

PRE-SEASON PICKS 2009

5 A BOYS

1. S.A. Wagner
2. Cedar Hill
3. Duncanville
4. DeSoto
5. A. Westlake
6. G. Lakeview
7. Plano West
8. La Porte
9. S.A. Madison
10. H. Bellaire
11. McAllen
12. Bryan
13. Klein Forest
14. S.A. Clark
15. Elsik
16. M. Lee
17. N. Crowley
18. Cy Woods
19. Judson
20. F.M. Marcus

In 2009 **Clifton Ellis** of S.A. Wagner brought the Thunderbirds to the final four for the first time in the school's brief history. He is now excited about building this year's team around all-state players Jordan Clarkson and Andre Robertson and four other returners from last year's 32-8 regional champion. Tres **Ellis** of Westlake is also excited as he welcomes back his top seven players from a 26-8 area finalist. **John Valenzuela** of S.A. Madison has two starters from a 34-2 area finalist and McAllen coach **Roy Swift** returns three starters from a 33-5 regional qualifier. At least five other teams could represent region 4.

Cedar Hill (35-4) made it to the title game last year and 15 picked to repeat. **David Milson** returns three starters and ten lettermen from that state 5A runner-up, including his son Tanner, who was all-region. As always, Cedar Hill will have plenty of challenges, starting with district 7 rival Duncanville. The Panthers welcome new coach **Eric McDade**, who took 4A Timberview to the final four last year. Longtime coach **Phil McNeely** retired, but left coach McDade with returners from a 27-10 regional finalist that lost to Cedar Hill three times last year, including a one-point loss in the regional final. **Anthony Morgan** at Plano West welcomes back two all-regional picks and nine lettermen from a 30-3 regional quarterfinalist. Six other strong challengers make this region tough.

DeSoto is the defending region 2 and 5A state champion. Although they lost four seniors, including an all-state performer, the Eagles will be tough again and could repeat. Coach **Chris Dyer** returns eight veterans, and his teams always play hard. **Tony Mauldin** at Garland Lakeview was a 19-12 area finalist, but only one player graduated and the top 8 scorers return. **John Reese** at Bryan lost 9 seniors from last year's 30-3 area champion, but he returns his son Jay-Michael, who was all-state as a freshman. **Carey Block** at Klein Forest welcomes back nine lettermen from a regional quarterfinalist and could represent region 2.

Region 3 is a toss-up, with La Porte and Bellaire the early favorites. **Chris Mason** returns three all-district players from last year's 28-10 area finalist at La Porte, and **Bruce Glover's** Cardinals return two all-district players from a 24-8 playoff team. Twelve other teams got votes from the coaches' poll and could easily represent this region with **Tim Martin's** Elsik Rams, **Royce Huseman's** Kingwood Mustangs, **Ronny Courtney's** Bush Broncos, **John Castle's** Atascocita Eagles and **Dan Miller's** Seven Lakes Spartans among them.

4 A BOYS

1. Yates
2. Palo Duro
3. Lancaster
4. D. Kimball
5. Lake Travis
6. Ozen
7. F.W. Dunbar
8. Sherman
9. Austin LBJ
10. LaMarque
11. Timberview
12. Brenham
13. D. Lincoln
14. Legacy
15. Kerrville Tivy
16. Kingwood Park
17. Denison
18. H. Jones
19. South Oak Cliff
20. Highland Park

The Yates Lions stormed through the play-offs on the way to the 4A state championship, and their domination won't anytime soon. Coach **Greg Wise** welcomes back all five starters and eleven veterans of that 34-1 season, including all-state players Joseph Young and Brandon Peters. Among the teams hoping for an upset, Beaumont Ozen would be at the top of the list. Coach **Marquis Saveat** returns enough athleticism to play with Yates and enough discipline to try to slow them down. Ozen was a 26-6 regional quarterfinalist in 2009. Brenham coach **Bruce King** returns four starters from a 22-13 regional quarterfinalist, and **Quincy Shelton** at Jones was 29-7 a year ago, losing to Yates in the regional final. The Falcons would like another chance at the regional and state champs. **Cedric Mason** at LaMarque will build around district MVP Julien Lewis and seven returners to improve on a 24-11 area finalist.

