

Football

EAST/SOUTHEAST KANSAS WEEK 2

Pick Six



KSHSAA Covered

Pick Six: Week 2's football games to watch in East/Southeast KS

Mac Moore, KSHSAA Covered

Blue Valley Northwest (1-0) at Bishop Miege (0-1)

It's hard to blame Bishop Miege for allowing Henry Martin and Blue Valley North's juggernaut offense to run wild in the Mustangs 51-24 blowout. But now the Stags will need to prove they can handle a running game that's also shown a dominant streak. Quarterback Mikey Pauley and running back Grant Stubblefield ran all over Blue Valley in a 35-21 win last week. Stubblefield scored three rushing touchdowns and piled up nearly 200 yards on the ground. Pauley added another 167 rushing yards and two touchdowns to go along with his 100 yards through the air. Miege should find comfort in the fact that Blue Valley only lost by two touchdowns despite those stats. The Stags were outmatched in Week 1, but moved the ball well on their way to three touchdowns. Quarterback Mac Armstrong threw for 173 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions. He'll need to avoid those turnovers to avoid giving the Huskies more chances to drain the clock. If the score stays close, look for Miege to give more carries to its trio of running backs. Jaylen Burch accounted for 70 yards and two touchdowns while David Garcia and Raheem Hirsch ran for 71 yards on 5.4 yards per carry.

Piper (1-0) at Eudora (1-0)

This matchup of two Frontier League foes has two similarly dominant offenses facing off in Week 2. The biggest difference between them is that one offense was a little more balanced and one is backed up by a defense that allowed less than 100 yards and no points. Piper junior quarterback Logan Ladish threw for four touchdowns and 160 yards through the air with another 80 yards and rushing touchdown. Sophomore running back JJ Jarrett added another rushing score and 72 yards on just six carries. Eudora did similar damage, but all of it came from the running game. Senior running back Brayden Beerbower and junior running back Octavius Lyles both eclipsed 100 yards, with Beerbower going for 160 and three rushing touchdowns. Freshman Errol Siemon, senior Gage Hayden and junior Silas Etter all had at least 40 yards and a rushing touchdown, with Hayden scoring twice. Advantage will likely go to whichever defense can just slow down the opposition or force a few turnovers.

St. Thomas Aquinas (1-0) vs. Lutheran North, Mo. (1-1)

Aquinas overpowered St. James Academy in the season opener by not only running the ball extremely well, but also completely shutting down the Thunder's rushing attack. That result might be difficult to replicate against Lutheran North (Mo.) The Crusaders are averaging 135 yards on the ground this season, led by Jaylin Carson's 182. Of course, the Saints passed those stats with their own running game in just one outing. The team racked 391 yards on the ground against St. James Academy. Junior running back Sean Carroll lowered his shoulder pads and thumped his opponents over and over again on his way to 214 rushing yards himself. If head coach Randy Dreiling has his way and the passing game shows up after finishing with zero completions, Aquinas could really start to light up the scoreboard.

Paola (1-0) at Spring Hill (1-0)

Paola's 41-21 win over Bonner Springs actually dropped in scoring compared to the Panthers average from a season ago. Paola put up 45.1 points per game. The team looked capable of staying in the range this season after starting with 433 total yards of offense Week 1. Caden Rhamy scored three rushing touchdowns and finished with 101 rushing yards on just nine carries. Clayton Younger added another 73 yards and a rushing score. Quarterback Trey Moala only threw for 41 yards and one touchdown, but he added another 62 yards and a rushing score on the ground. The team's top rushing threat heading into the season, senior running back Jovanni Blackie, had light work with 70 rushing yards. The Panthers will see if they can keep that up against a defense that kept their opponents scoreless and under 100 yards in the season opener. Spring Hill pitched a 31-0 shutout over Louisburg in the season opener. Quarterback Fletcher Pankey threw for 273 yards and four touchdowns.

St. Mary's Colgan (0-1) at Galena (0-1)

Galena and Colgan both started the season with blowout losses. Only won will be able to prove that's a fluke by getting back to a .500 record. Colgan allowed a few special teams errors to turn a small deficit into a big one. The Panthers will need to show that they can score outside of the fourth quarter of a blowout loss. Galena had a couple big touchdown plays, but allowed Commerce (Okla.) to score at will. The Tigers had multiple 45-plus yard touchdowns on offense. The season is still young for both of these CNC League foes.

St. James Academy (0-1) at Blue Valley (0-1)

Again, too teams that have too much promise to be OK with starting the season 0-2. And yet, that fate will befall one of these squads. St. James Academy got shut down by tough Aquinas defense in a 28-7 Week 1 loss. The Thunder had spurts where the offense got rolling, but had trouble moving the chains and top wide receiver Tyler Claiborne had no room to get himself open as he's done so many times before. Blue Valley found a way to get points late, but never was able to catch up to Blue Valley Northwest. Quarterback Greyson Holbert will try to start as fast as he finished on his way to 140 passing yards and two passing touchdowns against the Huskies. He might need a little help in the ground game after leading the team with 46 yards. Michael Solomon comes back determined to improve from his 2.9 yards per carry on 10 attempts in the season opener.