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## SPORTS

### Countdown to Kickoff: Weatherford Kangaroos

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#### District 3-5A

**Coach:** Kenny Wheaton, seventh year

**Last Season:** 1-9 (1-5 in 3-5A)

**Playoffs:** None

**Enrollment:** 2,136 (sixth in 3-5A)

**Key returners:** QB/RB Mitchael Rucker, WR Dakota Abernathy, FS Derek Ogg, DT Cory Matlock

**Key losses:** RB Chris Fielder

**The big picture:** "You've got to think you're going to make the playoffs; you've got to be positive," coach Kenny Wheaton said. And he has reason to be positive. Fourteen returning starters boost the Kangaroos' expectations of getting back to the playoffs after missing last season with a 1-5 district finish. Among the returnees are Mitchael Rucker, the team's top passer, rusher and scorer last season, and Dakota Abernathy, the team's top receiver from '08. The versatile Rucker, who, according to Wheaton, has added 20 pounds since last season, works as a running back as well. Like many coaches, Wheaton is concerned about his depth, but he noted that there have been "no injuries so far. That's what got us last year."

**Quotable:** "I think we're the best we've been since I've been here. We've got seven returning on each side of the ball, and they've all had a great off-season and spring. — **coach Kenny Wheaton**

"We've got three good quarterbacks. We didn't have real strong backups in the past, but we've got three good ones this year." — **Wheaton**

**Notable:** Weatherford has never advanced further than the state quarterfinals, in 1965.

#### Schedule

**Aug. 28:** at The Colony

**Sept. 4:** at Arlington Lamar

**Sept. 11:** Aledo

**Sept. 18:** Coppell

**Sept. 24:** at Paschal

**Oct. 9:** Abilene

**Oct. 16:** at Haltom

**Oct. 23:** Richland

**Oct. 30:** at North Crowley

**Nov. 6:** Burleson

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