

PRE-SEASON PICKS 2010

5 A BOYS

1. FM. Marcus
2. Fort Bend Bush
3. Garland Lakeview
4. Fort Bend Travis
5. Plano West
6. DeSoto
7. San Antonio Taft
8. Cedar Hill
9. Kingwood
10. North Crowley
11. Converse Judson
12. S.A. Wagner
13. Seven Lakes
14. Austin Akins
15. S.A. Reagan
16. Duncanville
17. Strake Jesuit
18. H. Bellaire
19. S.A. Churchill
20. Klein Forest
21. Bryan
22. Arlington Bowie
23. Edinburg
24. Laredo Nixon
25. Clear Creek

Three of the four final four teams in 2010 have plenty of reasons to be the favorites for a return trip in 2011.

Flower Mound Marcus was a 37-3 state semi-finalist and all-state selection Marcus Smart returns to join two other starters, one of which was all-region. Thirteen Mauraders made the trip to Austin last year and give Coach **Danny Henderson** skill, depth and experience. **Anthony Morgan** welcomes back everyone except Jackson Jeffcoat so Plano West looks to improve on their 27-9 regional final. They will first fight it out with Marcus for the district 8 title. Cedar Hill and North Crowley will always be included in the hunt. **Tim Thomas** takes over the reins at Cedar Hill (28-5 area) and builds around all-state Thomas Gipson. **Tommy Brakel** has all-state Kyan Anderson at North Crowley (34-5 reg. semi.) and nine other lettermen, so this region is tough.

Region III is the home of the defending state champs where **Ronnie Courtney** at Bush has seven lettermen back from their 35-4 gold medal year. Add to that a move in that makes the Broncos huge with two 6'10 players. District 23 is always tough, but **Craig Brownson** at Travis led a 21-10 regional semi-finalist that returns six lettermen and twin impact move ins that makes them even tougher. **Dan Miller** at Seven Lakes could surprise everyone with a 24-8 area finalist. They pushed Yates to the limit last year in a non-district game and return everyone.

Region II has another defending champ in Garland Lakeview and **Tony Mauldin** has all-state Chris Jones and another all-region selection among seven veterans to try and surpass a 33-4 state runner-up season. Among the challengers are two programs that are synonymous with success. **Chris Dyer** at DeSoto (33-5, reg. qtr.) and **Royce Huseman** at Kingwood (30-5, area) are always in the chase.

S.A. Taft has all five starters and 11 lettermen to help Coach **Joey Tate** improve on a 27-8 playoff team. Most of the region IV perennial powers have few returnees or a new coach. Look for **Cliff Ellis** at S.A. Wagner (39-2, final four) and **Mike Wacker** at Judson (33-7, reg. final) to duke it out in district 25 and compete for the regional title. Many other teams could emerge to claim the final four spot in this wide open region including S.A. Reagan, where **John Hirst** takes over a 23-11 playoff team.

4 A BOYS

1. Galveston Ball
2. Dallas Kimball
3. La Marque
4. Dallas Lincoln
5. The Colony
6. Mansfield Summit
7. Yates
8. Arlington Heights
9. Austin LBJ
10. Trimble Tech
11. Pfl. Hendrickson
12. Boerne Champion
13. Humble
14. Houston Jones
15. Dallas Wilson
16. Canyon Randall
17. Killeen
18. Azle
19. Brenham
20. Alamo Heights
21. Nueces Canyon
22. Frisco
23. El Paso Bowie
- Victoria East

Class 4A is a wide open race with each region providing multiple possibilities. Region III is the home of the defending champion Yates Lions. **Greg Wise** graduated all five starters from that 34-0 team, but talent returns. The new favorite is Galveston Ball, where two all-region picks join seven lettermen from a 23-7 area qualifier in class 5A. Coach **Jerald Temple** at Ball won't have to look far for challengers. La Marque will compete with Ball for district and regional bragging rights and all-state Julien Lewis joins two other starters for the 34-3 Cougars of Coach **Cedric Mason**.

Region II feels they have the next 4A state champ. Dallas Kimball has all-stater Jordan Williams who transferred from The Colony to join forces with an all-region selection from Coach **Royce Johnson's** 26-8 regional semi-finalist. Dallas Lincoln returns all-state talent La Bryon Nash and two other starters from a 27-4 regional quarterfinalist so Coach **Leonard Bishop** is excited. If either of them should falter, **Jim Reid's** Hendrickson squad moves over from region IV. The Hawks have nine of their top ten back from a 20-15 area finalist.