Palo Duro fell to Timberview by a basket in last year's regional final, but the Dons are reloaded and ready. Coach **Jeff Evans** will build around all-state Michael Collins (6'8") to improve on their 27-5 season. **Robert Hughes Jr.** at Fort Worth Dunbar (22-12) and **Marchie Murdock** at Mansfield Legacy (25-9) were both area champs and return an all-region player to anchor their deep lineups. And don't forget Timberview. Last year's regional champ welcomes new head coach **Duane Gregory** and two all-district players return to that 27-11 final four team.

Lancaster is a narrow favorite in region 2. Coach **Ferrin Douglas** returns four starters for a regional finalist. Defending regional champ Kimball returns ten veterans from a 30-9 state finalist, and a tough schedule will prepare **Royce Johnson's** Knights for the playoffs. Sherman coach **Jeff McCullough** welcomes back all-state player Cameron Clark and four lettermen from a 27-7 regional qualifier. Denison also has all-state T.J. Taylor for new coach **Jody Bass** to build around, with five lettermen joining him from a 21-11 area finalist. Don't forget **Leonard Bishop's** Lincoln Tigers where three all-district players return from a 27-6 area champ.

Last year Lake Travis missed the final four by one point and **Jan Jernberg** returns three decorated starters to improve on a 31-4 season. Defending regional champ LBJ also returns 3 starters for coach **Freddie Roland's** 28-8 squad and **Brian Young's** Kerrville Tivy squad will be much improved from their 19-16 area season with 4 starters back and they could be the dark horse.

3 A B O Y S

1. **D. Madison**
2. **Estacado**
3. **Stafford**
4. **Pleasant Grove**
5. **West Oso**
6. **Cleveland**
7. **L. Hudson**
8. **S.A. Houston**
9. **Liberty Hill**
10. **Navasota**
11. **Hardin-Jefferson**
12. **Burkburnett**
13. **Crandall**
14. **Seminole**
15. **Silsbee**
16. **Sweeny**
17. **Gatesville**
18. **Kennedale**
19. **Crockett**
20. **Aransas Pass**

In 2009 Dallas Madison won the 3A state championship and coach **Damien Mobley** returns three starters and seven lettermen from that 33-4 team, including the Flentroy brothers. Desmond was all-state and Timothy all-region and they welcome a 21-3 J.V. team to fill any gaps. Stafford lost to Madison in the semi-finals and plans on a different ending this year. **Eric Jackson** returns all-state performer Maurice Wiltz, plus two all-region selections as 11 of his top 15 are back from that 30-6 final four outfit. **Anthony Wagner** at Lubbock Estacado (34-3) wants another shot at the defending champs and all-state Kevin Wagner leads a change of 9 veterans that lost to Madison in the finals. All three teams have the firepower to show up in Austin again.

That leaves only region III with a new favorite for 2010. Cleveland will start the year favored to represent as Coach **Roderick Broussard** returns four starters and 9 lettermen from last year's 25-7 regional quarterfinalist, including an all-region and two all-district performers. **Rob Peterson** at Lufkin Hudson lost only two seniors from his 27-7 regional qualifier and he has an all-region player back. Navasota coach **Donald Wesley** has four starters and eight veterans back from a 26-3 area finalist and is a threat to go to Austin. But, all these teams lost to Hardin-Jefferson a year ago and **Todd Sutherland** doesn't have a bare cupboard. He returns an all-region star and has 14 players who made the trip to Austin in 2009 and each wants to continue the Hawks tradition.

Texarkana Pleasant Grove just missed the final four a year ago losing in the regional finals to Madison 58-55. **Clay Busby** has an all-region selection, among three starters and six lettermen from that 30-7 team. Meanwhile, Crandall and Kennedale will battle it out in district 12 and both could represent. Stan Short (26-8) area finalist) has 3 starters back and **Doug Groff** returns everybody from a 15-16 team, rebuilding after watching the Wildcats win state in 2008, so Madison must beware in region II.

