



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

'Now, it's starting to get fun.' Seeded playoffs are here. See the matchups.

BY JARED PECK

NOVEMBER 18, 2019 08:15 AM



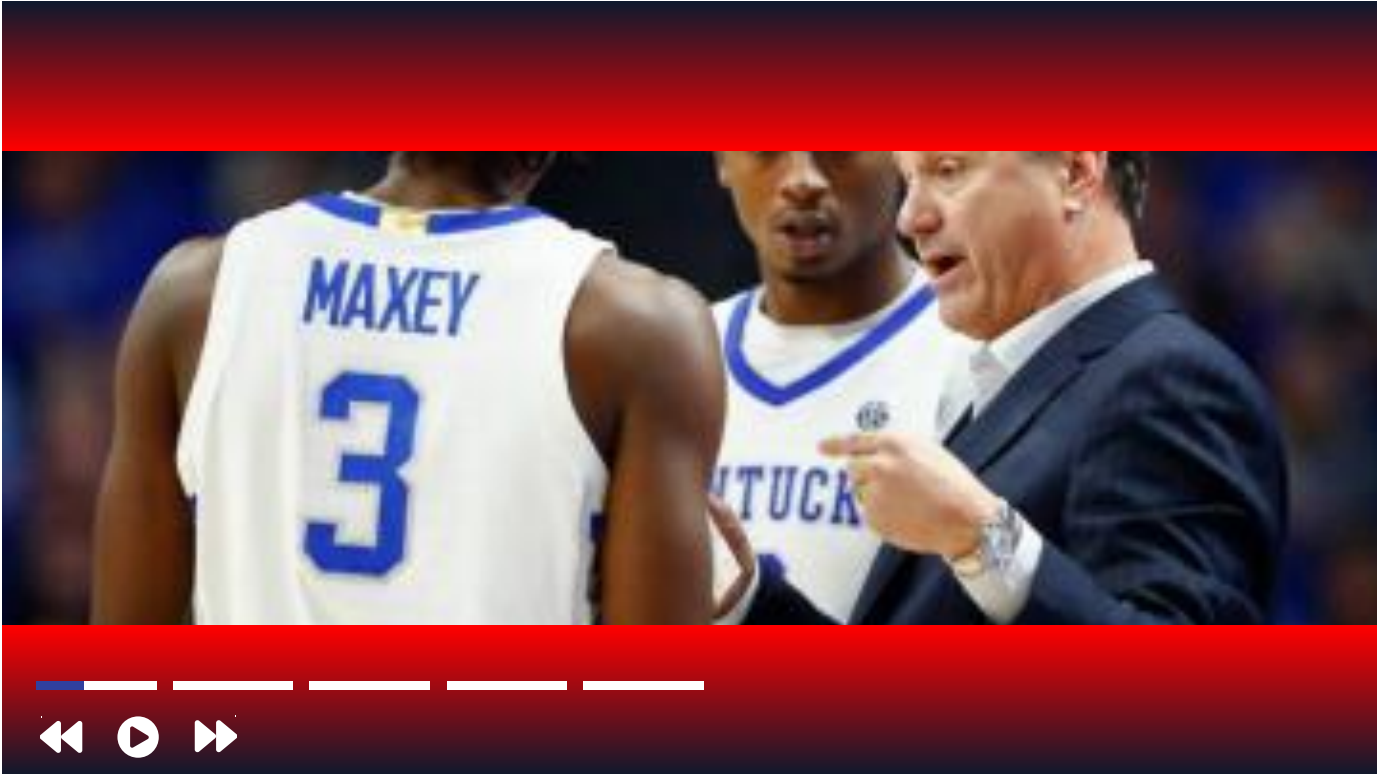
Tates Creek defeated Paul Laurence Dunbar 37-29 in Kentucky's high school football playoffs on Friday, Nov. 15, 2019. BY MARK MAHAN

The Kentucky High School Athletics Association’s new football playoff format came into full view Friday as each class’s brackets got reshuffled when the results came in.