The Colony forfeited their 32 wins from last year's final four team and their best player transferred to Kimball. But look for **Cleve Ryan's** team to bounce back as twelve players return, including an all-region selection. **Jason Mutterer** at Mansfield Summit has eight players back from an 18-16 area champ in class 5A. Arlington Heights also returns eight lettermen and Coach **Gary Collier** would like to improve on last year's 33-2 regional quarterfinalist finish.

The frontrunner in region IV is Austin LBJ. Last year **Freddie Roland's** Jaguars went three rounds and were 25-8 and plenty of talent returns. **Stan Leech** at Boerne Champion was eliminated by LBJ and returns two starters from that 24-12 unit to try again. A dozen other challengers including Lake Travis, the defending regional champ of Coach **Jan Jern-**

3 A B O Y S

1. Lubbock Estacado
2. Cleveland
3. Hardin-Jefferson
4. Dallas Madison
5. West Oso
6. Liberty Hill
7. Burkburnett
8. Argyle
9. Lindale
10. Silsbee
11. S.A. Houston
12. Kennedale
13. Lovejoy
14. Hondo
15. W.F. Hirschi
16. Seminole
17. Liberty Eylau
18. Sweeny
19. Mexia
20. La Vega
21. Groesbeck
22. Sealy
23. Somerset
24. Prosper
25. Alvarado

Last year **Tony Wagner's** Estacado Matadors were 34-4 state champions. The return of four starters including all-state talents Clarence Willard and Kevin Wagner make them favorites to rule region I and repeat. **Danny Nix** at Burkburnett has three starters including an all-region pick from a 29-6 regional semi-finalist. Kennedale coach **Doug Groff** also returns an all-region selection from a 25-7 area finalist. They and everyone else hope to catch Estacado on an off day.

In region III Cleveland returns four three year starters including all-state talent 6'6 Cedric Reed. Coach **Roderick Broussard** hopes to improve on last year's 28-5 regional quarterfinalist year. Hardin-Jefferson coach **Todd Sutherland** has three starters, five lettermen and players on a 23-5 JV team to take the next step for a 35-5 regional finalist. But, **Travis Williams** 30-5 Silsbee squad represented region III last year and he returns D.C. Stallworth, an all-state selection, and eleven players that made the trip to Austin. The Tigers will always be in the hunt.

Two years ago Dallas Madison won the 3A state championship and last year they were runner up. **Damion Mobley** lost four starters from that 29-9 unit but has plenty of talent returning including eight letter winners. **John King** at Argyle returns all five starters including an all-region selection for the 24-10 area champ. Watch out for Lindale where three starters are back. **Scott Albritton's** Eagles were 22-12 area finalists in class 4A and can't be underestimated.

West Oso is usually picked to win region IV but someone else keeps getting in the way. **Arnold Flores** will build around all-state Raymond Robinson to make this the year of the Bears. The 32-4 squad last year was eliminated in the regional tournament. Liberty Hill hopes to be the team that knocks off the Bears this year. **Barry Boren's** team makes the move from region I where the Panthers were 30-5 area finalists. They welcome back four all-district players and a 24-4 JV adds depth. Don't forget to include **Ike Thorton's** S.A. Sam Houston team. They were a 19-13 area finalist that lost only one senior.

2 A B O Y S

1. Hallettsville
2. Melissa
3. Crockett
4. New Waverly
5. Wall
6. Hempstead
7. Ponder
8. Brock
9. Idalou
10. Eastland
11. San Antonio Cole
12. Whitewright
13. Sunnyvale
14. Bangs
15. M.P. Chapel Hill
16. Bushland
17. Daingerfield
18. Santa Rosa
19. Tatum
20. White Oak
21. S.A. Randolph
22. Littlefield
23. Industrial
24. Italy
25. Jarrell

Hallettsville is the favorite in region IV and in class 2A. The Brahmas return four starters for Coach **Rich Dozier's** 36-2 final four team. Two of the starters are all-state selection Dante Haynes and 2A player of the year Christian Wood - Dvorak so expectations are high in Hallettsville. The chief challenger could be in their district as Coach **Bobby Spain** also has four starters back from a 20-12 playoff team. San Antonio Cole was a 28-8 regional finalist and Herb More's Cougars would like another shot at the Brahmas.

