



Weatherford defenders Luke Downs, No. 25, and Ryker Smith wrangle and bring down a Blanchard runner during the Eagles 28-7 home playoff victory against the Lions on Friday. Downs finished the game with seven tackles, while Smith logged a team-high 12 tackles during an all-around showing from the Weatherford defense.

Heart of an Eagle

Weatherford beats Blanchard for first home playoff win in six years

David Topolewski
WDN Managing Editor

For four quarters, Luke Downs heard the talk that he was “too small.” Poetically, he helped put the finishing touches on an Eagles’ playoff victory. With the game well in hand and just 30 seconds remaining in regulation, the defensive end recorded one of two sacks on Blanchard’s final drive of the game — the other coming from Henry Davis. Weatherford (9-2) defeated Blanchard (5-6) 28-7 in the opening

round of OSSAA Class 4A playoff action Friday night at Woody Roof Field behind an all-around team effort that was highlighted by Downs work. To be clear, Downs is listed at 6-foot, 205 pounds, but that didn’t stop the jawing from the Lions’ offensive line. “He was saying, ‘Oh, he’s too small,’ and I had to redeem myself — so I threw my heart out and got the sack,” Downs said of the late-game takedown. The senior finished with seven

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Dobbins’ big night, Terriers’ 2-minute offense lifts T-F-C in home playoff win

David Topolewski
WDN Managing Editor

Tristan Dobbins wasn’t ready to hang up his cleats, and he played like it Friday night in Thomas. With his senior season – and Thomas-Fay-Custer’s pursuit of a state title – hanging in the balance, Dobbins and quarterback Tye Littlebird were at the center of a defiant, 2-minute-drill march that lifted the Terriers to a

dramatic 19-14 win over Ringling in the opening round of the OSSAA Class A playoffs. “Being a senior you really have to put your nerves and emotions on the back burner and just play the game you love and leave it all on the field.” Dobbins backed that up with a monster night. He hauled in six passes for 114 yards, including a 38-yard touchdown, and was Littlebird’s go-to target when the season

came down to one last possession. Littlebird finished 9-of-16 for 166 yards – of those nine completions, six went to Dobbins – three of them on the final, game-winning drive.

The Drive

That last series of the Terriers’ playoff contest started in about as tough a spot as

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W’ford man dead after accidental shooting; friend arrested on manslaughter complaint

A 23-year-old Weatherford man is dead after what family members are calling a tragic accidental shooting late Friday night. Weatherford police and emergency crews were dispatched at approximately 9:48 p.m. November 14 to 406 Texas Street

in Weatherford in reference to a gunshot wound. First responders arrived to find the victim, Landon Young-Whitley, suffering from a critical injury to the chest. Firefighters and medical personnel

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SWOSU women’s basketball transfer Payten Conde with her parents Richard and Terri on a visit to Weatherford earlier this year.

Dad in her corner

‘I play with heart because of him’

David Topolewski
WDN Managing Editor

There’s something special about the relationship between a father and a daughter. That bond is no different for SWOSU women’s basketball guard Payten Conde and her dad, Richard Conde. Conde, a Little River, Texas,

native, is in her first season with the Lady Bulldogs after transferring from Oklahoma Baptist. With the Bison last year, she twice scored 18 points in games against Northwestern Oklahoma State and Southern Nazarene and finished her sophomore season with 52 assists in 29 games.

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Selah Bentley, a Southwestern Oklahoma State University freshman from Laverne, wins the crown of Miss SWOSU 2026 Saturday evening. Bentley is pictured while being crowned by Miss SWOSU 2025 Mia Macias. For the full story, please see the Wednesday edition of the *Weatherford Daily News*.

Chatterbox

Do you have information for the WDN Chatterbox? Call (580) 772-3301. Happy (belated) birthday to Christopher Barnwell, Cindy Eisenman, Jason Hollan, Cynthia Smith, Elly Horton, Stephen Gerhardt, Ruthie Wills, Lucinda Williams, Larry Hill, Brittany Powers, Darrell Pigg and Isadore Pigg.



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