

Blackwell shuts out Throckmorton to continue playoff run

Blackwell blasted Throckmorton 46-0 in the second round of the playoffs Friday night as the Hornets achieved a 12-0 record for the first time in program history. The game ended at the half as the hornets started off slow with a 14-0 first quarter lead. But Blackwell put 32 points on the board in the second quarter. The highlight of the game was a pick six by Zach Panzer in the second quarter. Cameron Coldiron scored two touchdowns and Michael Lowry passed for two and ran for one. Blackwell advances to the third round where they will face top-ranked Jayton in Borden County.

1st Quarter

8:16 Lowry to Clower 9 yd, PAT Toasaksiri GOOD;

5:21 Lowry to Guia 20 yd, PAT Toasaksiri NO GOOD.

Blackwell - 14
Throckmorton - 0

2nd Quarter

8:50 Lowry 37 yd, PAT Toasaksiri GOOD;

5:37 Coldiron 1 yd, PAT

Toasaksiri GOOD;

Panzer 45 yd INT, PAT Toasaksiri GOOD;

2:12 Coldiron 5 yd, PAT Toasaksiri GOOD.

Final Score

Blackwell - 46

Throckmorton - 0

Offensive Statistics

Passing

Michael Lowry - 4 of 6 / 57 / 2 TD.

Rushing

Cameron Coldiron - 10 / 97 / 2 TD;

Devin Clower - 1 / 10;

Michael Lowry - 5 / 50;

Brenden Scott - 1 / 6.

Receiving

Devin Clower - 1 / 9 / TD;

Joel Guia - 2 / 28 / TD;

Zach Panzer - 1 / 20.

Defensive Statistics

Brenden Scott - 7 tackles;

Zach Panzer - 8 tackles;

Joel Guia - 9 tackles;

Sam Brinkman - 6 tackles;

Nathaniel Shipman - 5

tackles;

Cameron Coldiron - 5

tackles / FR;

Michael Lowry - 1 tackle.



Worth Being Thankful

by James M. Decker

It's Thanksgiving. Last year, I wrote about the history of our Thanksgiving. I wrote that our forefathers found reasons to be thankful when their daily affairs were not pleasant and their survival was not guaranteed. If they could see their blessings amidst trial and tribulation, we could surely find reasons to be thankful too.

That holds true this year. Even when we're down, even when we're struggling, Americans are still wealthier than almost every other person on earth. It's easy to take for granted the bare essentials of our lives, but they're luxuries beyond comprehension for many on the planet.

One thing that I see us struggling to appreciate is ourselves. Recently, I read an Instagram post by a very successful actress. She confessed to struggling with her body image over the years and she encouraged her fans to do what she did: look in the mirror every day and say, "this is beautiful. I am beautiful. All of this is beautiful." She wrote that after a period of time, the words resonated and she began to actually believe them. She hoped her fans would do the same.

If we're being real and raw,

we all understand that. We all struggle to truly be thankful for ourselves in some way. We may struggle with our body image. We may struggle with our fitness or our health. We may be unhappy with our career or personal life. We may be successful, but we're stressed and overwhelmed by what we've built. We beat up ourselves over all the things we haven't done. We feel guilty about all the things we HAVE done and shouldn't have. We may undermine our own happiness and success by comparing ourselves to others who are seemingly happier or more successful. We may be our own worst critic, ready to blame ourselves viciously whenever something goes wrong, no matter how trivial.

I see this everywhere. I see it in teenagers. I see it in adults. I see it in parents. I see it in community leaders. I see it vented on social media. I see it in people trying for a fresh start in life after a series of struggles. I see it in people who seemingly "have it made." Doubting ourselves is one of the most universal of human conditions.

It breaks my heart. People who I love and respect are riddled with anxiety and stress because they're their own harshest critic. These struggles eat away at us. Sometimes, mental illness creeps in. Depression takes root. Some turn to substance abuse or face suicidal thoughts. But many times, we simply can't see the good in ourselves because we fixate on the flaws.

This year on Thanksgiving, can we all try to just STOP IT? None of us are perfect. We could all be healthier, wealthier, more successful, more efficient,

less cluttered, and better looking. And guess what? That's okay! If we were all the most perfect, flawless version of ourselves, this would be a superhero movie and the plot would probably be pretty boring. We all live in a flawed, broken world full of traps and temptations, but no matter what, we are all beautiful humans who are made in the image of God.

As we count our blessings on Thanksgiving, I hope we start with ourselves. If we don't truly love the person we see in the mirror, we can't truly love the people around us. When we look in the mirror, we see something different, but yet, we all see the the same thing: something worth being thankful for.

Remember, friends: this is beautiful. You are beautiful. All of this is beautiful. And be thankful for that. For yourself.

James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and mayor in Stamford, Texas, and the creator of the forthcoming "West of 98" podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at facebook.com/james.decker.

