



NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS WEEK 1

Pick Six





KSHSAA Covered

WEEK 1'S TOP GAMES IN NORTH CENTRAL/NORTHEAST KANSAS



NEMAHA CENTRAL AT HOLTON



The annual Big Seven League clash has produced some memorable moments but perhaps none as wild as the ending to last year's 15-13 Holton win in Seneca. After the Thunder took a 13-12 lead on a Zac Kramer touchdown pass midway through the fourth quarter, Holton drove to the Thunder 1 in the final seconds. Holton attempted a field goal, which was blocked by Kramer. But an inadvertent stoppage of the clock led to an excessive celebration penalty on Nemaha Central and Holton got another field goal try and converted as time expired for the somewhat controversial win. Nemaha Central, No. 3 in the KSHSAA Covered preseason Class 2A rankings, will be breaking in new head coach Michael Glatczak, son of Centralia coach Larry Glatczak, but returns Kramer and a solid linebacking corps from a 8-3 squad that reached the 2A semifinals before falling to eventual champion Rossville. Holton also reached the state semifinals last year, going 9-2, and must replace its entire backfield from a year ago.



CENTRALIA AT ROSSVILLE



Rossville began last year's march to an undefeated 13-0 season and fourth state championship in impressive fashion, routing Centralia 42-6 in the 2020 season opener. The Bulldogs showed some muscle to go with its expected speed advantage in last year's clash, matching Centralia's physical style with some of their own, holding the Panthers' vaunted ground game to just 148 yards rushing. Rossville quarterback Torrey Horak ran for three touchdowns in the second half after throwing for two first-half touchdowns, jump-starting an All-State campaign that saw him finish the season with 1,629 yards and 30 touchdowns rushing and another 1,447 yards and 25 touchdowns passing. Horak returns for the top-ranked Bulldogs (2A), but will break in a bevy of new weapons around him. Centralia, meanwhile, starts the season ranked No. 4 in Class 1A and must replace leading rushers Devon Feldkamp and Ian Haverkamp and All-1A lineman Austin Holthaus.



OSAGE CITY AT LYNDON



Lyndon pulled out a thriller of a 22-15 win in last year's season opener, rallying from down 15-9 in the fourth quarter. After Lyndon Boss' 22-yard touchdown run had given Osage City the lead, Lyndon answered with touchdown runs from Darian Massey and Luke Detwiler to pull off the come-from-behind victory that ultimately clinched the Tigers the Flint Hills League title. Osage City reeled off nine straight wins after the loss, falling in the 2A state quarterfinals to Nemaha Central 7-0. Boss had a huge sophomore season under center, throwing for 1,517 yards and 24 touchdowns and rushing for 1,001 yards and 11 touchdowns. Lyndon is coming off a Class 1A state semifinal appearance, going 9-3 overall with two of the three losses coming to eventual state champion Olpe by a combined eight points. The Tigers suffered serious graduation losses, but Massey is back for his fourth year as starting quarterback.



CONCORDIA AT WAMEGO



Concordia denied Wamego an outright North Central Kansas League title with a 14-7 win over the Red Raiders in last year's season opener behind a big game from quarterback Wyatt Trost, who ran for 158 yards and threw for 93. Concordia went on to post a 5-4 season, while Wamego bounced back from the lost to go 6-5 and reach the Class 4A state quarterfinals, falling

21-20 to Arkansas City. Wamego quarterback Hayden Oviatt missed the loss to Concordia due to quarantine, but returned and had a huge sophomore season, rushing for 1,539 yards and 14 touchdowns and throwing for 1,152 yards and 10 scores. Oviatt is back to lead a deep Red Raider team as it tries to take the next step under coach Weston Moody. Concordia must replace Trost (2,040 yards total offense, 24 TDs) and 700-yard back Hunter Schroeder.



WASHINGTON CO. AT FRANKFORT



Despite having a three-week break in the middle of the season for COVID-19 protocols, Frankfort enjoyed its best season since dropping to eight-player football, finishing with a 7-2 mark and reaching the Division II semifinals before falling to eventual state champion Hanover. The only other loss the Wildcats suffered came in the season opener to Washington County, a 44-36 decision. Washington County quarterback Drew Buhrman was huge in the Tigers' win, rushing for 261 yards and four touchdowns, throwing for 107 yards and a score and coming up with a game-clinching interception late in the game. The Tigers have a new coach in Tommy Tryon and a largely new cast of skill players. Frankfort lost standout quarterback Gavin Cornelison, but returns All-Eight-Player lineman Zavier Brandt and tailback Ethan Armstrong.



WHEATLAND-GRINNELL AT AXTELL



Coming off an Eight-Player Division II runner-up showing in 2019, Axtell figured to have a strong test to start the 2020 season against an experienced Wheatland-Grinnell team. Instead, Eagle quarterback Isaac Detweiler enjoyed a monster start to his sophomore season, throwing for 296 yards and six touchdowns in leading Axtell to a 58-18 victory and 7-3 season overall. Detweiler returns after throwing for 1,970 yards and 31 touchdowns, but will miss leading target Mitchell Buessing, who had 224 yards receiving and two touchdowns and also returned an interception for a score in last year's opener. Wheatland-Grinnell bounced back from the loss in the opener to go 8-3, its only other losses coming to state runner-up St. Francis and semifinalist Victoria. The Thunderhawks lost standout linebacker Trevor Zarybnicky, but returns serious firepower in quarterback Trey Vincent (1,729 yards, 27 TDs passing), tailback Isaac Mendez (1,607 yards, 31 TDs rushing) and defensive back Jett Vincent (22 INTs in two seasons).