

Week 5 Priceville at Deshler Preview



A graphic for a football game preview. The background is a dark field 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 'LW' and 'Lindsey Winchester' text. The center features the text 'GAME OF THE WEEK' in large white letters. Below this are the Priceville 'P' logo (orange and grey) and the Deshler 'D' logo (maroon). Between the logos is the word 'AT'. Below the logos are their records: '4-0 (2-0)' for Priceville and '3-1 (2-0)' for Deshler. In the center, it says 'DESHLER LEADS SERIES 5-1'. Below that are statistics: 'PRICEVILLE PPG: 39.5', 'DESHLER PPG: 43.8', 'PRICEVILLE PA PG: 14', and 'DESHLER PA PG: 22.8'. At the bottom, it says 'LAST MEETING: PRICEVILLE 28-16 (10/14/2021) AT DESHLER', 'FIRST FOUR MEETINGS DECIDED BY AN AVERAGE MARGIN OF 54', 'DESHLER SEEKING 4TH 3-0 REGION START IN 5 SEASONS', and 'PRICEVILLE SEEKING FIRST 5-0 START SINCE 2022'. In the bottom corners are circular logos for 'SPORTS SHOALS REPORT'.

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GAME OF THE WEEK

P **AT** **D**

4-0 (2-0) **DESHLER LEADS SERIES 5-1** **3-1 (2-0)**

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DESHLER PPG: 43.8
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LAST MEETING: PRICEVILLE 28-16 (10/14/2021) AT DESHLER
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SPORTS SHOALS REPORT

“The message we send is simple...as a player, you work 365 days for the opportunity to take the field and showcase your efforts 10 times. Ten, that's it! Why in the world would you not be focused and ready for Friday night? Additionally, you have an undefeated region opponent coming in,” Coach Patrick Malone said about this week’s matchup with Priceville and it being homecoming for Deshler. Homecoming is one of the pinnacles of the high school experience with the pomp and circumstance that comes with it. There is usually a parade, pregame/halftime festivities, and, in some places, a postgame dance. Deshler’s 2026 homecoming game has high

stakes. Priceville comes in at 4-0 and 2-0 in region play. Deshler enters at 3-1 and 2-0 in region play.

We will begin with the home team, Deshler Tigers. Entering at 3-1 and 2-0 in region play and has won three straight following a one point loss to 5A Russellville in week one. Deshler followed that by sending a message, scoring 148 points in its last three games and allowing 63 points in its last three games. They ran through Colbert County 58-16, then Lawrence County 55-14, then came Hamilton. In a rematch of last season's second-round playoff game, Deshler won by one at Hamilton. Deshler held off Hamilton in this year's edition. Deshler led 28-13 at halftime, then Hamilton stormed back to make it a one-score game entering the fourth quarter at 28-20. Deshler led 35-27 late in the fourth quarter and attempted a field goal to essentially end the game. The field goal was missed, giving Hamilton new life. Hamilton drove down the field and scored a touchdown in the final minute, then went for two and the tie. Hamilton missed, then did not recover the onside kick, and Deshler won 35-33. That may have been the best thing to happen to Deshler this far, though. A region game came down to the wire, and they had to survive. Coach Malone knows it is still early, though, saying this "This team has the potential to be very good. But potential doesn't count for a whole lot. We have to learn how to execute for four quarters. We have yet to put together a complete game in all 3 phases(offense, defense, special teams). I do think we are improving from week to week, but our consistency in performance is lacking."

Priceville comes into this game at 4-0. However, not all 4-0's are created equal. Deshler is 3-1 but lost to a team that is 3-1. Priceville has yet to beat a team over .500 win percentage. Their combined strength of schedule is 2-12, with the last two opponents (West Point and Lawrence County) being a combined 1-7. They have also yet to have a game decided by one possession; Deshler has had two decided by a combined three points. Priceville's average margin of victory is 25.5 points. However, it could be a result of the way the schedule fell. Coach Malone is not looking at any of these numbers, saying the following about if any of that matters: "Not really. Each game presents its own set of situations and circumstances that you have to adapt and adjust for. To me, it would appear that Priceville has taken care of business and hasn't let their opponents hang around." Priceville did struggle to start versus Lawrence County before pulling away last week.

Deshler lost a lot of production from last season across the board. However, they have seen a next man up approach. Coach Malone gave props to Geramyah Beckwith (2025 2nd Team All-State) anchoring the offensive line. The wide receiver position took a big hit losing Garrett Reid to graduation, but Tripp Clark, Jeremiah Fletcher, and Tyler Holmes have stepped up. Armani Jones and CJ Grant have stepped up in the run game. One of the biggest benefits has been Karsten Liles (sophomore fullback), who is not afraid of contact and can be utilized by offensive coordinator Lake Spurgeon. One of the mainstays of the offense has been senior tight end Jay Murner, who has started for at least three seasons. Brycen Williams has stepped in to

replace Price Thornton at quarterback. The common theme in this is that it is guys who play multiple sports leading the way. Whether it is basketball, baseball, track, etc.

Deshler and Priceville do not have a ton of history on the football field, as this will be the seventh meeting all-time, all since 2010. Deshler won the first five and dominated when they won. They have some history on the basketball court. The girls' basketball teams have played in the regional round six times since 2009. It is too early to start calling regions over, but it is safe to say the winner of this game will be in the driver's seat for a showdown with West Morgan for a potential region championship. Coach Malone said he expects the following: "This will be another tough battle in 4A Region 7. They are physical and talented. The offense revolves around superstar Quarterback Jack Eubanks (2025 1st Team All-State defensive back), who also starts at Outside Linebacker. We will need to match their physicality and intensity in order to stay in this one. I look for this game to be decided late in the 4th. We will need to clean up the penalties and execution in order to have a chance."

Zack Pounders,

Shoals Sports Report