Last year the state champion came from region II and it could happen again. Melissa welcomes back four starters including all-state Hondo Webb for **Clint Sadlers** 31-5 region quarterfinalist. Ponder (37-4) and Brock (29-7) met in the regional finals last year. The Eagles of **Jeff Bell** return three all-district players. While **Jude Stanley's** Lions only return one starter it is an all-region selection from a state champ so Ponder won't go away quietly.

The region III champ will probably be Bulldogs from district 23. Last year **Billy Goffrey's** New Waverly team won the region and returns two starters and eight lettermen for the 32-4 Bulldogs. But, Crockett was a 21-14 regional quarterfinalist in class 3A last year and Coach **David Drafahl** has enough fire power to bring a new Bulldog into the arena. **Ron Hanks** at Chapel Hill (23-10) returns two all-region players from an area champ and the Red Devils are not afraid of any Bulldogs.

Region I could come down to a shootout between Idalou and Wall. Coach **Tyler Helms** returns three starters from a 30-7 state finalist including one all-region player. Wall fell in the area game to Eastland, but Coach **Doug Gordon** brings back two all-region players from a 33-2 team. Eastland coach **Doug Galyean** only returns one starter, but he is 6'9 all-state selection Forrest Robinson, so the 28-4 regional semi-finalist Mavericks hope to represent the region.

1 A BOYS, DIV. I

1. Clarksville
2. Clarendon
3. Olney
4. Sabinal
5. Mumford
6. Cayuga
7. Avery
8. Farwell
9. Kerens
10. Eula
11. Stratford
12. Plains
13. Itasca
14. Martin's Mill
15. Slocum
16. Tenaha
17. Burton
18. Yorktown
19. Goldthwaite
20. D'Hanis
21. Reagan County
22. West Sabine
23. Grapeland
24. Hubbard
25. Stamford

Clarksville is loaded after a 26-5 area finalist returns two all-region players and two more that made all-district in class 2A. Coach **Joe Sigler's** Blue Tigers will be the favorite as they move down to class AI. Defending champion Cayuga 22-2 returns one starter who was all-region, but he will have plenty of help for new coach **Jeremy Jenkins** and the always tough Wildcats. Look out for Avery where **Jack Bowles** returns three all-region selections from last year's 21-7 regional semi-finalist. They will fight with Clarksville in district 19 and will be battle tested by the playoffs.

Clarendon is the favorite to represent region I. Coach **Brandt Lockhart** returns all five starters, including all-state player Jimmy Gaines from his 25-7 regional finalist last year. Farwell coach **Shane Perkins** also has five starters back from a 24-9 regional quarter finalist and will challenge. **Lance Horsford** at Stratford feels that the Elks can represent with his all-state son Kyle and another all-region pick returning from a regional quarterfinalist a year ago.

Last year coach **J.D. Sullivan** guided Olney to a 27-11 area champ in class 2A. The Cubs return four starters and are the favorites in region III -AI. Kerens also drops down from 2A and coach **Don Enis** feels his returning three all district players can improve on last year's 22-8 squad. Eula coach **Josh Fostel** has all-state player Kainon Irons from a 29-8 regional semi-finalist and should compete for the regional crown.

Sabinal (32-1) marched all the way to the regional tournament before losing a game. **David Navarro** returns three starters and should be the team to beat in region IV. Mumford handed Sabinal their only loss and returns two starters for the 33-3 Mustangs so Coach **Chris Sodek** hopes to take the final step to Austin. **Todd Craft** at D'Hanis will fight it out in district 30 with Sabinal and try to improve on last year's 20-11 area finalist season.

1 A BOYS, DIV. II

1. Bronte
2. Grady
3. Paducah
4. Spurger
5. Throckmorton
6. Leggett
7. Calvert
8. Anton
9. Ira
10. Bloomburg
11. Laneville
12. San Isidro
13. Frost
14. Garden City
15. Ropes
16. Richland Springs
17. Nazareth
18. Knippa
19. Lipan
20. Waelder
21. Dodd City
22. Goodrich
23. Groom
24. Zephyr
25. Meadow

Bronte was the state runner-up in class AI last year and Coach **Rocky Rawls** returns three starters including his sons. Dakota (6'5) was class AI player of the year and Kerwin (6'0) was all-state for the 27-6 state finalists that move down to class A division II. Throckmorton coach **Blayne Davis** welcomes back a 16-9 regional quarterfinalist that includes four starters, two of which were all-region. **Bubba Edwards** at Ira returns all-stater Kylor Fine (6'5) from a 29-3 regional semi-finalist to help make region II interesting.

