

NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS WEEK 2

Pick Six


KSHSAACovered

Pick Six: Week 2's football games to watch in North Central Kansas

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JUNCTION CITY (1-0) AT MANHATTAN (1-0)

The battle for the Silver Trophy rarely lives up to the hype surrounding the big-time rivalry between the Centennial League powers. In 11 of their last 12 meetings, the game has been decided by single digits, including last year when Junction City pulled out a 36-29 victory, getting the game-winner on a DJ Giddens 10-yard touchdown run with 2:56 left in the game that capped an 80-yard scoring drive. Giddens had graduated, as has Junction City's arsenal of offensive weapons that led the Blue Jays to a 9-2 mark last year. The Blue Jays saw their season-opener cut short by lightning, but it mattered little as they had already struck for 34 points in the first half for a 34-0 win at Topeka High. First-year quarterback David Rowell threw for 134 yards and two touchdowns and also ran for 55 yards and a score. Manhattan, meanwhile, topped Garden City 21-6 in its opener behind a solid performance from junior quarterback Keenan Schartz, who ran for 161 yards and two touchdowns and threw for 62 yards. Vinny Smith added 81 yards and a score on the ground and the Indian defense pitched a shutout for

three quarters.

SEAMAN (1-0) AT HAYDEN (1-0)

Hayden will be itching for a bit of payback as Seaman handed the Wildcats their only regular-season loss a year ago, a 28-22 decision at Seaman. The Vikings got the Jared Swafford Era off to a big start last week as the former Perry-Lecompton assistant begins his first year in charge at Seaman, taking over from Glenn O'Neil. Seaman gave up a big touchdown early to Highland Park, but then unleashed touchdown after touchdown on the Scots, rolling to a 71-6 victory. First-year starting quarterback Camden Barta threw for 184 yards and a touchdown and also ran for a pair of touchdowns. Aidan Polter added 103 yards and three touchdowns rushing and Braden Colley and Kaden Ireland each returned interceptions for touchdowns. Hayden rode a stingy defense to its 22-2 season-opening win over Emporia. The Wildcats didn't allow a first down in the opening half and holding the Spartans to just 73 yards while forcing four turnovers. Gavin Arnold threw for 109 yards and a touchdown to lead in his first start at quarterback for the Hayden offense.

CHAPMAN (1-0) AT HOLTON (1-0)

For the second straight year, Holton pulled out a narrow win over Nemaha Central on a last-second field goal by Matt Lierz. This time, it was a 32-yarder as time expired that gave the Wildcats a 25-24 victory over the Thunder. Holton trailed late after a Nemaha Central field goal, but drove the length of the field with less than four minutes to play, converting twice on fourth down to keep the game-winning drive alive. Holton rushed for 245 yards as a team in the game, led by 77 and a score from Lierz. Chapman also survived a tight battle in its opener, taking a 24-22 win over Sabetha. Eli Riegel had a huge game for the Irish, rushing for 213 yards and three touchdowns. Holton won last year's contest 55-13 on its way to a state semifinal appearance in Class 3A.

SOUTHEAST OF SALINE (1-0) AT BELOIT (1-0)

Beloit was left scrambling to find a Week 1 opponent to start the season when its schedule opener with Republic County was canceled for COVID-19 protocols with the Buffaloes. Late in the week, however, the Trojans found a foe in Marysville and despite the last-minute switch still came away with a 24-12 win. Beloit led just 8-6 after three quarters, but Logan Arasmith ran for a pair of fourth-quarter scores to open up a 24-6 lead before Marysville scored late. Beloit ran for 292 yards led by 119 from Brandon Hiesrote. Southeast of Saline walloped Minneapolis 50-0, shaking off a slow start with 36 second-half points to bury the Lions. Luke Gebhardt threw for 194 yards and a touchdown and four different backs ran for touchdowns with Matt Rodriguez getting two. Southeast of Saline won last year's defensive showdown between the North Central Activities Association rivals 18-0.

MADISON (1-0) AT HARTFORD (1-0)

No team had a more eye-opening week than Hartford did a week ago when it opened the season with a 100-58 shootout win over Maranatha. Not only did it set a school record for points in a game, but senior back Shayden Sull not only re-wrote the Jaguar record book but also set a pair of state records as he ran

for 512 yards and 12 touchdowns and also caught a TD pass. His 13 TDs and 90 total points each broke state records previously set by Waverly's Garrett Myers. Sull may find the sledding a whole lot tougher this week against Madison, which had had one of the top defenses in eight-player football the last few seasons. The Bulldogs, coming off an 11-1 season, has had to reload a bit on that side of the ball, but return four-year linebacker Drew Stutesman who keyed a Week 1 performance that saw the Bulldogs allow just 76 total yards. Madison had to shift gears last week when Burlingame had to cancel for COVID-19 protocols, but the Bulldogs picked up Herington and cruised to a 52-6 win. Bryson Turner ran for 183 yards and three touchdowns, Stutesman added a pair of scoring runs and Casey Helm threw for 120 yards and two scores.

LEBO (1-0) AT CHASE COUNTY (1-0)

A year after going 10-1, Lebo picked right up where it left off, blowing past Southern Coffey County 46-0 in last week's opener. Taking over for departed quarterback Devan McEwen, Kyle Reese was more than efficient in a short night of work, completing 4 of 5 passes for 85 yards and two touchdowns and rushing six times for 38 yards and three touchdowns. Chase County, meanwhile, clicked on every cylinder offensively in opening the season with a 72-34 win over Moundridge. Returning quarterback Mitch Budke ran for 188 yards and threw for 102 yards, totalling four touchdowns while new tailback Brock Griffin added 103 yards and four rushing touchdowns as well. The Bulldogs will welcome a similar offensive showing this week after only managing one score in last year's 52-6 loss at Lebo.