with the Eagles winning all

four games. The scores were 45-7 in 1976, 15-14 in 1977, 40-0 in 1994, and 61-0 in 1995 ... While Florence made the playoffs in 2017, the Buffaloes have not won district since 1958. Their only playoff win came in 1957. The Buffaloes' last winning season was 8-3 in 2001. They enter this season having lost 15 of their last 17 games.

Christoval Cougars

Enrollment: 163 (Class 2A Division II).
Last Year's Record: 10-2, 3-1 in District 8-2A DII.

Last Playoff Appearance: 2019.

Last District Title: 2007.

Head Coach: Casey Otho, fifth year, all at Christoval.

Coach's Record: 30-15.

Returning Experience: 15 lettermen, 6 offensive and 6 defensive starters.

Players to Watch: QB-DB Brayden Wilcox; WR-DB Beau Jolly; RB-LB Josh Fava; OL-DL Westen McCallister; OL-DL Brendon Wilcox; WR-DB Cayden Carpenter.

Strengths: experience at skill positions, speed, veteran QB.

Weakness: inexperienced linemen.

Key Stats: QB Brayden Wilcox last year rushed for 1,937 yards and 25 TDs. The 185-pound senior also passed for 1,397 yards and 23 TDs last season. Christoval returns its top six rushers, including RB Fava, who ran for 950 yards last year. WR Jolly caught 37 passes for 698 yards and 8 TDs last season. Defensively, DB Jolly logged 70 tackles and 9 INTs last year. DB Carpenter added 71 tackles last year, Fava had 62 tackles, and DL Brendon Wilcox made 60 stops.

Noteworthy: Goldthwaite and Christoval have never previously played in football ... Christoval, a former six-man power that was the state runner-up four times from 1985-1991, has now made the 11-man playoffs in seven consecutive seasons. However, the Cougars are just 2-13 in postseason games as an 11-man program. The Cougars averaged 43 points while starting 9-0 last season. Their 2019 defense allowed 15 ppg.

