



## woodlands villager - sports

### Power rankings provides first look at boys playoff pairings

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**Update:** College Park will play Klein Collins in the bi-district playoffs Monday or Tuesday after the Tigers' 86-70 win over Spring Friday night. The Woodlands will play Westfield on Tuesday at Dekaney High School at 7 p.m.

Now that the boys District 14-5A playoff picture is complete, let's take a look ahead to next week's bi-district playoff matchups.

District 13 teams dominated their northerly counterparts last year, with the one exception being College Park's ability to get past the first-round jinx that seems to hobble the league's other squads.

Here's how the 13-5A standings look:

1. Tomball (12-2)
2. Klein Forest (10-4)
3. Westfield (9-5)
4. Klein Collins (9-5)
4. Spring (9-5)

Yes, there's a tie for fourth place. College Park will play the winner of Friday's play-in game between Klein Collins and Spring.

A matchup for the Cavs with either team would be fitting. Spring fell to College Park in last year's bi-district round, while Klein Collins was College Park's regional quarterfinals victim last year.

Here are some scores from games between 13-5A and 14-5A teams this year.

The Woodlands 65, Tomball 43

Klein Forest 61, The Woodlands 53

Westfield 67, Conroe 64

Klein Collins beat Conroe by 13, Oak Ridge by 13 and The Woodlands by 14

These games are obviously from the non-district season, so the teams have changed a lot since then. But I think one thing you can pull from those scores is that any team can beat any other team on any given night.

#### 1. College Park (27-10, 10-0). Last Week: No. 1

**Last week:** 57-40 win vs. Lufkin on Tuesday; 62-40 win vs. Oak Ridge on Friday. **This week:** 71-56 win at Conroe on Tuesday. **Next week:** vs. Klein Collins or Spring on Monday or Tuesday.

The Cavaliers clinched a somewhat surprising undefeated district title with a romp at Conroe on Tuesday.

They're playing great defense at the right time and I wouldn't be surprised to see another deep run in the playoffs.



Adam Rowe and the Cavaliers are still awaiting notice of their first-round opponent.

College Park will definitely be the last of the 14-5A teams standing, but Klein Collins would be a dangerous first-round opponent.

## 2. Oak Ridge (20-11, 5-5). LW: No. 2

**Last week:** 61-47 win vs. New Caney on Tuesday; 62-40 loss at College Park on Friday. **This week:** 55-47 win vs. Lufkin on Tuesday. **Next week:** vs. Klein Forest, Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Klein High School.

If the War Eagles play the great defense and turnover-free ball (at least in the fourth quarter) that they did in Tuesday's win over Lufkin, they'll be a headache in the first round.

But when a team shuts down Oak Ridge offensively, that's when the War Eagles run into trouble. They'll need contributions big contributions from Logan Griffin and Anthony Weems, and Sean Kovar, Alonzo Jefferson and Scott Bastian need to step up too.

## 3. The Woodlands (19-12, 6-4). LW: No. 3

**Last week:** 54-51 (OT) win at Conroe on Tuesday; 83-82 (5OT) loss at Lufkin on Friday. **This week:** 52-36 win vs. New Caney on Tuesday. **Next week:** vs. Westfield on Monday or Tuesday.

The Highlanders might have been lagging a bit from last week's five-overtime thriller against Lufkin as the New Caney game was close until the fourth quarter.

The Woodlands is banged up and will surely miss the dead-eye Wes Cole in the playoffs, but a matchup with beatable Westfield awaits in the first round.

The injuries hurt their chances, though, and that's also why I have the Highlanders behind Oak Ridge in this poll.

## 4. Lufkin (10-19, 5-5). LW: No. 4

**Last week:** 57-40 loss at College Park on Tuesday; 83-82 (5OT) win vs. The Woodlands on Friday. **This week:** 55-47 loss at Oak Ridge on Tuesday. **Next week:** vs. Tomball on Monday or Tuesday.

The Panthers will be in any game as long as Ja'Darius Davis doesn't get completely shut out.

The man-child will be the key of any opponent's defensive schemes, so Tomball better put one — or two — of its big bodies on him and hope the rest of the Panthers are likewise shut down as they were Tuesday.

## 5. Conroe (13-18, 4-6). LW: No. 5

**Last week:** 54-51 (OT) loss vs. The Woodlands on Tuesday; 53-52 win at New Caney on Friday. **This week:** 71-56 loss vs. College Park on Tuesday.

The Tigers really went off the deep end in the second half of the district season after starting league play 3-1.

I have no idea what happened, but Conroe won only one of six games after its 65-64 heartbreaking loss at College Park. That one win was a one-pointer over cellar-dwelling New Caney.

## 6. New Caney (5-25, 0-10). LW: No. 6

**Last week:** 61-47 loss at Oak Ridge on Tuesday; 53-52 loss vs. Conroe on Friday. **This week:** 52-36 loss at The Woodlands on Tuesday.

The Eagles made a good run at The Woodlands on Tuesday night before the Highlanders eased away in the fourth quarter. It was another close-and-late experience for the first-year 5A team, which will try to turn the narrow losses from this year into wins next year.

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