

Lampasas moves to 3A

By CLAY WHITTINGTON
Staff Writer

Lampasas High School Athletic Director Joey McQueen believes everything is going to be A-OK for the Badgers after the state-wide district realignments.

Actually, things are going to be 3A-OK in Lampasas for at least the next two years.

Lampasas dropped into Class 3A Monday morning when the University Interscholastic League released its reclassification information for the 2010-2012 football and basketball districts.

While the move from Class 4A does not automatically improve Lampasas' programs, it does something that is perhaps more important: It levels the playing field.

"We're going to be the same kids working the same way, but we're going to be competing against people that have the same issues we have," McQueen said. "I don't know if this will be short-lived, but we're going to enjoy these two years."

After enduring years of frustration stemming from being the smallest school in their district, the Badgers are in the unfamiliar position of having the largest enrollment in their new pairing. Lampasas will compete in District 25-3A with Llano, Burnet, Liberty Hill, Taylor and Salado.

But the Badgers didn't get there by much.

Back in October, Lampasas turned in a 2010 enrollment of 987

students. When the cutoff numbers were revealed this week, the Badgers were just two students below the Class 3A limit of 989.

Had Lampasas remained in Class 4A, McQueen feels certain the Badgers would have jumped to District 8, now comprised of San Angelo Lake View, Stephenville, Waco, Waco Midway, Waco University and Killeen.

"I would have wanted to become a salesperson if that happened," said McQueen, who also serves as the Badgers' head football coach.

Instead, Lampasas players and fans ended up with a reasonable travel schedule for district competition.

All five schools are within 75 miles of Lampasas, with the farthest commute being to Taylor.

The Badgers also will have a couple of neighborhood rivalries to enjoy with Liberty Hill and Burnet, which both are approximately half an hour away.

"That is going to be neat," the coach said.

Although the new alignments are only for football and basketball,

the changes are expected to affect all Lampasas athletic programs the same, except for soccer because it is played only in Class 4A and Class 5A alignments.

The move should benefit all Lampasas sports, but McQueen feels the change will be felt most during the spring sports.

"It will help basketball, tennis and golf because we won't be going up against Lake Travis who is being coached by pros," McQueen said.

"Track will be helped tremendously because we're not running against Hutto and Killeen and Hendrickson who have 41.8 sprint relay [teams]. We're busting our butts to get a 43.5, and we're getting last place."

"It will affect us more in those spring sports because we run into a good football district."

Other than Salado, which is making the leap up from Class 2A, the new District 25-3A football

teams matched the Badgers' four-win season total.

Burnet posted the best record of the bunch last year by going 8-3 after losing in the regional round of the playoffs.

While the Badgers no longer have to worry about competing against the three-time defending Class 4A state champion Cavaliers, there is still a prestigious pedigree residing in their district. In 2006 and 2007, Liberty Hill won consecutive Class 3A state championships.

Coincidentally, Panthers head football coach Jerry Vance was instrumental in helping McQueen successfully install the slot-T offense Lampasas used to reach the playoffs last season.

"He opened his program up to us and showed us different things about how the slot-T was run," McQueen said. "He kept saying, 'Hey, if I let you do this, you've got to play us next year.'"

"I'm going to walk into our next district meeting and say, 'You got your wish.'"

Do numbers really matter?



On Monday, the realignment for district classifications was released by the University Interscholastic League at the Region Service Centers across Texas. The anticipation that leads up to this release is exciting, because everyone is wondering what district and classification they will be in for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years.

Do the numbers submitted for enrollment really matter? You bet they do.

The top of Class 3A was 989, and Lampasas submitted 987 as its official high school enrollment. It is hard to believe how close we were to being Class 4A.

I told the head coach from San Angelo Lake View, whose team now is in the district with three Waco schools, Stephenville and Killeen, that it probably was our number that caused them to be put into that district. If Lampasas had turned in three more students, we would have been in the district that San Angelo Lake View is in. Now do you think numbers matter?

