



WEEK 1'S TOP GAMES IN SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS



MAIZE AT ANDOVER



Maize opens the season at No. 5 in KSHSAA Covered's Class 5A rankings after finishing 9-2 and reaching the state quarterfinals in 2020. The Eagles defeated Andover 20-6 in last year's opener, their lowest scoring game in a season of shootouts. Junior quarterback Avery Johnson, who passed for 1,699 yards and 16 touchdowns, is back to run a Maize offense that averaged 41.9 points. Andover begins its second season under former Garden Plain coach Ken Dusenbury looking to improve on a 5-4 record. Trojans senior linebacker Chandler Goodnight enters the season with 25 career sacks.



GODDARD AT BUHLER



Buhler, ranked No. 5 in 4A, opens the season looking to avenge one of its four losses from 2020. Goddard's 35 points in a two-touchdown, season-opening win over Buhler were the most allowed by the Crusaders in their 6-4 campaign. Buhler coach Steve Warner, who surpassed 250 career victories last season, returns senior running back Sam Elliott, who ran for 1,962 yards and 29 touchdowns. Goddard is replacing three-year starter Kyler Semrad at quarterback, but the Lions feature an experienced defense, led by senior end Brayden Wickliffe, who had 73 tackles and five sacks a year ago.



ARKANSAS CITY AT WINFIELD



After a season-turning late-October and November run that led to the Class 4A championship game, Arkansas City looks to build on the momentum from its runner-up finish to St. James Academy. The Bulldogs enter the season No. 3 in 4A and return junior quarterback Gabe Welch, who passed for 2,691 yards. Ark City coach Jon Wiemers is 3-1 in Cowley Cup meetings against rival Winfield. A former college coach, Wiemers will face another product of the college ranks, Monty Lewis. Lewis, whose career includes 24 years as a head coach in the KCAC at Southwestern and Friends, takes over the Vikings.



CHENEY AT KINGMAN



Cheney, No. 4 in 3A, defeated Kingman 38-14 last September to launch its second consecutive nine-win season. But the Eagles bounced back to play stingy defense for the majority of 2020. Kingman held two Central Plains League offenses scoreless and allowed single scores in four other games. Cheney will test the Eagles with senior quarterback Harrison Voth, who passed for 211 yards and three touchdowns in last year's meeting. Linebacker Colby Schreiner is back for Kingman after registering 81 tackles as a junior, while junior

quarterback Nolan Freund, who passed for 1,446 yards and 13 touchdowns last season, returns to try to help the Eagles improve on their 6-3 record.



GARDEN PLAIN AT CONWAY SPRINGS



One of the best football rivalries in south central Kansas renews as Garden Plain hits the road in search of its third straight win in the series. The Owls held off Conway Springs 14-13 in last year's opener, which marked the Garden Plain debut of former Kapaun Mount Carmel and Hesston coach Dan Adelhardt. Adelhardt's son, senior running back and linebacker Reed, is back after running for 1,179 yards and 15 touchdowns last season. Like Garden Plain, Conway Springs finished 9-2 a year ago, but lost 90 percent of its offensive production. The teams have split 12 meetings since 2011, the last year Conway Springs won a state title.



NORWICH AT ARGONIA- ATTICA



This eight-man road test should be a good measuring stick game for Norwich, which finished 4-5 last season but graduated just three players. Seniors Chance Hilger and Judson Hibbs are active defenders, while sophomore quarterback Tray Schroeder accounted for 26 touchdowns while rushing for 707 yards and passing for 934. Argonia-Attica defeated Norwich 46-0 last year on its way to a 9-2 season, and looks to start another run to the Eight-Man Division I postseason. Senior quarterback Xander Newberry produced over 2,000 yards of offense for the Titans last season.