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Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009

## Ready for football

**Weatherford and Aledo finish first week with inter-squad scrimmage**

By BRENT SHIRLEY  
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The Weatherford and Aledo football teams each finished the first week of official practice with an inter-quad scrimmage. The Kangaroos faced off on Friday afternoon, while the Bearcats waited until Saturday morning, both teams wrapped up a successful first week.



Weatherford High School football player Travis Warner Jr. breaks away from defenders in his team's inter-squad scrimmage Friday. (Photo by Brent Shirley)

### Weatherford

Friday was the first day for the Weatherford players to wear full pads (regulations required four days of workouts in shorts, T-shirts, and a helmet).

"No matter what you've done, carrying the pads is tough on the first few days," said Weatherford coach Kenny Wheaton. "I [schedule our inter-squad scrimmage] on the first day of pads on purpose. It makes a tough situation tougher. We always do it that way."

Wheaton said the first practice in full pads went like he expected, even though heat was a factor.

"They got tired and gassed a little bit at the end," he said. "Then we lost some focus. That's what we have to work through."

After the scrimmage ended, the seniors participated in what Wheaton calls the "circle of truth."

"It's a tradition," Wheaton said. "Each senior stands up and talks about what his senior year means to him. We bury the hatchet on any problem. If anyone has a problem, we get it out."

After the seniors got serious for circle of truth, they loosened up by laughing at an underclassmen talent show.

"We don't let anyone else watch," Wheaton said. "It gets pretty silly, and the seniors will boo or give thumbs up or down. It builds camaraderie."

The Roos will play in a scrimmage game at Stephenville on Friday.

### Aledo

After the Bearcats wrapped up their inter-squad scrimmage Saturday morning, Aledo head coach Tim Buchanan said his team is ahead of where it was last year.

"We're doing better than normal for the first week," Buchanan said. "Our players are doing well because they know their assignments."

Buchanan said on Friday, in his team's first practice in full pads, the Aledo offense looked sharp. On Saturday, the defense looked equally tuned.

"The defense shut the offense down today," he said. "We are in great shape, but we aren't quite in football shape yet."

The Bearcats will play a scrimmage game in Burleson Friday. Buchanan said the offensive running game is the main area his team needs to improve before the start of the regular season.

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