

Jones

Longhorns ready for Millwood challenge

By John Martin
Staff Writer

Dave Martin and his Jones Longhorns are looking for a fresh start with the 2021 football season.

Not that the 2020 campaign was all that bad as the Longhorns finished 9-3, reached the Class 2A State semi-finals and were ranked in the top 5 from the beginning of the season

But the Corona Virus caused them to miss district games against Prague and Meeker.

The Longhorns also lost again to 3A power Lincoln Christian.

And they lost in the State Playoffs to Washington in a hard-fought 26-22 battle.

But it is the Week 8 loss to Millwood on their home turf that stung the most.

Martin is confident that all those negatives experiences will be erased during the upcoming campaign.

1. Current conditions point toward the Jones Boys playing a full schedule this year.

2. They have a date on Sept. 3 with Lincoln Christian.

3. And they will be primed and ready for the Oct. 22 trip to Millwood.

4. The playoffs will be the Longhorns' chance to shine.

"We are returning 7 returning starters and several other guys who played a lot on offense and we have 8 starters coming back on defense, including TJ Thompson and Kameron Estrada, who are dominant forces for our D-Line.

So these guys have been there. They know what is at stake and we will be ready to go," he said.

The Longhorns will get the jump on most of the state's football squads with a zero week battle with Class 4A power Bethany. The Broncos got an up-close look at Gunslinger Carson May and his stable of sure-handed receivers and when the dust settled, Jones came home with a 31-7 and the No. 2 ranking in Class 2A.



Jones is looking for a deep playoff run after falling to eventual state champion Washington in 2020. PHOTO BY RYAN HORTON

Jones Schedule

Aug. 27	Bethany
Sept. 3	Lincoln Christian
Sept. 10	at Luther
Sept. 24	at Star Spencer
Oct. 1	Chandler
Oct. 8	at Crossing Christian
Oct. 14	Kellyville
Oct. 22	at Millwood
Oct. 29	Prague
Nov. 5	at Meeker

Next up will be the Lincoln Christian battle. The Bulldogs were the defending state Class 3A champs and played like it, outlasting the Longhorns for a hard-fought 35-21 battle. The Longhorns will have the home field advantage at Tim Wallace Memorial Stadium this year in the pre-season battle.

May will take his Aerial Show up the

Hogback Road to Luther to wind up the pre-district tripleheader on week 3. The Longhorns actually beat Luther twice last year, 40-16 in the first game and then 50-20 in the second round of the Class 2A playoffs.

After a week off, Jones will launch its battle to regain the District championship won by Millwood a year ago, opening the 2021 league action at Star-Spencer. The Bobcats were a 46-6 victim a year ago.

Chandler and Prague are picked to gain a playoff slots behind Jones and Millwood. The Longhorns beat Chandler, 27-15, in week No. 6 in 2020 and Prague cancelled its game because of COVID-19 concerns.

After Chandler, the Longhorns will host Crossings Christian at home and will be looking for a repeat of the 44-13 whipping administered a year ago. And who can forget the Kellyville game of a year ago? The Ponies came into the contest on the crest of an offensive explosion during which they were scoring in the 70s with a potent offensive machine.

No problem for Thompson, Estrada and Co. as they held the Ponies to a single touchdown (scored against reserves late in the contest) while May and his buddies piled up 48 points.

And that brings us to Oct. 22 and the always-talented, always well coached and always motivated for a challenge Millwood Falcons, who mounted a second half comeback to post a 30-22 victory, dropping the Longhorns to No. 2 in the district.

When Prague opted out of the final district game, the Longhorns picked up Guthrie and came away with an impressive 32-26 win over the perennial 5A power Bluejays.

The playoffs started well as the Jones enjoyed the comfort of Tim Wallace Stadium for a 41-8 victory over Chisholm and the 50-20 triumph over Luther to reach the semifinals where they were upended by a talented Washington team by a 26-22 margin.

And that's the No. 1 change that Martin and his crew will be concentrating on during the 2021 campaign.