

The Paw Print

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SHERMAN HIGH SCHOOL

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The 120th Battle of the Ax Preview

The “Battle of the Ax” began all the way back in 1901, and has since become one of the longest rivalries in high school Football history still played today. The Sherman Bearcats have the upper hand in the rivalry, with a 68-43-8 record. The Yellow Jackets, however, have had the Bearcats number, winning the past 5 meetings between the teams, but it’s a new year for the maroon and white.

“We’re going to be ready,” said Coach Martinez. “The kids are working hard, the coaches have been planning on this game now all summer and I believe we’re going to have a great game plan and hopefully come out with a victory.”

After losing 16 starters due to graduation this past year, the Bearcats will see plenty of new faces out there under the lights. With a talented junior and sophomore class coming up, the expectations remain the same for a team who made it to their first playoff appearance in 4 years, just a year ago.

“I think the team this year is just as talented, if not more so than last years,” explained senior quarterback, Blaise Bentsen. “Even though we’re younger, we just have to get guys up to speed and ready to go earlier, and I think we can go past the first round unlike last year.”



Photo by Matthew McMenamy

The 120th meeting between the arch-rivals will have a twist to it, as this is the first time in history that the game will be played in the first week of the season. Both teams know how important this game is as well as the added implications of starting out on the right foot looking ahead for the rest of the season.

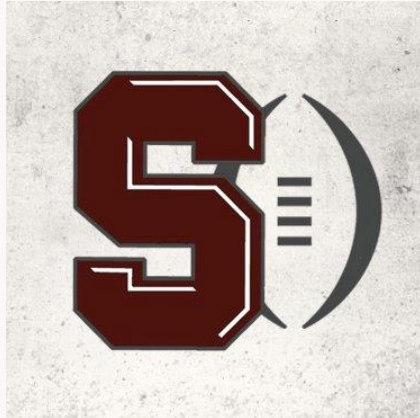
“That’s the interesting part about it,” said Bentsen. “Because there’s so much that goes into the Battle of The Ax alone and then you add the fact that you’re starting off the year with this game. We not only want to bring the Ax back, but we also want to set the tone on how the rest of the season goes.”

The game will be played this Friday at 7:30 p.m, at Munson Stadium, in Denison, Texas and Martinez encourages fans and students to come strong in numbers and full of energy!

“Come early and be loud. The kids have worked really hard, the coaches have worked really hard and we need (the fans) to cheer us on our way to BRING IT BACK!”

- Ryan Ortiz

Sherman



2017 Record: 5-6

Radio: KMAD 102.5 FM

Players to Watch: Blaise Bentsen (QB), Miketavion Brown (RB), Tate Bethel (WR), TeKarius Walton (DT), Ethan Bedgood (MLB), Gage Smith (S)

Extra Note: Following their first appearance in the playoffs since 2012 last year, the Bearcats look to go into Munson Stadium and end the Yellow Jackets' 5 game winning streak behind a very talented, young squad.

Denison



2017 Record: 8-3

Radio: KMKT 93.1 FM

Players to Watch: Decurious Smith (DB), Nate Maulsby (MLB), Cade Gordy (QB), Jordin Hunter (DT), Pierce Barker (WR)

Extra Note: After finishing 2nd in District 5-5A, the Jackets expect to continue their winning ways against their arch rival.

Series Record: 68-43-8 Sherman

Longest Streak: Sherman, 1969-1979