

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

*Serving Coke County*

Single Copy 50¢



(USPS 467-480)  
(ISSN 8750-197X)

Vol. 124, No. 07

Friday, August 26, 2011

## Football season begins this weekend for area teams

By Melinda McCutchen,

Publisher

Football season is once again upon us. I visited with the head coaches on Monday to get their takes on what's in store for their teams this season. Overall, I would say they were each cautiously optimistic.

Blackwell's Coach Nathan Hayes reported that his team's two scrimmages, the first with Jayton and the second with Veribest and Westbrook, were a good learning experience for his young team. With no seniors and only four juniors, the Hornets are a young team who will learn from the mistakes made in the last couple of weeks.

With fourteen players on the Blackwell roster, numbers are up from previous seasons. However, currently they have two kids down for 4-6 weeks with injuries. Coach Hayes is pleased that his team really wants to learn and has a strong desire to succeed. "I am really proud of the effort this group is putting out. They come in, don't complain and always put forth their best effort."

He believes the tough early schedule the Hornets face will have them ready to compete for the district title. With a district comprised of

Novice, Paint Rock and Panther Creek, he feels Panther Creek will be their toughest adversary.

Robert Lee's Coach Shay Avants felt like the Steers played "pretty decent" in their first scrimmage against Westbrook. Unfortunately, the second scrimmage against May ended early due to Steers' injuries. One player ended up with a broken arm and another had a badly bruised collar bone.

The bench for the Steers is pretty short with only eleven players. The good news is that there is a group of juniors that have been starting together since the ninth grade.

When asked about the Steers toughest district competition, Coach Avants pointed to Water Valley. "They have lots of talent and one of the best six-man coaches in the state. They're gonna be tough." He feels the Steers have a great shot at being competitive in the district, comprised of Veribest, Water Valley and Eden, if they can stay healthy.

"Justin Gartman is throwing the ball really well. Zach Skinner and Will Howard are doing a good job of catching the ball and making plays. Bailey Smith is running the ball really well. We have two



**Car Show!** This 1929 Model A Ford, exhibited by Roy Rose of Ballinger, was the "Chamber's Choice" at the third annual Car Show held in Bronte Saturday, August 20, 2011.

freshmen, Jerry Wofford and Michael Tijerina, who have really impressed me."

Following last year's season led by a solid group of seniors, everyone may wonder how the Bronte Longhorns will look this year. According to Coach Kevin Burns, they're doing really well. "This is an opportunity for these guys to step up and take their turn at

leadership."

Although the first scrimmage was cut short due to bad weather, the Longhorns played great against Rotan in their first outing. Albany was a little more difficult with the older kids holding their own and the younger players showing the coaches where work was still needed.

No season ending injuries have cropped up yet, but several players are questionable for Friday's game against Junction.

Mason Hoyt received a shoulder injury during the Rotan scrimmage. Three more players were hurt against Albany. They include Thoren Charles with a hip flexor problem, Jared Scott with a sprained ankle, and Beau Rousseau with an aggravated knee.

Due to injuries, the Horns could be facing a problem with depth at certain positions. The Longhorns have twenty-eight players this year, with six seniors and nine juniors.

Starting the regular season against Junction at home, the Longhorns will begin a strenuous pre-district series of workouts. Junction is returning twenty-seven juniors and seniors. Coach Burns

feels confident about the district action, which will include Cross Plains, Menard, TLCA, Miles, Christoval, and Irion County. "Miles and Menard should provide our biggest competition in district. However, Irion County will be much improved and TLCA will be improved."

"I am optimistic about this year's team. We have two of the better running backs in the district with Jordan Baumann and Creed Coalson and we'll field a great defense. We should be rolling really good going into district."

Bronte will host Junction at home Friday evening, beginning at 7:30 pm. Robert Lee and Blackwell will both travel to McCamey for Saturday games. A total of five games will be played, beginning at 10:30 am. Blackwell is scheduled for 3 pm and Robert Lee at 5:30 pm. However due to six-man's 45 point rule, games could be called early so these times are approximations only.

Our local students deserve their community's support, so do your best to attend your school's sporting events.

### Football Scrimmages



**ROBERT LEE STEERS**

vs.

**Fort Davis Indians**

**5:30 pm • Saturday, August 27 • McCamey**

**BRONTE LONGHORNS**

vs.

**Junction Eagles**

**7:30 pm • Friday, August 26 • Bronte**



**BLACKWELL HORNETS**

vs.

**Water Valley Wildcats**

**3 pm • Saturday, August 27 • McCamey**