

Airline, Parkway will have their work cut out for them this week

Written by Jerry Byrd
Monday, 19 November 2012 08:53 -

Airline and Parkway have moved on to the quarterfinals of Class 5A football playoffs, with the Panthers playing host to No. 2-seeded Barbe (Lake Charles) and the Vikings traveling to No. 3-seeded West Monroe Friday.

Parkway advanced by snapping Hahnville's six-game winning streak with a 31-28 win at Hahnville Friday night while Airline, the No. 6 seed in Class 5A, knocked off Jesuit (New Orleans) 10-7 at Airline.

After surviving three-point decisions over lower-seeded opponents last week, both Bossier City teams obviously have their work cut out for them this week.

Parkway is 11-1, losing only to Airline, 31-13. The Panthers have outscored their opponents 476-166, averaging 43.3 points per game and allowing 17.7 per game.

Airline is 10-2, with losses to Class 4A Neville (48-14) and Byrd (31-30). The Vikings have outscored their opponents 383-173, averaging 34.8 points per game and allowing 11.0 points per game.

Barbe brings an 11-1 record to Bossier City. The Buccaneers' only loss was to Class 4A St. Thomas More, 42-35. Barbe has won seven games in a row since then, with the only close game in the seven-game streak being a 31-28 squeaker past Acadiana. Friday night, the Bucs rolled past Byrd, 38-21.

West Monroe takes a 10-2 record into its game with Airline. The Rebels' only loss to a Louisiana opponent was to Class 2A Calvary Baptist, 40-29. Their other loss was to American Heritage of Delray Beach, Fla., 31-7. Friday night, they stomped Acadiana 24-0.

Airline quarterback Hayden Hildebrand completed 13 of 26 passes for 122 yards against Jesuit, scoring the Vikings' only touchdown on a four-yard run. For the season, he has completed 183 of 300 passes for 2,715 yards, breaking his own year-old school record of 2,702 yards passing.

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Bossier High is the only Bossier Parish high school that has won more than one state football championship. The Bearkats were Class A state champs (then the second highest class) in 1942 and 1948. The 1942 team, coached by Ben Cameron, wrapped up a 12-0 season with a 27-12 win at DeQuincy in the championship game. The 1948 Bearkats, coached by Loy Camp, beat Reserve 21-0 in the title game.

Bossier High teams coached by Camp also reached the state finals in 1946 and 1950, with the 1946 team falling to Sulphur, 6-0, and the 1950 team dropping a 7-6 decision to Baker at the end of a 13-2 season in which the Bearkats scored what was believed to be a state record total of 522 points.

The Bearkats' top scorers in 1950 were halfbacks Tony Montalbano with 159 points and Don Millen with 154. Bossier High won the district championship with a 14-13 victory over a Homer team led by future LSU stars Al Doggett and Wrendall Nealy.

The 1950 Bearkats ran for extra points, although rules at that time allowed only one point whether you kicked, ran or passed. Their point total would've been even bigger with today's rules, which allow two points for running or passing for conversion points.

After averaging more than 44 points per game in their first three playoff games, the 1950 Bearkats managed only one touchdown against Baker and didn't make the two-point conversion attempt. That turned out to be the difference in a 7-6 loss.

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