Region I should be ruled by Grady. The Wildcats have a new coach in **Thomas Clay** and return Shane Teague, an all-state selection for the 31-5 state finalist. Add to that the coaches son Zeke, who was an all-state player for Meadow last year. Paducah coach **Jay Cantrell** returns four starters from a 24-11 regional semi-finalist and Anton coach **Donnie Dutton** brings back eight lettermen from a 33-3 area finalist in class A division I.

Spurger is the favorite in region III as they also move down from division I. Coach **Calobe Issacs** has three starters and seven veterans from a 27-6 final four team last year. Leggett was a final four team also and Coach **Daryl Mason** returns three starters and nine players who made the trip to Austin for his 29-8 team.

Calvert is the favorite in region IV, but the Trojans usually play football well into December. Coach **Marcus Wortham** will count on all state player Blair Bunns and an all region selection from his 19-5 area champ. If Calvert should falter, look for **Rolando Garza's** 28-6 San Isidro regional qualifier or **Jarvin Hall's** Waelder Wildcats (24-9) area champ to step up.

5A GIRLS

1. Hightower
2. Irving MacArthur
3. San Antonio Jay
4. Georgetown
5. Dallas Skyline
6. Pflugerville
7. Duncanville
8. Cy-Fair
9. Cy-Falls
10. Colleyville Heritage
11. Timberview
12. Elsik
13. San Antonio Wagner
14. Atascocita
15. North Crowley
16. Cedar Hill
17. Dekaney
18. DeSoto
19. Northshore
20. Bellaire
21. S.A. Southwest
22. Harlingen South
23. Edinburg
24. Midland
25. Mayde Creek

Last season Hightower was a 35-3 state finalist. Coach **Deborah Mize** returns three starters and eleven letter winners and will be the favorites to win it all. Realignments have brought Cy-Fair back into region III and **Ann Robique** returns all-state Cassie Peoples along with five other returnees from a 36-1 state champ. They will receive a challenge within district 17 from Cy Falls where **James Stephens** has three starters and ten letter winners from a 29-5 regional quarterfinalist. **LeShawn Johnson** at Elsik returns five all-district performers including the MVP for a 26-6 region quarterfinalist to further cloud the picture.

San Antonio Jay (35-5) was also a final four team last year and **Mike Floyd** returns four starters including all-state player Erica Donavan. Jay edged Wagner (33-3) last February to earn the trip to Austin and **Christina Camacho** graduated four seniors, but the Thunderbirds have another group of athletes ready to step up and a solid program that makes them a threat every year.

Irving MacArthur was a 37-2 regional finalist and Coach **Suzie Oelschlegel's** Lady Cardinals are the favorites to take the next step. Four starters and nine veterans return including all-state Alexis Jones. Duncanville coach **Cathy Self-Morgan** returns an all-region pick, good size and plenty of tradition to make the 33-4 regional quarterfinalists dangerous as always. Colleyville Heritage welcomes back seven of their top eleven, including all-state Alexia Standish. Coach **Dianna Sager** also had a 27-3 JV making expectations high for the 23-10 playoff team. Mansfield Timberview will battle Duncanville in district 5 and the 39-2 state champs in 4A will always be a presence.

Region II has a trio of thoroughbreds that will battle for the regional crown. Georgetown and Pflugerville will do battle in district 16 before entering the playoffs. **Rhonda Farney** has an all-region performer plus a DI signee that played on the JV last year while the Lady Eagles were 31-4 regional qualifiers. **Cassandra McCurdy** returns three starters and six letter winners, including all-stater Krystal Barrett for a 31-3 regional team at Skyline. Pflugerville has a returning all-region pick among four starters and ten lettermen. **Nancy Walling's** Lady Panthers were a 29-6 regional qualifier last year and players from a 29-1 JV will add competition and depth.

