

Bears take to the diamond this week

The Gladewater Bears baseball team launches their 2019 season this week looking to build on last season's success. The Bears reached the Class 4A playoffs last year ending a 12 year drought. Despite losing a good group of seniors, the Bear's head coach, Jeff Hodges is optimistic about this season due to his returning upper classmen and some young talent coming up.

Returning for the Bears will be two-time All-District shortstop/pitcher, Robert Hodges. As a sophomore last year, Hodges had a .366 batting average with 10 doubles, 2 triples, 2 homeruns, 15 RBI and scored 27 runs. He posted a 2-3 record on the mound earning a save and striking out 19 batters last season.

Senior outfielder/pitcher, Danny Badger earned 2nd Team All-District in 2018 with a batting average of .255 with 4 doubles, 2 triples, 10 RBI. He posted a record of 2-5 on the mound with 4.81 ERA with 14 strikeouts.

Senior outfielders Rashaud Johnson and Koltyn Allen will provide leadership and experience to the Bears line-up this season. Johnson hit 3 doubles and 2 triples driving in 13 runs last year. Allen had a .300 batting average and had a triple last season.

Coach Hodges and his assistant coach, Jay Terry will be expecting a group of varsity newcomers to fill out their roster this season. Juniors Kale Perot, Hayden Turnage and Jailyn Robertson should be key contributors this season both offensively and defensively. Perot is an infielder and pitcher. Turnage is expected to play first base and pitch. Robertson will be pitch and be a designated hitter.

Look for freshmen, Dennis Allen and Devin Walker to play key roles on the varsity squad this season. Allen is projected as a pitcher/outfielder and Walker is projected to be behind the plate at catcher. Sophomore K'havia Reese will be a key utility player who is able to play in the infield or the outfield as needed.

The Bears will also be making their first appearance in District 16-3A this season. In his fifth year at the helm of the Bears, Coach Hodges says. "We are dropping down in classification, but that doesn't mean the road will be any easier than it has been for us. Harmony, White Oak, and Troup will all be strong this season. Not to mention Sabine, Winona and West Rusk will contend for a playoff spot as well. Everyone will give us their best game when they play us. Which means we will have to put a great effort out there every time we take the field."

The Gladewater Bears open the 2019 varsity and JV baseball season with a game on the road against Brownsboro on Tuesday, February 12. The Bears will make their home debut on Friday, February 15 at 6:00 pm in the Gladewater Bear Alumni Game against former Gladewater players.

The annual event is not only a fund-raising event for the baseball program, but a crowd-pleaser as the "Old Bears" face off against the "New Bears." Former Gladewater baseball players interested in participating in the Alumni Game can contact Nick or Todd Clifton for details.

The Bears varsity and junior varsity players will have their "100 Inning Game" fundraiser on Saturday, February 16. Each player is gathering per inning donations from family and friends to support



Sports Roundup

Ellis Hayden

the baseball program.

On Tuesday, February 19, Gladewater will host the Brownsboro Bears with the JV game beginning at 4:30 and the varsity game starting at 7 p.m..

Lady Lions open 2019 Softball Season

The Union Grove Lady Lions embark on the 2019 softball season with the hope of continuing where they left off last season. In 2018, the Lady Lions varsity softball team had a record of 12-4 and earned their first playoff victory in the program's history.

Head coach Jaime Lee Scott is excited about the prospects this Spring. Scott said, "This is a young, enthusiastic team. They recognize the potential that they have and they are willing to put in the work to redefine game."

The Lady Lions have a solid group of players returning from last year's team. Returning is Kasi Jones, District 19-2A's Offensive MVP, Winter Wilson, First Team All-District infielder, Madelynn Lacaze, First Team All-District catcher; Maddie Clover, Second Team All-District pitcher; Maddie Barnett, Second Team All-District infielder and Wyleigh Wilson and Gracie McKinly.

Newcomers to watch this season will be Mia Rust, Sydney Chamblain and Katelyn Vaughn.

The main challenge that Coach Scott foresees that some of the player will need to adjust to new positions that will benefit the team as a whole.

The Lady Lions will compete in District 19-2A this season that has eight team including Union Grove, Beckville, Big Sandy, Hawkins, New Summerfield, Overton, Carlisle and Union Hill.

Gladewater Bears edged out by Harmony

The Harmony Eagles edged by the Gladewater Bears for a 50-47 District 16-3A win. The Bears had three players score in double figures with Eli Kates scoring 15, T.C. Minter with 12 and Eligia Carter with 10 in the loss. Rounding out the scoring for Gladewater were Khavia Reese with 3 points, Robbie Hodges with 3, Jerrod Gilmore with 2 and Logan Bohanon with 2.

