

Matthew Aguilar

### Prove it or move a side

September 1, 2017- Week 1 of the high school football season is a new beginning. Many teams and players try to figure out what they have for in-game situations. Also, to see where they will need to improve to get into the state playoffs in the beginning of November. With week 2 starting its time to prove it or move aside for some teams in the state and time for those who believe they have a chance to compete for a title to show they are who they are. Some teams that will have a chance to show they are contenders are Centennial, Volcano Vista, Hobbs and Hope Christian. These teams have the talent level and quality coaches to get their teams into the playoffs, but they must show that they can compete with the elite of the elite in their respective classes to show they will be able to compete for the state title. The team that needs a win the most is the Hobbs Eagles. The Eagles are coming off a defeat against their rivals Clovis Wildcats in a highly-contested ball game that the Eagles could not pull out. Though the Eagles will have played two great teams with them taking on Artesia tonight at the Bulldog Bowl, Hobbs cannot afford to fall to 0-2 with a tough district schedule still to come with Las Cruces and Centennial still on their schedule later in the year. Though if the Eagles put up another good fight against the favorite to win the class 5A title the Eagles will have a very good resume and with quality losses the Eagles will position themselves to get into the playoffs as a road team. If Hobbs can pull off an upset Hobbs will be able to set themselves up to compete for a district title and host a home playoff game.

Last week the defending state champs all around the state of New Mexico showed they are ready to defend their crowns and that if you want it you're going to have to take it. The Rio Rancho Rams come out week 1 and showed their ready to pass their way to another state title with Logan Bruere taking the reins and passing for over 330 yards. Also, throwing 6 touchdown passes in the process. The Rams also showed that their defense is not rebuilding and that they are ready to wreak havoc on class 6A once again. St. Pius in class 5A showed that they are ready to succeed without retired head coach San Juan Mendoza and that they have a team that can compete to win in class 5A. The Sartans put over 40 points on the board and their new signal-caller can handle the offense. Portales showed that they are not ready to yield its crown and that 4A will belong to them until some can match their intensity of play. The Rams showed that the new starters that are in can handle the pressure and can make big plays in needed situations to start the year. While the Tigers of Capitan showed class 3A that they are ready to take on the task of winning back-to-back titles and that last year was just the beginning of nothing but greatness for them. They will still have to prove it to their competition, but will be ready to compete against them with their success to start the year.

Last night at Wilson Stadium which could be a preview of a playoff game in the later round the La Cueva Bears took on the Cleveland Storm and the Bears cleared the Storm that was in their sight. The Bears got off to a quick start on the second drive with a 13-yard touchdown pass from

Summers that went to wide out Wilkenson that got La Cueva on the board first in their homecoming game. The defense got another quick stop and scored an 18-yard field goal to go ahead 10-0 before the first quarter ended. In the second quarter, it was all La Cueva again with a three-yard run from Wilkenson, a 51-yard touchdown pass from Summers to go up 23-0. The Bears capped their scoring night with 23-yard touchdown run from star running back Williams going in to give the Bears a 30-0 score. The defense for La Cueva was going 120 miles from the start and only gave up one touchdown late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, but could stop their offense for the most of the night and frustrated the play-caller for Cleveland all night long. The defense was hitting all night and was never afraid to attack and looked like the Bears are ready to take the class 6A crown in the young football season. The Storm showed their youth with some mistakes and some missed plays. The Storm still have a talented team, but will not have much time to dread this loss as they must get ready for their next game against the team that knocked them out of the playoffs last year when they head down I25 to take on the Las Cruces Bulldawgs. Cleveland may have to get a win without their starting quarterback in Angel Trujillo who suffered an injury in their last game and could be a game time decision next Saturday.

The matchup's keep getting better and better as week 2 kicks off with these top 5 games of the week

1. Eldorado Eagles vs Volcano Vista Hawks- the eagles will need this one and not put themselves in danger of falling to 0-2. This is the hawks chance to show they are ready to take the next step and I say that they will by defeating the eagles 37-26.
2. Centennial Hawks vs Manzano Monarchs- rematch of last year's 6A quarterfinals and there is a lot of familiarity. Both staffs know each other and one must figure out how to outsmart the other. Manzano somehow outsmarts Centennial in this one 28-24
3. Taos Tigers vs Hope Christian Huskies- this one will decide who will get a home game in the playoffs. Huskies edge out Tigers 30-24
4. Eunice Cardinals vs Estancia Bears- Bears will be looking for revenge in this one as the Cardinals were the only team to beat them last year in the Semifinals. Bears don't get revenge and fall to the Cardinals 28-20
5. Hobbs Eagles vs Artesia Bulldogs- will be a high scoring game with both teams qb getting a chance to throw the football all night. Artesia has more bite in this one winning in a classic wild wild west shootout 49-35