

SPORTS

Middle School playoffs begin at Tara

By Doug Gorman
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At least for the next three weeks middle school football is about to take center stage at Tara Stadium, as six Clayton County schools get set for gridiron war in an effort to determine the county champion in action starting today.

Noticeably absent from this year's playoff bracket is Jonesboro, winner of last year's county title. The Bears slipped to 0-6 this season.

However, the tournament field should be wide open, with Lovejoy (6-0) and Babb (5-0-1) playing a waiting game thanks to earning a bye into next week's second round.

Kicking off action today will be Mundy's Mill and Kendrick at 6 p.m., followed by Pointe South and Riverdale at 7:30.

Mundy's Mill enters the game with playoff tradition on its side. The Razorbacks have been to the playoff's the last nine years, and coach Jerry Anson is confident heading into the contest.

For first-year Kendrick coach Ken Braswell the game is kind of like stepping back in time.

Braswell was the coach when Mundy's Mill first opened its doors, and now is once again trying to help

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build a middle school program from the ground up in Kendrick's second season.

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In its regular season meeting, Mundy's Mill beat Kendrick 30-12.

"We have had a good week of practice, so we should be ready," Anson said.

Pointe South coach Bob Ryan expects a defensive tussle when his club hits the field for its battle with Riverdale.

Ryan's prediction is based a little bit on experience. In the regular-

season meeting between the two teams, Pointe South put together a game-winning goal-line stand, stopping Riverdale twice on the one-foot line for the victory.

"It is probably going to be another hard fought game," he said. "They have gotten better, and we have gotten better."

Pointe South will play the game without standouts Corey Thomas and Andy Wright. Both are two-way specialist at fullback and linebacker, but they will be sidelined because of injuries.

Next week, Lovejoy plays the winner of the Pointe South-Riverdale game, and Babb takes on the winner of Mundy's Mill-Kendrick.

Lovejoy coach Richard Simmons likes having the week off.

"This week was a little bit like our first week in pads," he said. "We spent time working on fundamentals."

The Lovejoy coaching staff will scout the game between Pointe South and Riverdale in preparations for next week's contest.

"We don't have a preference about who we play," Simmons. "Both teams are very good."

The Clayton County Middle School championship game is set for Tuesday, November 4 at 6 p.m.



Photo by Wayne Parham

Mundy's Mill running back Patrick Dugger turns up field during a middle school game earlier this year. Mundy's Mill, Pointe South, Riverdale and Kendrick open quest for the Clayton County title today at Tara.