Region I has plenty of challenges too. **Barry Boren** at Liberty Hill welcomes back all-state Michael Farace, five lettermen and a 22-3 J.V. from a 30-5 regional tournament team. **Danny Nix** has two all-district performers, among seven lettermen and a 24-5 J.V. and hopes to improve on last year's 29-5 regional qualifier. Last year Seminole surprised everyone by reaching the regional final before getting crushed by Estacado. But, coach **Paul Page** has everyone back from that 22-13 team and they want to take the last step.

In region IV, everyone else is trying to figure out how to stop Stafford. West Oso was overwhelmed by the Spartans in the regional final, but has an all-region player and a lot of pride and tradition working for **Arnold Flores**' 30-6 regional finalist. S.A. Sam Houston will prepare with a tough schedule and **Ike Thorton** has three starters back from a 22-11 area finalist. Sweeny will get two shots at Stafford in district 26 and the Bulldogs won't back down. Coach **Shannon Hooker** will blend two all-district players with a 20-1 J.V. and a 21-4 freshman group trying to improve last year's 26-7 regional qualifier.

2 A B O Y S

1. **New Waverley**
2. **G. Sabine**
3. **Bushland**
4. **Ponder**
5. **Hallettsville**
6. **Arp**
7. **Clarksville**
8. **Edgewood**
9. **Wall**
10. **Jim Ned**
11. **Santa Rosa**
12. **Melissa**
13. **Godley**
14. **S.A. Cole**
15. **Kountze**
16. **Olney**
17. **Eastland**
18. **S.A. Randolph**
19. **Hearne**
20. **Hitchcock**

New Waverley coach **Billy Goffney** has brought the Bulldogs to Austin for the past two year. He feels like the third time will be the charm as he welcomes back three starters and seven lettermen, two of which were all-region selections, from last year's 32-4 state runner-up. Last year Gladewater Sabine lost to New Waverley by one in the regional title game. Coach **Tim Davis** returns all-stater Colton Kirk and two other all-district picks from a 35-5 regional finalist. **Brian Keith** at Arp (22-9) and **Duane Joubert** at Kountze (22-11) both return an all-region pick from an area champion and will try to stop the rematch from happening.

Bushland is the favorite in region I due to the return of an all-state and an all-region selection, included with another returning starter. Coach **Steve Rhodes** will build around Michael Matthews and eight lettermen from a 20-9 regional qualifier. Wall coach **Doug Gordon** returns an all-region and an all-district selection to go with a 25-2 J.V. Ray Morris at Shallowater (27-6) only has one returning starter, but they have made trips to Austin before including last year. **Steve Bryant** at Jim Ned (20-10) takes over for **Hunter Cooley**, and inherits all-state selection Blake Allen to try to make it back to the final four.

It is hard not to pick Ponder as the favorite in region II, even though the Lions return only one starter from their 40-1 state champion. Coach **Doug Boxell** has moved to the college ranks, but former assistant **Jude Stanley** moves over from Sanger to keep the tradition going. The one starter is an all-region pick, and Ponder has plenty of young players waiting their turn. **Joe Sigler** at Clarksville is anxious for the year to begin as nine of his top twelve return from a 24-10 area champion. **Jay Jameson** at Edgewood has three returning starters, including an all-region pick from a 29-8 regional tournament team, so it won't be easy for Ponder to repeat.

The region IV favorite is Hallettsville, where all-state selection Dante Haynes will lead the charge. He welcomes back four starters and eight lettermen, including another all-region pick from last year's 34-3 area champions. Santa Rosa won the region last year and **Johnny Cipriano's** Warriors only lost two seniors from their top eleven players. All-state Mark Cordero will lead the 30-7 final four team. **Herb More** at S.A. Cole (25-7 area finalist) and **Tim Gendron** at S.A. Randolph (31-3 regional finalist) each return three starters and will be in the hunt.

1 A BOYS, DIV. I

1. Cayuga
2. Sudan
3. Mumford
4. Roscoe
5. Tenaha
6. Gruver
7. Bronte
8. Sabinal
9. M. Bland
10. Detroit
11. Itasca
12. D. Gateway
13. Clarendon
14. Italy
15. Anton
16. S.A. Stacey
17. Bremond
18. Wheeler
19. Mt. Enterprise
20. Normangee

Last year Cayuga was the preseason #1 in class A division I and they fell in the regional finals to Tenaha. But, **Greg Jenkins** can count on all-stater C.J. Wagner and two all-region selections from that 21-4 team and they are ready to finish the job. **Todd Bodden** would like for his Tenaha Tigers to return to Austin, and they have three starters and ten lettermen from that 29-6 regional champ. Merit Bland coach **Joe Moore, Clint Creed** of Mt. Enterprise, and **Steve Drummond** at Detroit each return an all-region selection, among several starters and are definite contenders.