With the numbers turned in,



Straight from the Coach's Mouth
Joey McQueen

We were placed into District 25-3A with Burnet, Liberty Hill, Llano, Salado and Taylor. The 2010 Badger football schedule will look like this:

- 8/14 vs. Smithville (Scrimmage)
- 8/20 @ Waco Connally (Scrimmage)
- 8/27 @ Manor
- 9/3 vs. Austin Travis*
- 9/10 @ Lorena
- 9/17 vs. Leander Rouse***
- 9/24 @ San Angelo Lake View
- 10/1 Open
- 10/8 vs. Burnet**
- 10/15 @ Llano**
- 10/22 vs. Salado**
- 10/29 @ Liberty Hill**
- 11/5 vs. Taylor**
- *Sweetheart Night
- **District games
- ***Homecoming

Joey McQueen is the Lampasas High School athletic director and the Badgers' head football coach.

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Working overtime

Lady Badgers play three overtimes before knocking off Lake Travis 54-50

By CLAY WHITTINGTON
Staff Writer

During halftime of the Lady Badgers game against Lake Travis, Lampasas head coach Stuart Beckwith knew his team would win.

So did his players. They were right.

It took 28 minutes of action after the break, but the Lady Badgers eventually won the game by four points, 54-50, in triple overtime.

"Those were 10 kids that decided we were not going to lose that game," the coach said. "Whatever it took, we were not going to lose that

game.

"That's something we haven't seen before, and I'm excited and proud of the effort of my kids."

After suffering through a two-of-18 shooting performance and scoring just four points in the first quarter, the Lady Badgers slipped into a seven-point hole at 17-10 with less than three minutes remaining in the first half.

Then things started to swing the other way.

Lampasas went on a nine-point run that included back-to-back 3-pointers from Kayla Prescott (12 pts.) and Marisa Bogart (5 pts.) to take the lead.

The Lady Cavaliers responded, however, with a 4-0 run to go into halftime leading 21-19.

Despite being down, Beckwith saw enough determination from his players in the locker room to know they would defend their home court.

"I knew for a fact by the way the kids were acting during halftime that we had them right where we wanted them," the coach said.

After ending regulation tied 39-39, senior post Lauren Barlow single-handedly kept the Lady Badgers alive by scoring all six of the team's points in the period. Her only miss of the period came on a desperation 3-pointer from past halfcourt that bounced off the rim as time expired with the score knotted up at 45-45.



PHOTO BY RICHARD AKRIDGE

Lampasas guard Makayla Valles tries to maintain her dribble after falling to the ground while being tightly defended.

Barlow finished the game with a team-high 17 points after scoring eight in regulation.

In the second overtime, both teams scored four points to force four more minutes of play where Lampasas used a Kallen Vann field goal and clutch free throws from Sarah Bishop and Barlow to secure the victory.

Additionally, the Lady Badgers (11-18, 3-5 District 25-4A) kept themselves in contention for a spot in the playoffs. The victory, Please see **PLAYOFF**, page 9

District 25-4A Girls Standings

	Overall	District
Hendrickson-x	24-6	6-2
Hutto-x	19-13	5-3
Killeen-x	13-17	5-3
Marble Falls	13-14	4-4
Lampasas	11-18	3-5
Lake Travis	10-18	1-7

Tuesday
Hendrickson 68, Hutto 47
Killeen 60, Marble Falls 35
Lampasas 54, Lake Travis 50 3OT

Friday
Hendrickson @ Lake Travis 7 p.m.
Hutto @ Killeen 7 p.m.
Lampasas @ Marble Falls 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY RICHARD AKRIDGE

Giving it all

Lampasas powerlifter Justin Maldonado lets out a yell as he attempts to complete his squat during the Copperas Cove meet last Saturday. The Badgers tied with Temple for fourth place with 17 points. Zac Bryant (3rd, 132 lbs.), Justin Manigault (2nd, 148 lbs.) and Edward Hall (2nd, 181 lbs.) all finished in the top three for Lampasas. Lady Badgers Michaela Hensiek and Antoinette Simmons each placed second in their weight divisions and led the team to a sixth-place showing.

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LEFT: DAVE HAMILTON, KENNY MURRAY, LYNN PERKINS, LAUREN PERKINS

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