4A GIRLS

1. Frisco Wakeland
2. Canyon
3. Plainview
4. Rockwall
5. Huntsville
6. Mansfield Summit
7. Corpus Christi Ray
8. Pfl. Hendrickson
9. La Marque
10. Floresville
11. Yates
12. Denton Ryan
13. Aledo
14. Waxahachie
15. Cedar Park
16. Barbers Hill
17. C.C. Moody
18. Austin LBJ
19. Pfl. Connally
20. Waco Midway
21. Frenship
22. Manor
23. Livingston
24. Ozen
25. Frisco

Three of last year's regional champs are now in class 5A. Only Frisco Wakeland returns to 4A. They played for a state championship in a 30-7 season and coach **Darilyn Krempin** has all-state Haley Texada from among eight veterans who want to take the next step. But, it won't be easy getting out of region II as **Jill McDill's** Rockwall Yellowjackets were 33-5 regional quarterfinalists and they return six veterans plus a 24-3 JV group. Pflugerville Henderickson was also a regional quarterfinalist and coach **Tara Hollywood** only lost one senior from that 27-8 team.

Region I will be watching district 3 in January where Canyon, Plainview and three other challengers will fight for four playoff spots. **Joe Lombard** will build around all-state guard Nicole Hampton, six veterans and a 23-1 JV to try and improve on a 34-2 regional finalist. **Danny Wrenn** has an all-region selection and three other starters back from a 22-11 area champ. They could meet in the regional final, but Mansfield Summit will try to prevent that from happening. **Tammy Lusinger** welcomes a young team that will try to make improvements on a 27-9 regional qualifier in class 5A last year.

Huntsville is a slight favorite to win region III. Coach **Jay Oliphant** returns two all-region players from a 25-8 regional tournament team. **Tawana Rhoads** at La Marque returns an all-region pick and would like to improve on a 27-9 regional final season. The most dangerous of all could be the Yates Lady Lions. Last year Coach **Patrick Augbon's** team didn't lose until the regional tournament and they return eleven veterans, one of which was all-region on that 25-1 team.

In region IV Corpus Christi Ray is always among the favorites and this year is no different. With the return of three starters, including all-state player Ashley Viera, Coach **Ray De La Pena** hopes to improve on a 30-8 regional final appearance. Floresville coach **Greg McWilliams** welcomes back an all-region honoree from a 28-10 regional qualifier. Both must beware of the Cedar Park Timberwolves. Coach Mark Meyers has three returning starters from a 30-6 playoff team in class 5A.

3 A GIRLS

1. Liberty Eylau
2. Abilene Wylie
3. Wimberley
4. Bullard
5. Kennedale
6. Madisonville
7. Giddings
8. Levelland
9. Liberty Hill
10. Gatesville
11. Crandall
12. Paris
13. Spring Hill
14. Fairfield
15. Rockport Fulton
16. Ingleside
17. Brownwood
18. Lovejoy
19. Commerce
20. Lubbock Cooper
21. Smithville
22. La Vega
23. Yoakum
24. Hondo
25. Nevada Community

Last year Liberty Eylau and Abilene Wylie met in the championship game and it could happen again. **Robert Cochran's** Lady Leopards (31-8) won their last four games with exciting finishes, including the state championship. They return all-state selection Imani Wright, a 6' sophomore sensation, and two other all-district selections to try for a repeat. One of their regional nail biters was against **Lance Edge's** Crandall (28-7) team where only two seniors graduated. In district 15 Liberty Eylau will have to contend with Paris (22-14), where **Tarshanda Ferguson** returns eight veterans from an area champ. Spring Hill was an area finalist and coach **Bobby Rush** returns everyone from that 17-14 squad, so it won't be easy to repeat in region II.

Abilene Wylie is the favorite in region I. Coach **Tri Danley** welcomes back all-state Peyton Little among seven veterans from that 31-10 state runner-up. To return to Austin for the rematch, they will have to contend with Kennedale who moves over from region II. Coach **Vance Hughes** has two all-region selections, graduating only one starter from a 22-11 team that lost by one to Liberty Eylau in the regional final last year. **Terri White** at Levelland has two all-region selections returning and the 27-5 regional qualifier will need to be reckoned with as well.