The region I favorite is Sudan, where coach **Warren Swarb** welcomes back all-state player B.J. Davis (6'7"), plus an all-region selection from a 20-14 area champion. Gruver returns three starters and eight lettermen from a 25-9 regional finalist. With an all-region choice among the starters, **Troy Segler** feels they can get to Austin. **Clint Coley** at Clarendon also has an all-region player among three starters, plus a 20-2 J.V. team to help improve on a 19-7 area finalist. **Donnie Dutton** at Anton has an all-region performer and wants to improve on a 28-7 regional semi-finalist, so region I has much competition.

Mumford is the favorite in region IV, and Coach **Chris Sodek** has four veterans to work around all-state player Eric Corona, to improve on a 29-5 area champion. But, it won't be easy, since **David Navarro** at Sabinal has everyone back from a 21-10 regional tournament team and **Mike Flores** at Stacey has an all-region player returning from their 26-6 final four team. Bremond will battle Mumford for district, as well as regional supremacy. Coach **Robbie Kasowski** returns three veterans, including an all-region selection from a 17-8 regional finalist.

Region II is wide open, but the champion should come from district 11 or 15. Last year Bronte was the district 11 champion, but runner-up Roscoe won the region and the class A-I state championship. Roscoe coach **Johnny Martin** will rebuild around all-state selection Caden Smith and enough firepower to repeat the 28-4 championship season. Bronte was eliminated in triple overtime in the area round, missing an opportunity to beat the Plowboys a third time. Coach **Rocky Rawls** welcomes back three starters, including his twin sons Dakota and Kerwin to improve on last year's 26-5 season. **Brad Thompson** at Albany and **Josh Fostel** at Eula will try to keep one of them from the playoffs. In district 15, Italy was a 24-11 regional finalist for coach **Kyle Holly**. **Joe Berry** at Gateway (20-11 area finalist) and **Jimmy Lott** at Itasca (27-9 area champ), return all-state selections Jimmy Sykes and Desmond Guyand and enough support to represent.

1 A BOYS, DIV. II

1. E. Slocum
2. Laneville
3. Leggett
4. Nazareth
5. Vega
6. Lipan
7. Ira
8. Brookland
9. Paducah
10. Ft. Davis
11. Miller Grove
12. Goodrich
13. Hen. Midway
14. Grady
15. Clavert
16. Kress
17. Bordon Co.
18. Priddy
19. Moulton
20. Groom

For the last two years, either Laneville or Slocum has been the state champion in class A division II. Like last year, both teams are loaded and will square off twice in district 24, before deciding the championship in region III. For now, coach **Jay Bruce** and his defending champ Mustangs get the nod, due to the return of all-state selection Randall Thomason and eight lettermen from the 29-8 state champion. Coach **Brian Nichols** also has a returning all-state honoree in Gerraylon Carey to go with eight players who experienced the state title two years ago, as well as last year's 29-6 regional finalist. If both should falter, coach **Justin Barnes** of Henrietta Midway and **Greg Billingsly** of Miller Grove both return four starters from last year's 27-6 area finalist and 23-10 area champs respectively.

The region IV favorite is defending regional champ Leggett where **Daryl Mason** returns all-state performer Joe Johnson among 7 letterman from a 28-7 final four team. **Gerry Stappert** at Brookland also has an all-stater in Zach Garrett from last year's area champion. As if district 25 weren't tough enough with those two, **Lester King** and his always tough Goodrich Hornets are seeking their 20th consecutive playoff appearance, and he has enough veterans to improve on last year's 29-6 regional finalist.

