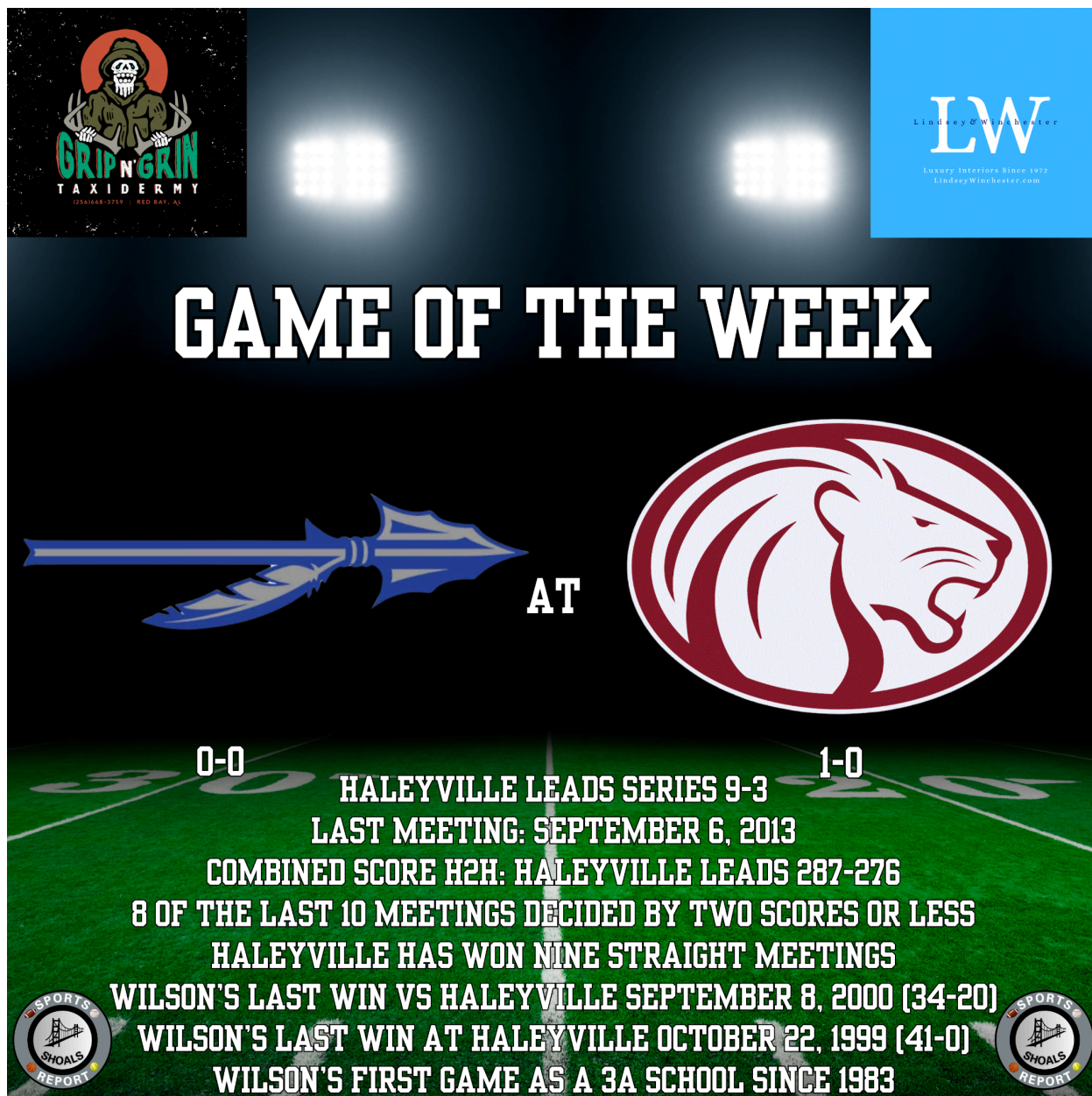


Week 2 Wilson at Haleyville Preview



The graphic is a football field at night with stadium lights. In the top left is a logo for 'GRIP N' GRIN TAXIDERM Y' featuring a skeleton in a hoodie. In the top right is a blue box with the 'LW' logo for 'Lindsey Winchester' and the text 'Luxury Interiors Since 1972' and 'LindseyWinchester.com'. The center of the field features the text 'GAME OF THE WEEK' in large white letters. Below this, a blue spear points left towards the Wilson logo (a blue spear) and a red oval logo with a white lion's head points right towards the Haleyville logo. The text 'AT' is between the logos. Below the logos, the record '0-0' is on the left and '1-0' is on the right. The text 'HALEYVILLE LEADS SERIES 9-3' is centered. Below that is 'LAST MEETING: SEPTEMBER 6, 2013'. Then 'COMBINED SCORE H2H: HALEYVILLE LEADS 287-276'. Then '8 OF THE LAST 10 MEETINGS DECIDED BY TWO SCORES OR LESS'. Then 'HALEYVILLE HAS WON NINE STRAIGHT MEETINGS'. Then 'WILSON'S LAST WIN VS HALEYVILLE SEPTEMBER 8, 2000 (34-20)'. Then 'WILSON'S LAST WIN AT HALEYVILLE OCTOBER 22, 1999 (41-0)'. Finally, 'WILSON'S FIRST GAME AS A 3A SCHOOL SINCE 1983'. In the bottom left and right corners are circular logos for 'SPORTS SHOALS REPORT'.