What’s left is a regional-championship round seeded for the first time ever after district championships that saw a fair share of teams reverse regular-season outcomes.

“Now it’s starting to get fun, because every week, you get a better and better opponent as you move forward,” said Frederick Douglass Coach Brian Landis, [whose Broncos managed to beat Scott County](#) for a second time this season Friday night. “That’s a hell of a team we just played, no doubt about it. That will prepare us moving forward, I think.”

TOP ARTICLES



Three takeaways as Kentucky basketball avoids a second straight shocker


 NICHOLASVILLE RD
 M-F 9:30AM-6:30PM
 SAT 9:30AM-6PM SUN CLOSED
[CLICK TO SEE OUR SALE!](#)


...s been seeded according to how each
 ge Index in their respective classes at the
 end of the regular season. And the teams will all be reseeded again in the following
 week's semifinals.

Subscribe and Save

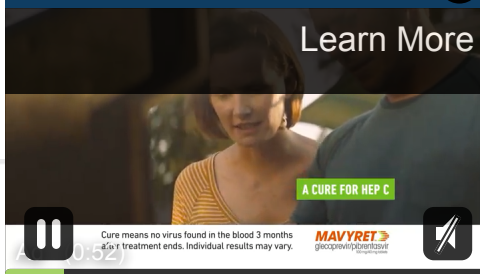
Act now to get a full year of unlimited digital access – just \$49.99!

[VIEW OFFER](#)




That means, in Class 5A for instance, the RPI's No. 1 Covington Catholic and No. 2
 Frederick Douglass ... each other until the state finals at
 Kroger Field.


Up Next - Today's Top Plays: Bren 

Learn More




A CURE FOR HEP C

 Cure means no virus found in the blood 3 months
 after treatment ends. Individual results may vary.  MAVYRET
 glecaprevir/pibrentavir 



Never Old.
 Never New.
[Get yours >](#)

foreverspin™



MADE IN CANADA

That's a departure from past playoffs when critics bemoaned hard-bracketed tournaments that would sometimes pit what some observers believed to be the best two teams remaining against each other in the quarterfinal or semifinal rounds.

DISTRICT UPSETS

The new system has its critics, as well, especially regarding intra-district play in the first two rounds. Unlike how the playoffs have been run for more than a decade, this year teams had to rematch against district opponents to advance.

That meant the opportunity for teams to avenge regular-season losses. Some teams cashed in.

Of the 48 teams who entered the first round as the top team in their district, 38 survived. Some of those top seeds barely edged their rematched foes in the regular season, but others had beaten them handily.



In Class 2A, [No. 3 Somerset turned the tables on No. 1 Lexington Christian, 28-26](#), after a one point loss in the regular season. McLean County converted a 55-21 defeat at the hands of Owensboro Catholic into a 37-36 win for a trophy.

In Class 3A, No. 14 Taylor County and No. 10 Bardstown upended their districts' top seeds in No. 6 Glasgow and No. 4 Elizabethtown, respectively, after regular-season losses.

Read Next

PREP-FOOTBALL

Highlights: Tates Creek rallies, Boyle romps, Madison Southern avenges and Franklin falls

Class 4A saw No. 12 Central turn a 14-12 loss three weeks ago into an 18-7 win over previously unbeaten No. 3 Franklin County. No. 18 Scott, who lost to No. 15 Holmes 50-38 a month ago, won 40-29 with the season on the line. No. 6 Hopkinsville got the district's top seed despite having lost to No. 7 Madisonville in the regular season because the

Tigers had a higher RPI in the tiebreaker. The Maroons straightened that discrepancy out with a 28-21 win Saturday.

Class 5A's No. 18 Madison Southern took a two-touchdown defeat last month and used it to fuel a 24-21 win over No. 8 East Jessamine in the second go-round. And red-hot No. 17 Southwestern, who had already knocked out No. 7 Pulaski County a week earlier, did the same to No. 12 Whitley County with a 21-15 victory. The Warriors lost that matchup 14-0 in the regular season.