Start the ho-ho-holiday season at a Texas State Park, Historic Site

Dust off the tinsel and twinkle lights and head to a Texas State Park for some holiday fun. Forty-five Texas State Parks and 10 Texas Historical Commission State Historic Sites will be decking the halls and creating some holiday cheer at more than 80 events statewide beginning this Saturday and continuing through December.

On December 14, Abilene State Park will be hosting the Fa La La in the Forest event from 6-9 p.m. Campers are encouraged to adorn their campsites, screened shelters and yurts with lights and decorations in honor of the holiday season. Campsite fees will be waived the day of the event for anyone who wants to decorate their site. The public is invited to tour the park and take in the twinkling lights on display. Anyone interested in decorating a campsite must contact the park in advance at 325-572-3204.

Walk the candlelit paths at Barrington Plantation State Historic Site from 4:30 pm to 8 pm December 6 - 7 and experience a Texas Christmas the decade before the Civil War. Visitors will be able to discover the origins of some of their favorite holiday traditions as costumed interpreters bring to life the festivities of the season with musket-fire, music and dancing. Attendees will also be able to tour the historic home of the last President of the Texas Republic, Dr. Anson Jones, as the family enjoys their Christmas gathering.

In South Texas, families can pick a spot in the day use area of Falcon State Park to view the Second Annual Falcon Lake Christmas Boat Parade

from 7 pm to 10 pm, December 14. Visitors will be able to see boats float by decked out in cheerful Christmas lights.

Walk off the stuffing and pie at the Turkey Trot event at Franklin Mountains State Park in El Paso at 8:30 am on November 29. Staff will lead visitors on a moderately difficult trail to the Aztec Caves in the Franklin Mountains. The trail is about one and a half miles and participants are encouraged to bring comfortable shoes and plenty of water.

Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site will be hosting the 50th Annual LBJ Tree Lighting, a special holiday tradition started by President and First Lady Johnson. Families will be able to enjoy carolers, a live nativity, Santa Claus, refreshments and the spectacular tree lighting. Visitors can travel the trails and revisit Christmases from the past at Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm, which will be decorated in early German-Texan holiday decorations. The event begins at 4:30 pm, with the tree lighting scheduled for 5:30 pm, and runs until 8 pm on December 15.

In the Panhandle, discover the ghosts of Palo Duro Canyon State Park's past as figures of the canyon's rich history come to life during a walk back in time. Visitors will be able to hear the voices Charles Goodnight, Isabel Robinson and a Civilian Conservation Corps enrollee, just to name a few. Participants are encouraged to bring red flashlights, water and appropriate clothing for the weather. The event begins at 6 pm on December 14 and tours will meet at the Soapberry Day Use area. Tours will depart at 15-minute intervals and there will be four groups total.

Ray Roberts Lake State Park's Johnson Unit will be hosting a day of Thanksgiving celebrations beginning at 9 am on November 23. Families can learn to cook a Dutch oven dish for Thanksgiving this year and try samples of different Dutch oven cuisines. At 11 am, there will be crafts and a game hosted in honor of the turkey. The day finishes off with a trap ball turkey tournament at 2 pm.

Ever wonder how Santa gets around the marsh to visit good little boys and girls? By air boat of course! Santa and Mrs. Claus have booked a cabin at

Sea Rim State Park and will be arriving for their stay by air boat. From 3 pm to 6 p.m on December 14, kids will have a chance to take a picture with Santa when he arrives and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies at the park. Children can also make homemade ornaments during this marshy Christmas event. Entrance fees are waived for the event or visitors can arrive early and pay entrance fees to visit the beach before Santa arrives.

At the Starr Family Home State Historic Site, visitors can celebrate the holiday season from 10 am to noon on December 7 with craft making, story time and cookie making the whole family can take part in.

For more information about holiday activities at Texas State Parks, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website. A full calendar is available online on the TPWD calendar page. For activities at THC's State Historic Sites, visit the Texas Historical Commission website.

Photos of past holiday events are available on the TPWD Flickr page.

Want to bring Texas State Parks home for the holidays? Commemorate parks and the holidays with a Texas State Park ornament. For more than 15 years, the annual park Christmas ornament has featured some of the most recognizable Texas State Parks landscapes. The 2019 ornament introduces a redesigned ornament style. The metal ornament features photo-quality artwork in stunning color with rich, laser-etched textures and detail.

This year, the ornament depicts the iconic Lighthouse, a geological structure in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Located south of Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle, this majestic park is home to the nation's second largest canyon.

The annual Christmas ornament can be purchased exclusively online for \$19.95 each. Purchase by December 10 for likely arrival before Christmas. Tax and shipping fees apply.

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine is also offering a special subscription deal for the holidays. Anyone can give two gift subscriptions to the magazine for just \$15. Don't want to feel left out? Give yourself the gift of the outdoors for an additional \$5. Subscriptions can be ordered online at <http://bit.ly/MagHoliday19>.

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