

# High School spring sports are ramping up

Not that you need me to tell you this, but it's definitely spring-time in Texas.

You can of course find this out by stepping outside or by watching the weather every night or before you head off for work in the morning.

For the sports staff here at The Eagle, sure we do those things too, but how we tell that spring is here is by the number of sporting events going on.

Normally when I do a column, we look at one specific team, sometimes two, but with the amount of events happening this week, let's shine a light simply on some of the big things coming down the pipe.

**District tennis on deck:** For the College

Station, Rudder and A&M Consolidated tennis teams, the District 17-5A tournament is already here.

The two-day event began on Monday at Con-sol's tennis courts and will conclude on Tuesday. The winners of the first and second place matches in girls singles, boys singles, girls doubles, boys dou-bles and mixed doubles at district will advance to regionals.

It's a much earlier dis-trict meet than Bryan's as the Vikings will have the 12-6A tournament on April 28-29 at the Waco Regional Tennis Center.

**Softball is in the home stretch:** It seems like just yesterday we were all braving the cold for those early February softball games but it's true, UIL softball is in its final full week as the play-offs begin next week with bi-district.

TAPPS schools are just

a bit ahead of the UIL as their softball teams need to have district play done by Wednesday.

Here in town, St. Joseph wrapped up its district play Monday at home with a 16-0 win over Galves-ton O'Connell. With the win, the Lady Eagles went undefeated in district and should start their playoff run at home.

Fellow B-CS TAPPS school Brazos Christian will conclude district play Tuesday with a double-header against Concordia High School at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**Time to tee it up:** The College Station boys and A&M Consolidated indi-vidualist Raines Watson are off to the regional golf tournament at the Golf Club at Margaritaville starting Wednesday.

The Cougars will be represented by Gage Eli-zondo, Parker Coyle, Av-ery Hedrick, Keller Hen-son and Tristan Edrington

who combined to shoot a 631 for a runner-up finish back at the district meet.

Watson, a Rice signee, is looking for his second straight state tournament appearance.

The top three teams advance to state as do the top three individuals. If one of the top three indi-viduals is on an advancing team, the next highest in-dividual goes.

The 5A boys state tour-nament will be held from May 5-6 at the Legacy Hills Golf Club in George-town.

The Allen Academy boys and girls golf teams, along with the St. Joseph boys, are currently com-peting at the TAPPS 2A state tournament in Glen Rose which will conclude Tuesday.

**Hitting the track:** Track and field will bring us home as athletes from Rudder, College Station, A&M Consolidated and Bryan will be competing

at their respective re-gional meets Friday and Saturday.

The Vikings are sending three to Waco Midway for the Region II-6A meet. Bryan will be represented by Eden Chilton (girls 1600-meter, 3200), San-iyah Johnson (girls high jump) and Anna Hyde (girls pole vault).

At the Region III-5A meet at CCISD Challenger Columbia Stadium in Webster, College Station is sending Hope Mueller (girls triple jump), Vance Ballabina (boys 1600, 3200), Drew Bowie (boys 400), Camilo Riano (boys 800), Caden Williams (boys 800), Charlie Far-rell (boys discus, shot put), Layni Kaase (girls 100 hurdles, 300 hurdles, high jump), Ellie Sea-graves (girls 1600), Cindy Ramirez (girls 3200), the girls 4x100 team, the girls 4x400 team and Tatum Hapes (girls 800, discus). A&M Consolidated

is sending Jaxson Solo-mon (boys 110 hurdles), Ryan Thornton (boys 110 hurdles), the boys 4x100 team, Braylen Hunter (boys high jump), Simon Starks (boys long jump), Kannon Williams (boys triple jump), Natalie Webber (girls 100, 200), Rowen Skinner (girls 1600, 3200), Jada Stanford (girls 200, 400), Eliza-beth Gregory (girls 3200), Alexandra Staack (girls 3200), the girls 4x100 team, Hayden Helms (girls 800) and Ryleigh Shulse (girls pole vault).

Rudder is sending Bran-don Brown (boys 100), Caleb Barrett (boys 200), Roderick Harris III (boys 200), Denim Preston (boys 400), the boys 4x100 team, the boys 4x200 team, the boys 4x400 team, Jaquise Martin (boys long jump), Kimora Maxey (girls 100 hurdles, high jump), the girls 4x100 team and the girls 4x200 team.

# Roughnecks best Memphis for first win of 2025

**BILL MCCAUGHEY**  
Special to The Eagle

A failed 2-point conver-sion with 13 seconds to go in the game helped aid the Houston Roughnecks to its first victory of the season, 18-17 over the Memphis Showboats on Saturday at Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium in Memphis, Tenn.

Trailing 11-3 at halftime, the Roughnecks turned to backup quarterback No-lan Henderson to spark the offense. On his first drive, Henderson directed a 64-yard drive culminating in a 6-yard touchdown pass to Emmanuel Butler to cut the deficit to 11-9. A minute later, former Texas A&M star Leon O'Neal inter-cepted a pass and returned it 31 yards for a touchdown to put the Roughnecks ahead, 15-11.

