



Winner takes all

Grady, Borden Co. face off for one playoff berth.



Who's next?

Playoff picture still murky heading into final week of the regular season.



Hoop time

Big Spring, Howard College cagers get started

Nov. 7, 2002

BIG SPRING HERALD

GAME DAY



SMASHING!!

Lady Steers make their mark on state playoffs

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Steers ready to renew Andrews rivalry



Herald Photo/Bruce Schooler

Big Spring special team's standout Mike Ornales smiles as he walks of the field after returning a kick 78 yards for a touchdown. Ornales and the Steers can clinch the District 4-4A runner-up playoff berth with a win over Andrews Friday. Big Spring enters the game with a 6-3 record.

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

Coaches always say the game at hand is the most important.

For the Big Spring Steers, Friday night's showdown with longtime rival Andrews truly is the most important game they will play this season.

It could determine their very playoff fortunes.

Big Spring head coach Dwight Butler wouldn't have it any other way.

"This is what you play the whole year for," said Butler. "There's no question this is a big game for us. We control our own destiny. It's up to us, we don't have to depend on anyone else and that's the way it should be."

It should also be one of the top games in West Texas. The age-old rivalry — deemed by some as one of the best in the state — will determine the playoff fortunes of three teams. Big Spring, currently sitting in second place in the District 4-4A standings, can nail down its fifth playoff berth in the past six seasons with a solid showing against Andrews.

For Andrews, the situation is much more of a do-or-die dilemma. The Mustangs must win by at least 10 points in order to keep their slim playoff hopes alive. A 10-point win would force a three-way coin toss with Big Spring and San Angelo Lake View for the district's two remaining

playoff berths.

That 10-point cushion isn't something Butler wants to worry with. He would much rather the Steers win the playoff berth outright rather than stake see it stake its chances on a coin toss.

"We know they're going to be fired up about playing us," said Butler. "If we don't come out and match their intensity it could be a long night for us. This is Andrews. They would love nothing better than to beat us."

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Dwight Butler
BSHS head coach

In the Mustangs, Big Spring will be facing a team desperately trying to keep its slim playoff hopes alive. Andrews, which enters the showdown at 4-5 overall and 2-2 in district, must win by at least 10 points or be eliminated. Lake View, by virtue of a 13-3 win over Andrews in the second week of district play, would advance as the third-place representative.

"This is a big game for both of us," said Butler. "It's a big rivalry in that these young men have played each other since the seventh grade. Plus, it has playoff implications."

The Mustangs enter tomorrow's showdown as a vastly different team than most Big Spring fans will remember. Andrews, under first-year head coach Blaine Springston, abandoned the I-formation in favor of a more pass-oriented one-back set this

See STEERS, Page 6



We're Always There

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