Class 6A's No. 3 Manual beat No. 9 St. Xavier 20-19 in the regular season only to see St. X advance with a 28-9 slight upset Friday.

WIN WHEN IT MATTERS

For the last 11 years, the first two rounds of the playoffs were “cross-districted” matchups that alternated home sites and set up games against relatively unfamiliar foes. This year, the top two teams in each district hosted teams they'd already faced in the first round and set up “district championships” in the second round. The KHSAA's stated reasons for intra-district play when the move was announced were to 1) help save on travel and to

2) mirror other sports' postseasons.

Despite criticism of it in the coaching ranks and on some high school message boards, that's just fine, according to Tates Creek Coach Jonathan Smith.

"To me I enjoy it," Smith said of intra-district play. "A district championship in the season, to me, is not really the championship. ... You've got to match up and play them when it matters to win a championship. I'm probably not in the majority on this. I think it gives you a true district championship. Every other sport does it."

Tates Creek defeated Paul Laurence Dunbar 46-7 in the regular season and found out that the Bulldogs had a lot more for them [the second time, leading early before falling 37-29](#). Smith said it's difficult, sometimes, to get high school kids to focus when maybe they've blown a team out before, and the Commodores experienced a little of that.

"It makes it harder on the coaching, but that's what I like," Smith said of rematches. "I like it when it gets harder."

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Below are the pairings for the regional championships round of the KHSAA playoffs. This round is split into eastern and western groups and seeded according to their final regular season RPI rankings. All rankings are RPI rankings.

All games Friday. All times local to site of game.

CLASS A

West Districts 1-4

No. 10 Crittenden County (10-2) at No. 1 Kentucky Country Day (12-0), 7:30 p.m.

No. 6 Newport Central Catholic (10-2) at No. 3 Louisville Holy Cross (10-2), 7:30 p.m.

East Districts 5-8

No. 16 Nicholas County (9-3) at No. 2 Pikeville (11-0), 7:30 p.m.

No. 5 Williamsburg (10-2) at No. 4 Paintsville (9-3), 7:30 p.m.

CLASS 2A

West Districts 1-4

No. 28 Edmonson County (6-6) at No. 2 Mayfield (11-1), 7:30 p.m.

No. 17 McLean County (8-4) at No. 3 Somerset (11-1), 7:30 p.m.

East Districts 5-8

No. 18 Walton-Verona (8-4) at No. 5. Breathitt County (12-0), 7:30 p.m.

No. 12 West Carter (9-3) at No. 7 Beechwood (7-5), 7:30 p.m.

CLASS 3A

West Districts 1-4

No. 14 Taylor County (10-2) at No. 2 Paducah Tilghman (9-3), 7:30 p.m.

No. 10 Bardstown (10-2) at No. 5 DeSales (9-3), 7:30 p.m.

East Districts 5-8

No. 12 Fleming County (10-2) at No. 1 Bell County (12-0), 7:30 p.m.

No. 9 Ashland Blazer (10-2) at No. 7 Belfry (8-3), 7:30 p.m.

CLASS 4A

West Districts 1-4

No. 24 Franklin-Simpson (7-5) at No. 7 Madisonville (10-2), 7:30 p.m.

No. 13 Moore (8-4) at No. 12 Central (7-5), 7:30 p.m.

East Districts 5-8

No. 18 Scott (8-4) at No. 1 Boyle County (12-0), 7:30 p.m.

No. 4 Wayne County (10-1) at No. 2 Johnson Central (12-0), 7:30 p.m.

CLASS 5A

West Districts 1-4

No. 14 Fairdale (11-1) at No. 4 Owensboro (11-1), 7:30 p.m.

No. 13 Bowling Green (8-3) at No. 5 South Oldham (11-1), 7:30 p.m.

East Districts 5-8

No. 18 Madison Southern (7-5) at No. 1 Covington Catholic (12-0), 7 p.m.