Wimberley and Liberty Hill were both regional finalists in 2010 and they will now battle it out for the region IV title. Coach **Shawn Miller** at Wimberley (19-15) returns all-state Lea Watson, who joins nine letter winners to convert their three overtime loss to Giddings to a final four trip. Meanwhile, **Matt Kirschner** at Liberty Hill (27-10) counters with all-state Kourtney Beavers, another all-region selection plus four more veterans to represent the region. Both must beware of **Chris Bentley's** Rockport-Fulton squad. The Lady Pirates return three starters from a 30-7 area champion in class 4A.

In region III **Greg Gay** at Bullard (30-9) has six veterans back including all-state Minta Spears and they want revenge for a regional final loss last year. The Madisonville Lady Mustangs manhandled Bullard in the finale and they return an all-region pick among six returnees for Coach **Shana Taylor**. **Lee Essman** and his Giddings Lady Buffs (30-9) will have a say as they welcome back all-state Kayla Winkfield and the twelve players who made the trip to Austin last year, representing region IV. Fairfield (26-10) will battle Madisonville in district 20 and Coach **Stephen Heers** feels his team can play with anyone since they split with the Lady Mustangs last year, falling in the regional tournament.

2 A GIRLS

1. Brock
2. New Waverly
3. Winnsboro
4. Wall
5. Jim Ned
6. Poth
7. Gunter
8. Hitchcock
9. Jewett Leon
10. Spearman
11. Hemphill
12. Marlin
13. Skidmore-Tynan
14. Daingerfield
15. Ponder
16. Bangs
17. San Saba
18. Marion
19. Hempstead
20. Hico
21. Idalou
22. East Chambers
23. White Oak
24. Godley
25. Thorndale

Brock is the favorite in region II and class 2A. Coach **Skip Townsend** has all-state Kami Cole, another all-region pick among ten players who made the trip to Austin for the 37-2 state champion. It was the second in a row for the Lady Eagles and fifth since 2002. Gunter will try to spoil the Brock three-peat. Coach **Bruce Keatts** returns all five starters, including an all-region pick from last year's 23-11 area finalist. Jewett Leon represented region III at the final four and Coach **Pat Roberts** has two all-region selections from that 25-7 team to try to derail the Brock express.

New Waverly (24-8) fell in the regional final to Leon last year. Coach **Eldridge McAdams** has all-state Kayla Williams and another all-region pick as all five starters and eleven vets return and are the region III favorites. But, **Buddy Hawkins** at Winnsboro returns two all-region players from last year's 35-2 regional tournament team. The Red Raiders lost by three to Brock last year and they want another shot. **Rosie Miller-Mays'** Hemphill (30-7) team is always dangerous and will reload.

Jeremy Williams' Wall team roared through region I and into the state championship game. The Lady Hawks were 35-4 state runner-up to Brock and six veterans return. Jim Ned lost four times to Wall last year and they want revenge. **Jim Avery's** 22-13 regional quarterfinalist has four starters back and could represent the region. If both teams falter, **Junior Ashmore's** Spearman team returns the coach's all-region daughter Morgan and enough firepower to get the Lynx to Austin.

The Poth Pirettes have always been a force in region IV and are the favorites again in 2011. Coach **Peggy Hosek** welcomes back 6'2 all-state post Tara Dunn to a final four team that only lost two seniors. Skidmore-Tynan hopes to keep Poth from making their seventh state tournament in eight years. Coach **Joseph Grimes** returns four starters, including an all-region pick from a 22-11 regional quarterfinalist. Marion coach **Kollyn McWhinney** has three starters from a 23-7 playoff team in class 3A and **Rick McCown** at Hempstead builds around two starters from a 26-9 area champ.

1 A GIRLS, DIV. I

1. Smyer
2. Martin's Mill
3. Muenster
4. Goldthwaite
5. Honey Grove
6. Louise
7. Falls City
8. Panhandle
9. Canadian
10. Kerens
11. Sudan
12. Clarksville
13. Center Point
14. Reagan County
15. Irion County
16. Era
17. Tahoka
18. Sundown
19. Cushing
20. Lovelady
21. Mason
22. Sabinal
23. Port Aransas
24. Mart
25. Cayuga

Smyer made its first trip to the final four a memorable one by winning the class AI championship. **Leland Bearden** returns 6' Haley Fowler, who was all-state and averaged 27 points per game. The supporting cast returns also as only two seniors graduated, leaving the 36-3 champs the favorites for two in a row. If they are denied the region I prize, it will probably be because of a **Richardson** coached team. **Kurt's** Panhandle squad was 20-12 area champ in class 2A and they return four all-district picks to mesh with a 25-1 JV. **Kevin's** Canadian team has two all-region players and seven veterans from a 27-4 area champ. Sudan lost in the regional final to Smyer by two points and **Jason Cooper** has an all-region player from that 33-6 regional finalist.