Region I boasts some heavy weights, as well with **Zach Boxell's** Nazareth team ready to take the last step. Last year's 24-13 state finalist returns four starters, including an all-region performer. But, Vega has their own plan. Coach **Todd Schroeder** returns two all-region selections from last year's 30-4 team that fell in overtime to Nazareth in the regional finals. Fort Davis coach **Jarime Baethge** has seven veterans back from his 23-4 area finalist and will lead the spoilers.

In region II in order to reach Austin, you must get by Lipan. **Cody Chandler** has three starters, including an all-region performer, from last year's 28-9 final four squad. But **Bubba Edwards'** Ira Bulldogs (28-6) and **Charles Willison's** Paducah Dragons (27-6) both lost to Lipan in last year's regional tournament and are ready to even the score.

5A GIRLS

1. Cy Fair
2. M. Summit
3. Pflugerville
4. Duncanville
5. Skyline
6. I. MacArthur
7. Northshore
8. Arlington Bowie
9. S.A. Jay
10. Hightower
11. H. Bellaire
12. S.A. Wagner
13. Cedar Park
14. College Park
15. L. Coronado
16. Elsik
17. DeSoto
18. Harl. South
19. Cinco Ranch
20. Midland

Last year Mansfield Summit won it all and **Tammy Lusinger** returns 7 of her top 9 players to try and repeat that 32-4 season. Cy-Fair (35-4) lost in the state semi-finals to Summit and **Ann Robique** plans to return to Austin and bring home the championship they won in 2008. Ann has back Chiney Ogwumike and Cassie Peoples both of whom were all-state last year and if successful this would be Chiney's fourth final four. Pflugerville coach **Nancy Walling** is also planning a return to the Erwin Center and she has 9 veterans surrounding all-state center Nneka Enemkpali, working on improvement of that 32-6 season, so the state tournament could look like a rerun in 2010.

Region III could provide the only new 5A player in the season's biggest tournament. The front runners appear to be Northshore, Hightower and Bellaire. **Allison Campbell's** Mustangs (29-8 area champs) return 3 starters and 7 letter winners and a 24-5 J.V. **Deborah Mize** has 9 veterans and a 21-1 J.V. to improve on a 32-7 regional qualifier for the Hurricanes. **Mike Kramer's** Lady Cardinals have 3 starters returning for a 31-4 regional finalist. At least 7 other teams could represent region III.

Cy-Fair's chief challenger will be Dallas Skyline where **Cassandra McCurdy** watched her Lady Raiders fall to Summit by 3 points last year. Skyline returns 8 of its top 11 players, including all-state Krystle Henderson and an all-region choice. Cedar Park (31-7 area champ) has **Mark Myers** excited and College Park (35-3 regional finalist) gives **Kip Anderson** plenty of ammunition. Both had ultra successful J.V. teams to fill any voids.

Summit faces many obstacles, just like last year. **Cathy Self-Morgan** is loaded with all-state Akil Simpson, plus an all-region pick, leading the 26-11 regional finalists. The Pantherettes will warm up for the play-offs in tough district 7 and the prime opponent will be **Suzie Oelschlagel's** Irving MacArthur squad. The Lady Cardinals were 35-4 regional semi-finalists and also have all-state Odyssey Sims to go with an all-regional selection. Arlington Bowie will fight for supremacy in district 4 with Summit. **Wanda Talton** returns 10 veterans from a 30-8 regional semi-finalist that lost twice to Summit.

Pflugerville also faces danger in the form of **Mike Floyd's** S.A. Jay team. The Lady Mustangs were 35-6 and lost to Pflugerville in the regional final. Jay returns all-state Erica Donovan, an all-region selection and 2 other all-district honorees. Seven other region IV teams return an all-region selection and are striving for an upset.