0-0 **HALEYVILLE LEADS SERIES 9-3** **1-0**
LAST MEETING: SEPTEMBER 6, 2013
COMBINED SCORE H2H: HALEYVILLE LEADS 287-276
8 OF THE LAST 10 MEETINGS DECIDED BY TWO SCORES OR LESS
HALEYVILLE HAS WON NINE STRAIGHT MEETINGS
WILSON'S LAST WIN VS HALEYVILLE SEPTEMBER 8, 2000 (34-20)
WILSON'S LAST WIN AT HALEYVILLE OCTOBER 22, 1999 (41-0)
WILSON'S FIRST GAME AS A 3A SCHOOL SINCE 1983

It has been a while since Wilson was a 3A school. How long has it been? Some of you may remember it by these fun facts: Billie Jean and Total Eclipse of the Heart were two of the top songs. Star Wars Episode IV: Return of the Jedi was a top movie. Gas prices were around \$1.23 per gallon. Ronald Reagan was in his first term as President of the United States. It was 19 something. It was 1983, the last time Wilson had 3A by its name. Haleyville was also last a 3A in 1983. However, it is 2026, and the AHSAA has realigned, splitting private schools into two classes and grouping all public schools into six classes. Haleyville is the 8th-largest 3A. Wilson is in the top half of the largest 3A's. Both are coming down from 4A.

Wilson and Haleyville are not too far from each other (60 miles) and have a history of playing entertaining football games over the last 30 years. They first played in 1998 and then played each year until 2007 because they were in the same region. They then played in 2012 and 2013 as they were region opponents again. Haleyville has won nine straight meetings after losing the first three meetings. The last four meetings have been decided by two scores or less. The head to head score is also close as Haleyville leads it by nine points.

Speaking of history with this matchup, two of Wilson's coaches have been involved with this matchup. There are also several history nuggets attached to this matchup. Head Coach Trey Lane was an assistant on Wilson's staff in 2007; that team was led by Head Coach Chris Balentine. Coach Lane mentioned how they have a great facility, and it is always a great environment. Then current assistant Tristan Beck (Linebackers coach) was a ball boy/waterboy in the 2007 meeting then he got a chance to play in the 2012-2013 games (those were led by Head Coach Scott Brown, father of current Wilson softball coach Taylor Brown). Coach Beck said, "I remember playing there and it being a really good high school football atmosphere... We played a really good 7-3 team and hung with them, but depth became an issue, and they were able to pull away." Then most recently, Wilson played Haleyville in the 2026 girls sub-regionals (Round of 32) and won to advance to the Sweet 16 for the first time in the modern era.

Haleyville enters this season with a new head coach, Alex De Leon. They won their opener last week 42-7 at Sheffield. Wilson was off last week and will play ten straight games. Coach Lane said this about Haleyville: "Coach (Alex) De Leon is doing a very good job with his group. You can tell they are very well coached." This will be the first time Wilson will play ten straight under Coach Lane, as they have played five or six games and then had a bye. This will also be the first time since the AHSAA has allowed eleven weeks to play ten games (since 2014) that they will have had a bye week one. Coach Lane told us, "The week one bye was more a product of reclassification than actually preferring to play ten straight. Many of the teams we were planning on scheduling (non-region) are now region opponents. On the other hand, if you get on a roll, sometimes a bye week can break up momentum." There is almost no right or wrong answer as to when the bye comes. One benefit is Wilson has less mileage on their bodies heading into this game than Haleyville, who played last week.

We mentioned how both are coming down from 4A, and for Wilson that means a lot of unknowns plus excitement. Coach Lane said, "There are many unknowns, which makes it pretty exciting. We just have to focus on the game in front of us and focus on being the best we can be." The excitement can come from various factors, but Wilson will play Central, Rogers, Lauderdale County, Colbert Heights, and Colbert County. That is half of the schedule that is not too far away, and in today's world with social media, students and athletes are more connected than ever. Three of those opponents are in the same school system as well.

This matchup has not been played in a while after being played frequently. Previous Haleyville Coach Bo Culver reached out to Coach Lane before realignment to get this game on the schedule. Coach Lane said, "They both thought this could be a competitive game."

Haleyville was 0-10 last season. Their first winless season since the 1960s. Wilson was 3-7 last season in a tough 4A region with West Morgan, Deshler, Brooks, Hatton, and more. 2025 was their first season with three wins since 2018. They also won back-to-back games for the first time since 2018. 2025 was also the first time Wilson won more than two region games for the first time since 2017. Coach Lane said, “We expect to play a team that is very hungry and motivated.” Wilson will be ready. Haleyville will be ready. All streaks must end at some point. Haleyville snapped a streak last week. Can Wilson snap a streak this week?

Zack Pounders,

Shoals Sports Report