No. 17 Southwestern (7-5) at No. 2 Frederick Douglass (12-0), 7:30 p.m.

CLASS 6A

West Districts 1-4

No. 9 St. Xavier (8-4) at No. 1 Male (12-0), 7 p.m.

No. 7 McCracken County (9-3) at No. 2 North Hardin (12-0), 7:30 p.m.

East Districts 5-8

No. 17 Oldham County (8-4) at No. 4 Trinity (10-2), 7:30 p.m.

No. 13 Simon Kenton (8-4) at No. 10 Tates Creek (8-4), 7:30 p.m.

RELATED STORIES FROM LEXINGTON HERALD LEADER

PREP-FOOTBALL

Photo slideshow: Frederick Douglass defeats Scott County in football playoffs





JARED PECK



859-231-1333

Jared Peck, the Herald-Leader's Digital Sports Writer, covers high school athletics and has been with the company as a writer and editor for more than 19 years.

[Support my work with a digital subscription](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TODAY →](#)

COMMENTS ▾

NOVEMBER 15, 2019 11:26 PM

0 Comments

Sort by

Newest



Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin

VIDEOS



Photo slideshow: *Tates Creek* defeats *Dunbar* in football playoffs



Photo slideshow: Frederick Douglass defeats Scott County in football playoffs

[VIEW MORE VIDEO →](#)

TRENDING STORIES

'Devastated' Ariana Grande cancels Lexington Sunday concert. Refunds available.

NOVEMBER 17, 2019 12:16 PM

Too sick to sing, Ariana Grande buys lunch for fans in Lexington for canceled concert

NOVEMBER 18, 2019 11:05 AM

Report: Lexington Legends among minor league teams facing extinction

NOVEMBER 17, 2019 10:40 PM

Kentucky takes second-biggest fall ever from No. 1. Louisville rises in AP poll.

NOVEMBER 18, 2019 12:42 PM

SPONSORED CONTENT

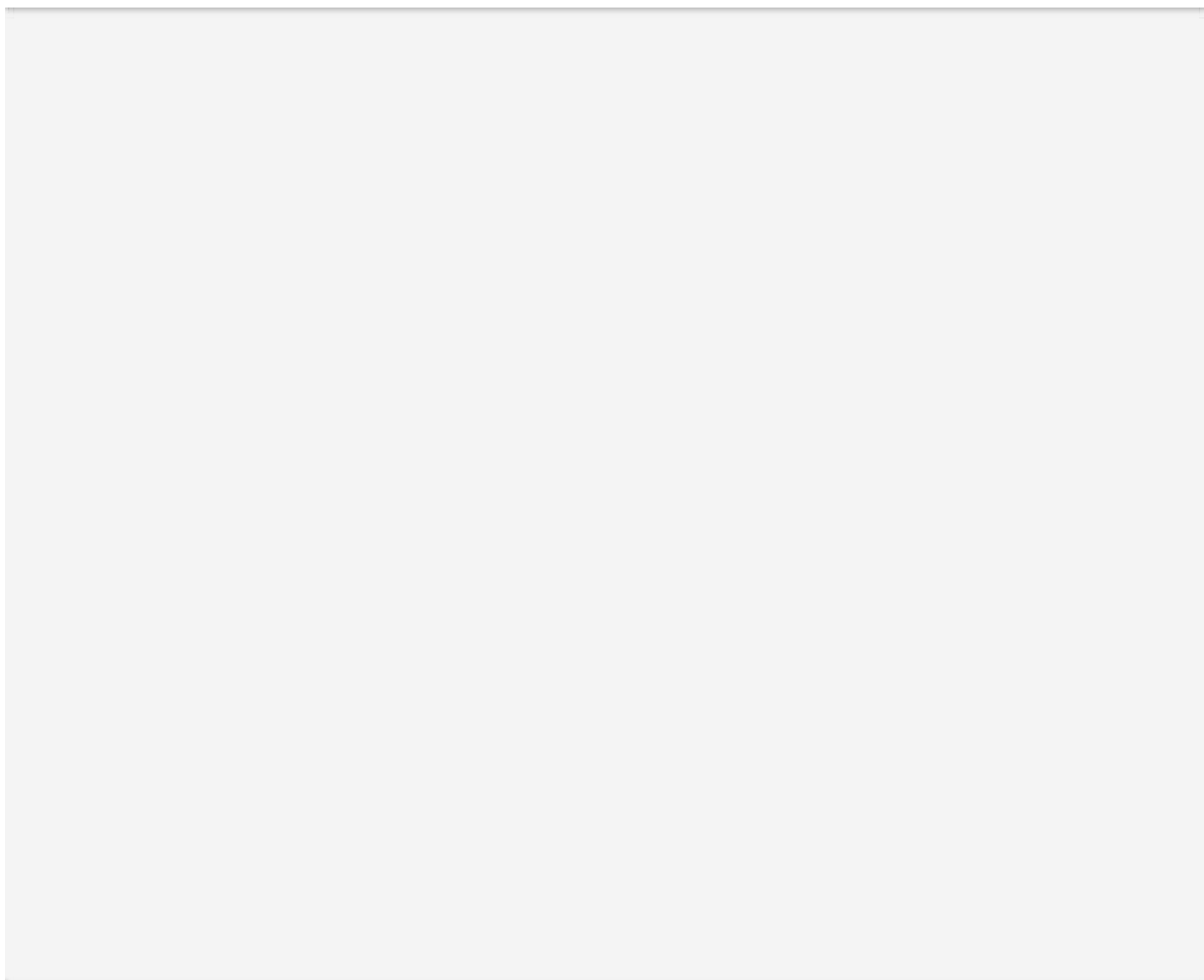
We Came, We Listened, We Reviewed: See Our Rating of Sony's WH-1000XM3



