

SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS FOOTBALL WEEK 2

# Pick Six

# Football

**KSHSAA Covered**

## Pick Six: Week 2's football games to watch in South Central Kansas

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### **KAPAUN MOUNT CARMEL (1-0) AT WICHITA EAST (0-1)**

Kapaun rolls into this matchup after opening its season with a 55-0 victory over Wichita South, the Crusaders' fifth shutout in 10 games since Weston Schartz took over as head coach. A pair of sophomores – running back Omari Elias and quarterback Dylan Hamilton – played big roles in the Crusaders' 493-yard effort. Elias ran for 121 yards and two touchdowns on 11 carries, while Hamilton completed 8 of 9 passes for 108 yards and a score. East will be looking to bounce back from a 35-6 loss at Hays in its opener in which the Blue Aces surrendered four third-quarter touchdowns. Big plays hurt East, as Hays scored on runs 58 and 54 yards along with a school-record touchdown pass of 98 yards. East won the teams' last meeting 22-14 two seasons ago, ending a streak of six Kapaun victories in the series.

### **WICHITA NORTHWEST (0-1) AT WICHITA HEIGHTS (1-0)**

Northwest has had an extra day to rebound from a 37-27 season-opening home loss to Bishop Carroll, the Grizzlies' first regular-season defeat since Carroll topped them in the 2017 opener. The Grizzlies fell three spots to No. 4 in KSHSAA Covered's Class 5A rankings after committing four second-half turnovers against the Golden Eagles. Northwest's potent offense still rolled up 511 yards, including 232 on the ground by senior quarterback Geremiah Moore. Heights, meanwhile, scored the final 21 points to rally past Eisenhower 28-23 in the teams' first meeting, which ended minutes before midnight last Friday after a lengthy weather delay. Quarterback D.J. Dingle's 74-yard pass to wideout Chase Harris with 4:29 to play gave the Falcons their first and only lead. Northwest has been tough on Heights in recent matchups, winning 69-0 last November, 79-0 in 2019 and 65-26 in 2018.

### **AUGUSTA (1-0) AT EL DORADO (1-0)**

Both teams head into the Butler County battle with momentum after posting two of the three shutouts by Class 4A teams in the opening week (Eudora had the other). Augusta limited Coffeyville to 26 yards and intercepted two passes in a 48-0 road victory. El Dorado got 103 rushing yards and two touchdowns from Jaydon Sundgren, and limited host Independence to 97 yards of offense in a 36-0 win, the Wildcats' first shutout since 2018. Independence finished with minus-19 rushing yards against El Dorado, which waited out a one-hour, second-quarter weather delay to win its third opener in the last four seasons against the Bulldogs. El Dorado will try for back-to-back victories over Augusta after a 14-7 road victory last season that marked the Wildcats' first win in the series since 2011.

### **HESSTON (1-0) AT HILLSBORO (1-0)**

Hesston has become a perennial thorn for Central Kansas League foe Hillsboro, topping the Trojans each of the last eight seasons. But two of the last three have been thrilling shootouts, including Hesston's 44-39 win a year ago. Both teams enter this matchup on the heels of impressive opening victories – Hesston won at Haven 45-8, while Hillsboro scored all of its points in the first half of a 50-22 victory over Nickerson. Hesston also scored all of its touchdowns before halftime, as sophomore quarterback Hudson Ferralez passed for 208 yards and three touchdowns. Senior Ryan Eilert, a 1,000-yard rusher for the Swathers last season, had 57 yards and three touchdowns. Hillsboro's tandem of quarterback Matthew Potucek and running back Jamari Harris each rushed for three touchdowns against Nickerson.

### **CLIFTON-CLYDE (1-0) AT LITTLE RIVER (1-0)**

For the second straight year, both Little River and Clifton-Clyde go into their regular-season meeting ranked in the top five of Eight-Player Division I -- Little River holding down the No. 4 spot and Clifton-Clyde moving into the rankings this week at No. 5. Last season, the two waged a pair of epic battles, splitting the outcomes. Clifton-Clyde pulled out a 42-36 overtime win in the regular season, holding the Redskins out of the end zone with an interception on their overtime possession before Adien Rudolph scored the game-winner on a 12-yard run. Little River got payback in the playoffs, however, taking a 46-26 win in the second round on its way to capturing the Division I state championship. Both teams had to

reload after replacing star talent like Rudolph (Clifton-Clyde), Jayden Garrison (Little River) and Graham Stephens (Little River), but did so quite nicely in last week's season-opening wins with first-year quarterbacks taking center stage. Normally a run-dominant offense, Clifton-Clyde broke out its passing game behind new signal-caller Jett Skocny, who completed 8 of 13 passes for 151 yards and three touchdowns in a 46-0 win over Onaga. Skocny also ran for 123 yards and Tee Koch, Maison Slater and James Norbert each had a pair of touchdowns for the Eagles. Little River, meanwhile, drubbed Peabody-Burns 2-6 as junior quarterback Rylan Konen ran for 113 yards and two touchdowns and completed both pass attempts for 100 yards and two touchdowns. Grant Stephens added a pair of touchdown runs and the Redskins held Peabody to just 120 yards, including 27 rushing.

### **SEDAN (1-0) AT FLINTHILLS (1-0)**

The fortunes of South Central Border League opponents Sedan and Flinthills have been quite different in recent years, with Sedan posting six consecutive winning seasons, including a 9-1 mark a year ago. Flinthills, meanwhile, entered 2021 with just six victories in the previous eight seasons. But Flinthills, which had lost its opener each of those seasons, ended that in a big way with a 48-0 victory over Cedar Vale-Dexter last week. The Mustangs' road victory was the first for new coach Chase Casteel. Senior Kendall Pinkerton ran for two touchdowns and caught two from junior quarterback Hunter Lowmaster, who also ran for a score and added an interception return for a touchdown as Flinthills scored 24 points in each of the first two quarters. Sedan, which has won five straight over Flinthills since 2010 by an average of 45.6 points, topped St. Paul 50-0 in its opener.