4A GIRLS

1. M. Timberview
2. Frisco
3. Hays
4. C. Steele
5. Canyon
6. Lincoln
7. Kingwood Park
8. Palo Duro
9. Arl. Seguin
10. W. Midway
11. Rockwall
12. Marble Falls
13. West Mesquite
14. C.C. Ray
15. B. Central
16. Plainview
17. Waxahachie
18. H. Washington
19. Willis
20. Killeen

In 2009 Mansfield Timberview fell to state champion Waco Midway in the finals. **Candi Harvey** returns two all-state performers in Keena Mays and Meagan Conwright from that 35-3 state runner-up. They have enough help to make Timberview the favorite in region I and class 4A. But, the Lady Wolves will be looking north with more than casual interest. Hall of Fame coach **Joe Lombard** returns 4 starters, seven letter winners and a 23-1 J.V. to help continue the Canyon tradition and improve on a 28-4 regional tournament season. **Danny Wrenn** at Plainview has everyone back from a 23-9 playoff team and **A.J. Johnson** at Palo Duro has 2 all-region girls from a 27-7 regional semi-finalist to keep Timberview on their toes. Closer to home, Arlington Seguin coach **Courtney Phillips** would like another shot at Timberview after last year's 35-6 team lost in the regional finals.

The region II favorite is Frisco (34-4). Coach **Bob Rose** and the Raccoons have been eliminated the past 2 years by the state champion. All-stater Tiffany Moore will lead the charge along with 2 others who played on Frisco's last final four team. Lincoln will always be in the mix and **Michael Ensley** returns the district MVP from a 24-7 regional qualifier. Even though defending state champion Midway lost 3 decorated starters and their coach, don't feel sorry for the Pantherettes. Former assistant **Todd Monsey** returns an all-region starter among 9 veterans that will give the state champs a new and dangerous look.

Donny McDonald at Hays lost only one senior from last year's 34-5 final four team, so the Lady Rebels will be hard to beat again. The primary challenger in region III will be Kingwood Park, which celebrates its first senior class. Thus, coach **Angela Gober** has everyone back from a 21-13 playoff team including all-state selection Larla Brown and 3 all-district performers. **Rolander Fontenot** returns 4 starters for 27-7 area finalist Beaumont Central. At least eight others return enough firepower to represent this region.

Kari Wallace at Cibolo Steele hopes that the third time is a charm. For the last two seasons all-state player **Meighan Simmons** has led the Lady Knights to a final four berth. Another all-region player and 5 additional veterans will work to improve on last year's 30-9 state semi-final season. Stephanie Gamble at Marble Falls welcomes back all-state post Lindsay Ansley from a 31-7 regional qualifier and **Roy De La Pena** at C.C. Ray has 6 veterans from a 34-5 regional finalist to challenge Steele.

3 A GIRLS

1. L. Cooper
2. Argyle
3. Ab. Wylie
4. West Oso
5. Robinson
6. Liberty Eylau
7. Kennedale
8. L. Estacado
9. Hidalgo
10. Fairfield
11. Burnet
12. Bullard
13. Madisonville
14. S.A. Houston
15. Navasota
16. Celina
17. Princeton
18. W.F. Hirshi
19. Mt. Vernon
20. Ingleside

Lubbock Cooper gets the pre-season nod in region I and class 3A. **Trent Hilliard** will build around all-state player Brittney Bednarz and two other starters from last year's 26-11 regional finalist that missed going to Austin by 2 points. District rival and defending regional champion Estacado will return 4 of their top 7 players as they try to repeat. **Diane Morgan's** 23-14 Lady Matadors lost to state champion Robinson in Austin. **Tri Danley** at Abilene Wylie returns 2 all-region players from a 29-7 area champ and **Mike Cavender** at Burnet wants another regional opportunity for his 24-11 team.

Argyle made it to the state championship's final last year and plans to repeat as regional champ with another shot at the title. **Steve Schmidt** returns all-state Claire Pettibone from among 6 of this top 8 players from that 20-15 season. Liberty Eylau also returns an all-state player in Bianca Stevenson and **Robert Cochran** hopes to improve on a 22-7 regional qualifier. Kennedale was young a year ago, but grew up by the playoffs. **Vance Hughes'** team lost to Argyle by 3 and returns everyone from a 16-14 rebuilding year. Eight other teams in region II have at least an all-region selection.

West Oso lost the regional title to Hidalgo by one point and both teams have plenty of experience returning. West Oso and coach **Roy Williams** get the pre-season nod based on 10 returnees from that 32-2 team. But, **Monica Rodriguez** welcomes back 6 of her top 7 from a 37-3 final four team, including all-state **Nashae Owens**. S.A. Sam Houston lost only one starter from an area finalist and **Milyse Lamkin** is optimistic.