BY SONY ELECTRONICS AS SEEN ON WIRED

'It breaks my heart.' Lexington could lose the Legends. What that means for the city.

NOVEMBER 18, 2019 4:49 PM



READ NEXT



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

‘That kid’s a difference maker.’ Devin Neal helps Douglass get past Scott County.

BY JARED PECK

NOVEMBER 16, 2019 12:00 AM



Frederick Douglass’s Devin Neal, a Cincinnati commit, scored on two big plays and had a team-high 11 tackles in the Broncos’ 24-14 win over Scott County in the 6th District title game of the KHSAA’s playoffs.

KEEP READING →

Subscribe and Save

#ReadLocal

Act now to get a full year of unlimited digital access – just \$49.99!

[VIEW OFFER](#)

MORE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Highlights: Tates Creek rallies, Boyle romps, Madison Southern avenges and Franklin falls

NOVEMBER 16, 2019 1:32 AM



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

'We wanted it bad.' Two top teams, a playoff rematch and sweet revenge.

NOVEMBER 16, 2019 9:04 AM



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Friday Night Lights: Live high school football updates and broadcast links

NOVEMBER 15, 2019 6:23 PM



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Who wins the LexCath-Boyle rematch? Predictions for every Class 4A district title.

NOVEMBER 14, 2019 7:59 AM

Kentucky football coaches name district players, coaches of the year for 2019

NOVEMBER 14, 2019 10:26 AM



SPONSORED CONTENT

Precise Varieties Dialed in to Your Local Conditions.

BY BASF

Take Us With You

Real-time updates and all local stories you want right in the palm of your hand.



LEXINGTON HERALD LEADER APP →



VIEW NEWSLETTERS →



SUBSCRIPTIONS

[Start a Subscription](#)

[Customer Service](#)

[eEdition](#)

[Vacation Hold](#)

[Pay Your Bill](#)

[Rewards](#)

LEARN MORE

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[News in Education](#)

[Archives](#)

ADVERTISING

[Contact Advertising](#)

[Place a Classified Ad](#)

[Digital Solutions](#)

[Media Kit](#)

COPYRIGHT

[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

[TERMS OF SERVICE](#)