



August 25, 2010

Roos take on familiar foe in Haltom

Staff Writer

sports@weatherforddemocrat.com



HEIDI STOUT/DEMOCRAT PHOTO Weatherford head football coach Reid Waller, right, talks to a group of players during the Roos' scrimmage against Ennis last week. Friday marks 0 Week for Texas high school football, and Weatherford will face former district opponent Haltom on the road at 7:30 p.m. Last season, the Buffaloes defeated the Roos at Roo Stadium, 23-0. **HEIDI STOUT**

WEATHERFORD —

Sally Sexton

ssexton@weatherforddemocrat.com

For the Weatherford Roos football team, their first test of the season will be a familiar one — Haltom.

Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

"They graduated some kids on defense, but they've always been athletic," Weatherford head coach Reid Waller said. "I thought they did a really nice job last year of coaching."

According to Waller, the Buffaloes have a tendency to pass, with returning quarterback Aaron Shockey. Last season, the senior threw for 1,256 yards and eight touchdowns.

"They played good defense and solid offense [last week] and did a good job of protecting the ball," Waller said. "They've got quite a few back on offense — Shockey the quarterback and [Josh] Shockey the receiver are pretty good."

"They've got some other pretty good receivers and they're just a solid, sound football team."

With [Aaron] Shockey, Haltom returns six players on offense, and finds strength in its line with the three Vaitai brothers, one of whom was named the District 3-5A sophomore of the year last season.

"It appears that they really like to throw the ball," Waller said. "They threw it quite a few times the other night, and split 50-50 with the running game, which is high."

Junior Trooper Reynolds will more than likely be taking over at quarterback for the Roos after starting at running back last season. Reynolds also took the field during Weatherford's scrimmage last week at quarterback for several drives.

"We have everyone where we want to be," Waller said. "If we can get to where we're completing 70 percent of our passes, we'll be good."

"We'll try to throw the ball enough to get people's attention and back them off a little bit."

One of the bigger issues at the start of the season was the defense, with the Roos having several spots open after last year's graduation.

"We had to fill some spots on defense, but the players we have in those positions are good players with experience," Waller said. "We are multiple enough for different fronts and coverages."

The Roos took on Haltom last season as district opponents, before the University Interscholastic League's district realignment.

Weatherford fell to the Buffaloes, 23-0, in an error-filled game, and Waller stressed at last week's scrimmage that ball control is one of the key elements his team needs have.

"You have to understand that it takes time to get there," Waller said. "We have some great kids and we hope they can believe in themselves."



Weatherford Democrat 512 Palo Pinto Street Weatherford, TX 76086