Region III is the home of the defending state champion Robinson and graduation claimed some of the key pieces to that 34-5 team. **Brenda Gomez** will start with 6'4" all-region Rachel Horgis and 5 other veterans to defend. Fairfield will be among the chief challengers after a 25-7 area finalist. New coach **Stephen Heers** will bring his successful system from Priddy and mesh 4 returning starters with a 24-6 J.V. to unseat Robinson. **Shana Taylor** at Madisonville (20-12) and **Tommy Gates** at Navasota (31-8) will fight it out in district 24 and both have the talent to return to the regional tournament. Lookout for **John Shelton's** Bryan Rudder Lady Rangers as the three Tucker sisters move over from Oakwood where Taylor and Tori were all-state in class AII.

2 A GIRLS

1. Brock
2. Shallowater
3. Peaster
4. Winnsboro
5. Woodville
6. Wall
7. Salado
8. Poth
9. New Waverly
10. Jim Ned
11. Godley
12. Abernathy
13. Marlin
14. Weimar
15. Krum
16. Panhandle
17. Ballinger
18. Hico
19. Hughes Springs
20. Nixon-Smiley

Brock won the state championship with only two seniors on the roster. The top 2 scorers were selected all-state and return Kemisha Harris and Paige Parliament, plus 10 players that made the trip to Austin give **Skip Townsend** good feelings about improving on a 32-8 championship season. But, Peaster returns all-state **Mandy Makeever** to lead 4 starters and 8 letter winners. Coach **Mark Makeever** made it to the regional tournament in an outstanding 31-3 campaign. They split with Brock, but fell to #1 Winnsboro in the regional semi-final. They are hungry for more. Winnsboro is always a contender and Coach **Buddy Hawkins** will try to improve on a 36-2 season that fell one game short of Austin.

Chuck Darden at Shallowater is ready for 2009-10 with every starter returning from a 31-4 regional finalist. A veteran lineup, including all-state **Haley Burton** and a 22-3 J.V. adds competition and depth. If Shallowater falters, Wall would love to represent region I. **Jeremy Williams** returns two all region selections from a 33-4 regional semi-finalist, that lost to Shallowater a year ago. Jim Ned (25-9) will battle Wall in district 7 and **Jimmy Avery** always produces a tough competitor.

Woodville has made two consecutive trips to the final four and last year they were a 32-5 state runner-up. **Danny Buchanan** returns all-state player Meisha McNeal among 6 of his top 7 from that team that looks to take the next step. New Waverley coach **Eldridge McAdams** will challenge with 3 starters and 6 veterans from a 25-5 regional quarterfinalist, including 2 all-region players. Five other teams return an all-region player and will join another 5 teams that could emerge in region III.

Last year Salado was region IV champion led by four sophomores. Coach **Randy Henderson** has moved to Martinsville, but 9 veterans will work around all-state selection Hadley Joiner as the Eagles will adjust to new coach **Janette McKinney's** system. Poth and coach **Peggy Hosek** were 23-7 area finalists last year, but are always in the hunt. They were eliminated by 32-7 regional finalist Weimar and both Poth and coach **Doug Johnson** of Weimar return an all-region selection.

1 A GIRLS, DIV. I

1. Sudan
2. Muenster
3. Smyer
4. Martin's Mill
5. Goldthwaite
6. Normangee
7. Bowie Simms
8. Anton
9. Nueces Canyon
10. Irion County
11. Cayuga
12. Willington
13. Falls City
14. Gruver
15. LaPoynor
16. Thorndale
17. Meridian
18. Lockney
19. Zavalla
20. Ganado

Last year Sudan was class A division I state champion after losing in the state finals the year before. All-state **Lacee Logan** and all-region Desiree King will return among 5 of the top 7 players for coach **Jason Cooper**, going for back to back state championships. Smyer coach **Leland Bearden** has other ideas as he returns all-state player **Haley Fowler** from a 29-4 regional tournament team. Wellington coach **Dane Richardson** has an all-state returnee too. He will count on Skyler Warrick to take his 30-3 regional semi-finalist to the next level. Anton coach **Shelli Crow** returns 4 starters from a 32-4 area finalist and will be a contender as well.

