

Parkway only Bossier Parish team that is still unbeaten

Written by Jerry Byrd

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After the first six weeks of the 2012 football season, Parkway's Panthers are the only Bossier Parish team with a perfect record.

Nobody has come close to Coach David Feaster's team this season. Their closest game was a season-opening 36-13 victory over Alexandria Senior High. Since then, Parkway has scored more than 40 points in five consecutive games and none of its opponents have scored more than 14 points.

Parkway also leads Bossier Parish teams in scoring with 271 points, an average of 45.2 per game. The Panthers have allowed 54 points, an average of 9.0 points per game.

Haughton is second among Bossier Parish schools in scoring with 249 points, an average of 41.5 per game, and Louisiana New Tech (Plain Dealing) is third with 246 points, an average of 41 per game.

While Parkway has the best record, the Panthers have also had a softer schedule than the other larger schools in the parish. None of Parkway's first six opponents have won more than three of their first six games. But the level of competition picks up considerably in the next three weeks, starting with Thursday night's District 1-5A game with Byrd at Lee Hedges Stadium. Byrd is 4-0 since a season-opening loss to West Monroe, with the Yellow Jackets' latest victory being a 27-21 win over previously unbeaten Haughton last week.

After the Byrd game, the Panthers will play Airline (5-1) and Haughton (5-1) — a three-game stretch against district opponents with a combined record of 14-3.

Saturday morning, Parkway players and coaches were watching film of the Byrd-Haughton game trying to find some Yellow Jackets' weaknesses — and weren't able to find any.

The Parkway-Haughton game will be televised statewide, but Feaster doesn't want his Panthers looking past this week's opponent. "The big game is right now," he says.

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In other games involving Bossier Parish teams this week, Haughton tries to bounce back from its first loss of the season when the Bucs go to Airline, Benton will be shooting for its second straight District 1-4A win at Northwood, Bossier High (3-3) plays host to Class 2A Lakeview (Campti) in the Bearkats' final non-district game and Louisiana New Tech (Plain Dealing) hosts Haynesville in a matchup of teams that won District 1-A openers last week.

Haughton took a 21-7 lead into the halftime intermission of its game with Byrd last week, but the Yellow Jackets scored 27 unanswered points in the second half — starting with an 80-yard kickoff return by Dominic Haggerty.

“The kickoff return turned the whole game around,” said Haughton coach Rodney Guin. “If they don’t get that, we probably win the game. We also gave up a couple of big punt returns, and they had a long interception return to our 16 yard-line. But our defense played real well.”

Linebacker Robert Kennon and defensive end Ty Shilling led the Bucs' defense.

It doesn't get any easier this week when the Bucs travel to Airline. The Vikings rolled past Captain Shreve 40-13 at Lee Hedges Stadium Friday night

Jerry Byrd is the former sports editor of the Bossier Press-Tribune and an award-winning columnist. Check out a few hundred of his columns on www.jerrybyrd.com. You can contact him by E-mail at jbsportswriter@comcast.net