The Bears will close out the 2018-19 basketball season on the road against West Rusk on Tuesday, February 12.



Union Grove's Cade Judd (21) pushes past the defense and goes up for two.

Photo by Kim Hill

Lions fall to Hawkins, Carlisle

The Union Grove Lions varsity basketball team lost two District 16-2A contests last week, and will close out their season on Tuesday night on the road at Overton, who is 1-10 in district. The Lions fell to 4-7 in District 16-2A and will miss the playoffs this year.

The Lions have been competitive, but their district competition was strong. The Big Sandy Wildcats are undefeated in district with a 25-3 overall record. Hawkins is 8-3 in district with 22-4 overall record. Beckville and Carlisle will claim the district's other playoff berths records of 7-4 and 7-5 respectively.

The Lions lost a heartbreaker on Friday night in their home finale against rival, Hawkins, 62-58. The Hawks rallied in the third quarter from a 30-27 deficit with a 21 point third quarter to take a 48-43 lead. The Lions battled back with a 15 point fourth quarter, but the Hawks held on for the 62-58 win.

The Lions' Kole Burns scored 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds on the night. Carson Daniel scored 18 points as well. Cade Judd put 9 points on the score board in the loss.

Earlier in the week, the Lions fell behind the Carlisle Indians early and could not make up the deficit. Carlisle jumped out to a 33-18 halftime lead and cruised to a 73-48 victory over Union Grove. Carson Daniels led the Lions' scoring with 25 points. Elijah scored eight points in the loss.



TPWD announces proposed Alligator Gar regulation changes

AUSTIN — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is proposing changes to fishing regulations for alligator gar, the largest and longest-lived freshwater fish in the state, to be voted on at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting March 20 in Austin. The proposed changes are intended to help the Department conserve and prevent the overharvest of older, mature alligator gar; fill data gaps through mandatory harvest reporting; and allow for limited opportunity to harvest large alligator gar from the Trinity River by creating a drawing system.

The first of four components of the proposed regulation changes include instituting a 4-foot maximum length limit on the Trinity River, Texas' top destination for anglers pursuing large alligator gar. This limit means anglers could not harvest any alligator gar over that length from the Trinity River from the I-30 bridge in Dallas downstream to the I-10 bridge in Chambers County including the East Fork of the Trinity River upstream to the dam at Lake Ray Hubbard.

"The TPW Commission has communicated to us that they would rather, out of an abundance of caution, act proactively to further limit harvest of older, mature alligator gar while populations are in relatively good shape," said Craig Bonds, TPWD Inland Fisheries Director. "The 4-foot

maximum would conserve these larger fish and redirect harvest towards younger, more abundant smaller fish. It also ensures there are plenty of large, recreationally-valuable fish remaining for anglers to catch and release, which attracts anglers from around the world."

The second component of the proposed regulation changes would create a drawing to allow selected anglers to harvest one alligator gar over 48 inches in length per year from the Trinity River. The limited entry system would allow non-transferable harvest authorization for a set number of alligator gar. Authorizations would be selected and distributed through a limited random draw of interested applicants.

"The drawing is similar to what other states like Arkansas are doing to offer an opportunity to keep one large gar while allowing the Department to manage annual harvest to avoid a population decline and depletion of the large alligator gar," Bonds said. "Alligator gar could be harvested by lawful means, including pole-and-line or by bow fishing equipment."

The final two proposed rules would be in effect statewide. First, a proposed regulation change would prohibit nighttime bow fishing statewide for alligator gar 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise, which

includes both take and possession using lawful archery equipment including crossbows during those nighttime hours.

"The TPW commission has concerns about the rapid evolution of technology and equipment used to target large alligator gar," Bonds said. "Prohibiting nighttime bow fishing for alligator gar is an additional proactive measure that would be taken to protect populations from over-harvest."

The last component of the proposed regulation changes would require all anglers harvesting alligator gar statewide to report their harvest within 24 hours online or through a mobile app, similar to what is currently required for eastern turkey. This system would give the Department more data on alligator gar numbers to try to ensure quality fishing for future generations of anglers.

Statewide, a one-fish-per-day bag limit would remain in effect, and at Falcon International Reservoir, the daily bag limit of five fish and possession limit of 10 fish would also remain in effect. Falcon would also be exempt from the harvest reporting requirement.

All of the proposed rules will be available for review in the Texas Register on Feb. 15.

The public is encouraged to provide comment on each of the four individual components of the proposed regulation changes.

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FEB. 19

11:30 a.m. ||

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