In region II, the favorite is Muenster, where **Jason Atcheson** returns 4 starters and 9 letter winners, including an all-region selection from a 23-9 regional tournament team. The Lady Hornets lost to Goldthwaite last season and **Wayne Johnson** has an all-region returnee from his 27-9 regional finalist and will contend again. **Billy Whyburn** at Irion County welcomes back 3 all-district starters, one of which was all-region, so the 26-4 area finalist Lady Hornets will be in the hunt. Three other teams in this region return an all-region player, including coach **Griffin Fields** at Meridian, where his 21-11 area champs will battle with Goldthwaite for the district 14 title.

Martin's Mill is always a threat to win region III and is seeking a 5th consecutive trip to Austin. Joanna Daniel was all-state last year and coach **Doug Barncastle** will build around her in an effort to improve on last year's 33-6 state runner-up. Simms Bowie was 32-2 last year in **Sean Glenn's** first year as coach, and he will rebuild around an all-region and two all-district returnees, hoping to get beyond last year's regional runner-up finish. Zavalla (26-8 area finalist) coach **Jan West** and LaPoynor (23-10 regional tournament) coach **Rick McBride** each return an all-region player with enough support to represent.

Nueces Canyon is the early favorite to rule region IV. **Brandy Sweeten** returns all-state player Stormy Williams among 4 starters and 6 veterans from a 27-4 area champion. New Normangee coach **Richard Bishop** lost his top 2 scorers from a 28-6 final four team, but returns 3 starters and 5 playoff veterans. However, they will lack depth. **Thorndale** has great tradition, but **Bradley Dickerson** only returns one starter from a 32-4 regional finalist. Falls City coach **Brian Osuna** will also need young players to step up and help 2 starters improve on a 26-4 regional qualifier.

1 A GIRLS, DIV. II

1. Neches
2. Garden City
3. Leggett
4. Happy
5. McLean
6. Goodrich
7. Saltillo
8. Vega
9. Moulton
10. Roby
11. Slocum
12. Bordon County
13. Oakwood
14. Ft. Elliott
15. Calvert
16. Strawn
17. Kennard
18. Guthrie
19. Petersburg
20. Rochelle

Amy Snider's Neches squad returns all-state selection Roddricka Patton from last year's 35-4 state finalist. With help from nine veteran players, Neches is the favorite in A-II and region III. Saltillo coach **Garry Davison** returns an all-stater in Brooke Lane and has seven letter winners from a 27-3 area finalist. Even though the 3 Tucker sisters left for Bryan Rudder, **Ronnie Dunn** still has an all-region performer to go with 6 returnees from last year's 33-4 regional finalist.

In region II, the favorite is Garden City, where coach **Brent Kirkland** returns all-state 6'1" post Morgan Schwartz and 2 other all-district players from a 27-4 area finalist. Defending region III and state champion Roby lost it's top 2 scorers and 4 of it's top 7, but coach **Amy Huseman** has worked wonders with less talent. Danci Stuart was all-region for the 34-3 state champs. Coach **Colt McCook** at Borden County only had one senior last year on a 26-4 area champion and two returnees were all-region, so the Lady Coyotes could be howling after the regional tournament.

Leggett ruled region IV last year and the Lady Pirates should make it to Austin again. Coach **Terri Barlow** welcomes back all-state performer Brittany Jefferson, who averaged 34.5 points per game. Two all-region selections, including coach Barlow's daughter Shavanna, give Leggett the opportunity to improve on last year's 29-7 season. The chief opposition will come from district rival Goodrich who forced a district playoff last year. **Pinallafie Gilford's** Lady Hornets also have an all-state player in Kadajah Carter, who will get support from 2 other all-district players from a 23-7 area finalist and will always be in the chase.

Happy gets the nod in region I. **Jody Johnson** returns all-stater Ashley Kroll and 3 other starters from a 21-13 area champ. **Justin Shultz** of Vega only has 2 of his top 7 back, but both were all-region for the 26-10 final four team. If McLean can avoid injuries, coach **Benji Hausen** and the 25-10 area champs will be dangerous with 2 all-region honorees on board.

The regular season weekly rankings will begin for all classes, boys & girls beginning November 23.