Doug Barncastle would love to see his Martin's Mill team make the final four for the sixth consecutive year. After state titles in 2006 and 2008, the Lady Mustangs are hungry. Emily Williams and Joanna Daniel both made all-state, so the 33-5 state runner-up lost only one senior and is the favorite in region III. **Kathy Clark's** Honey Grove team was a 28-3 area finalist in class 2A and has three starters and eight veterans back. But, watch out for Clarksville who also moves down from 2A. **Darrell Mickens** has four starters back from that 24-11 area finalist.

Region II should be between Muenster (29-7) and Goldthwaite (25-10) again. **Jason Atcheson** has two all-region players, five other varsity vets and a 22-2 JV to build from. **Wayne Johnson** has four starters of his own, including all-state Chesney Neeley to improve on a regional finalist. Both should beware of Kerens, who moves down from 2A. **Denise Lincoln's** unit was a 23-8 area qualifier and four starters are back.

Louise was the region IV winner in 2010 and gets the nod again thanks to the return of Katie Brown and two other starters from a 26-7 state semi-finalist. **Brian Osuna's** Falls City squad was a 19-5 regional qualifier and Camari Crawford returns after an all-state campaign. Center Point coach **Lance Whittle** has an all-state player too. Amanda Weaver will try to lead the 20-9 Lady Pirates to the regional title. **Jeff Guice** at Mason has enough power returning for the 23-12 area champs to slip in a trip to the Erwin Center.

1 A GIRLS, DIV. II

1. Neches
2. Goodrich
3. Saltillo
4. Throckmorton
5. Roby
6. Lorenzo
7. Happy
8. Slidell
9. Nueces Canyon
10. Bronte
11. Petersburg
12. Roscoe Highland
13. Leggett
14. Kennard
15. Santa Anna
16. Paducah
17. Anton
18. Strawn
19. Crowell
20. Rochelle
21. McLean
22. Whitharral
23. Borden Co.
24. Texline
25. High Island

The question in class AII is can anyone beat Neches? The Lady Tigers were 37-2 state champs with both losses to larger class schools. Coach **Andy Snider** will build around player of the year Rodricka Patton and two additional all-region players from among four starters. Goodrich would like to try. **Pinellafie Johnson** returns all-state Khadijah Carter and three all-region selections. The 22-11 Lady Hornets lost in the regional final by two points and are ready to try again with the same team. Saltillo (27-7) coach **Gary Davison** has an all-state player and two all-region picks too and wants to try Neches again after last year's regional quarterfinal loss. Slidell was a regional tournament team losing in OT. **Cody Vanover** brings back four starters, including two all-region selections on that 25-8 team. All Leggett did was go the final four and with only two seniors lost, **Terri Barlow** would like to go again. Kennard lost to Neches three times, but all were within ten points and **Chris McClain** wants to improve on a 24-8 regional finalist.

Region II should be between Throckmorton and Roby. **Jason Blankenship** has three all-region players and his top seven players back from a 22-10 area champ. But, they were knocked out of the playoffs by Roby, where **Amy Huseman** has two all-region picks from a 29-6 regional finalist. Bronte moves down from division I with three all-district players from an 18-8 area finalist for Coach **Carol Moore**. Roscoe Highland returns two all-region stars from a 19-8 area team and Coach **Ryan Dollar** will battle with Roby for district 11 honors.

Lorenzo leads the pack in region I with the return of all-state Ashia Martin and two other all-region players from a regional qualifier for Coach **Lin Fink**. Happy coach **Jody Johnson** returns eight veterans from a 23-10 regional finalist and would like to represent. Petersburg will counter with two all-region picks for **Kim Chaffin's** regional qualifier.

Last year Nueces Canyon was a 28-2 regional finalist and Coach **Brandy Sweeten** only returns one starter but she was all-region and Canyon moves down to DII and hopes to win region IV this year. **Jym Dennis** at Rochelle (25-6) and **Debbie Bacon** at Santa Anna (28-6) both return all-region players with playoff experience and hope to pull the upset.