In the fourth quarter, Chris Blewitt kicked a 28-yard field goal to increase the Roughnecks lead to 18-11 with 10:10 left in the game. Memphis rallied in the last minute to score a touchdown on a Troy Williams 4-yard run with



JOE SOUTHERN, FILE PHOTO

Memphis Showboats running back Titus Swen is tackled by Houston Roughnecks defender Markel Robey during the season opening game last year for both teams at Rice Stadium.

13 seconds to go, but the potential game winning 2-point conversion failed, giving the Roughnecks their first win of the season and second in two years.

Henderson completed 10 of 11 passes for 80 yards and a touchdown. He also had three carries for 15 yards.

"I prepare like I am the starter and stay loose on the sideline because you never know when you're going to get your chance,"

he said. "It's just staying in tune with the game even though you're not playing at the time, anytime the original play doesn't work, you got to be able to extend the play. My receivers did a great job of working with me when I got out of the pocket and the offensive line did a great job of giving me lanes and enabling to get out and make plays."

In addition to his pick-six, O'Neal led the defense

with five solo tackles and four assists, including a tackle for a loss.

"I'm positive every single day, even when it's hard, I feel I'm able to make a play to shift the game in the right direction," O'Neal said "But it's all commendable to the guys in that locker room on defense, our defensive co-ordinator Chris Wilson and our defensive backs coach Brett Maxie. We work really hard to try to find answers for us to be the best version of ourselves every single day. So, a lot of praise to whatever a player does, but it's a team thing, man, and I appreciate those guys."

The Roughnecks last win was against the Arlington Renegades on April 21, 2024.

"I feel so great for these

players," Roughnecks head coach CJ Johnson said. "The players work so hard. The coaches work so hard. This game was in the bal-ance the whole way. And in this league, you're never out of a game. We always talk about hope. You know, you hope to win, you wish you could win. Now that we have one, I hope that this team will accelerate and push it forward, say, 'look, I'm greedy. I want another one and another one and another one.'"

Last Monday, the Rough-necks made a trade with the Michigan Panthers to get Marcus Simms, an All-UFL wide receiver, in exchange for offensive lineman Cam Carter. In two games with Michigan this year, Simms

had seven receptions for 65 yards and a touchdown. Against Memphis, Simms caught three passes for 15 yards, with 14 of those yards after the catch.

The Roughnecks (1-2) return to action to face the Birmingham Stallions (2-1) at 6 p.m. Saturday at TDECU Stadium on the campus of the University of Houston. The Stallions, coached by Skip Holtz, son of legendary coach Lou Holtz, are the UFL de-fending champions. The Stallions are led by quar-terback Matt Corral who completed 19 of 41 passes for 256 yards against Ar-lington last week. Corral also scored the game win-ning 1-point conversion in their 10-9 win.

# Three-time All-Pro CB Peterson retires after 13 seasons

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

TEMPE, Ariz. — Three-time All-Pro Patrick Pe-terson announced his re-tirement on Monday as a member of the Arizona Cardinals, where he spent the first 10 of his 13 NFL seasons as one of the league's elite cornerbacks.

The 34-year-old Pe-terson was honored at the team's practice facility with a highlight video and trib-utes from several former teammates, including re-ciever Larry Fitzgerald and quarterback Carson Palmer.

"My career's here," Pe-terson said. "It lives here. It was a no-brainer for me to come back here and retire a Cardinal."

Peterson had a difficult departure from the fran-chise following the 2020 season, signing with the Minnesota Vikings when he didn't get the contract he wanted from the Cardinals.

But the cornerback eventu-ally made amends with team owner Michael Bidwill, and the two shared the stage to-gether on Monday.

"It wasn't the greatest departure, but at the end of the day, this is where my legacy is, this is where my legacy started," Peterson said.

The No. 5 overall pick in the 2011 draft out of LSU, Peterson made an immedi-ate impact as a rookie and was a Pro Bowl selection in each of his first eight sea-sons. He would be a key part to the team's "No Fly Zone" of the mid-2010s that in-



ROSS D. FRANKLIN, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Arizona cornerback Patrick Peterson, right, laughs as Cardinals owner Michael Bidwill talks during Peterson's retirement news conference on Monday at the team's training facility in Tempe, Ariz.

cluded Tyrann Mathieu, Tony Jefferson, Jeraud Powers, Rashad Johnson, Justin Bethel and Deone Bucannon.

Peterson had a quick re-sponse when asked how he would like to be remem-bered.

"As a fierce competitor," Peterson said. "A guy who not only brought joy to the game, but had the opportu-nity and ability to uplift his teammates."

He was also a special Teams standout early in his career, returning four punts for touchdowns as a rookie, which tied an NFL record.

After his decade with the Cardinals, Peterson spent two seasons with the Vi-kings and last played in the NFL in 2023 with the Pitts-burgh Steelers. He finished his career with 652 tackles and 36 interceptions — in-cluding at least one in all 13

seasons.

Peterson said he's enjoyed the past year away from the game, spending more time with his family and golf-ing with friends. Now he's ready for the next phase of his career, which he hopes will be in the media world.

"I want to get behind the camera and express my thoughts," Peterson said. "Being able to give the fans, the viewers, something they may not know about the game. That's what I want to do because I still love the game dearly."

## BRIEFLY

**BROWNS:** Defensive end Julian Okwara signed a new deal with Cleveland. Terms of the contract were not disclosed. Okwara, who will be in his sixth season, had 18 tackles and one sack in 13 games with Arizona last season.

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