

## North Shore, Katy, and FB Marshall prepare for Regional Finals

Written by Yolande Y. Lezine

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It was a wild and crazy weekend for area high school football playoff teams as many top-ranked teams were upset, ending their season of trying to reach the State Championship game!

Moving on into the Regional Finals this week will be the North Shore Mustangs, Lamar Redskins, Katy Tigers, Cy Ranch, Nederland Bulldogs, Fort Bend Marshall Buffaloes, West Orange Stark, and Navasota Rattlers.

North Shore slipped past Elsik 17-10, while Lamar defeated Fort Bend Travis 24-7. Coach Gary Joseph and the undefeated Katy Tigers made a redemption statement with a 55-10 blowout victory over the La Porte Bulldogs, and Cy Ranch scored 15 points in 2:33 seconds to come-from-behind after trailing 42-28 to defeat the Manvel Mavericks 43-42.

In Class 4A Nederland upset No.1 ranked Pearland Dawson 22-19 in overtime, while Georgetown defeated Angleton 49-38. Manor beat Terry 31-21 and Fort Bend Marshall edged Elgin 31-28.

And in Class 3A West Orange Stark held Lorena scoreless with a 28-0 win, and Navasota beat La Marque 31-28.

North Shore's win in the Class 5A Division I Region III, semifinal game sends the Mustangs (12-1) to the fourth round for the first time since 2007, when it defeated Hightower 33-9 to reach the Division I semifinals.

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The Mustangs will face Lamar, a 24-7 winner over FB Travis, at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8th at Pasadena Veterans Memorial Stadium.

The biggest upset of them all had to be Cy Ranch's victory over Manvel. The Mavericks are loaded with talent, but after taking a huge lead they seem to stop playing a bit. Cypress Ranch scored 15 points in the final 2 minutes, 33 seconds to pull off their Class 5A Division II Region III semifinal game victory at the Berry Center.

Oklahoma Sooner –bound senior Keith Ford again showed why he is one of the premier players in the state. The senior running back accounted for 278 total yards, including the go-ahead touchdown with 11 seconds remaining.

With the win, the Mustangs, in their third year of varsity play, extended their first playoff run. They will be making it to their first regional final, a date with the unbeaten Katy Tigers at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday at Rice Stadium.

Ford carried 28 times for 133 yards and a touchdown and he caught four more passes for 1456 yards and a touchdown.

This weekend Regional Finals will show us who will be left standing in what's going to be some very exciting games with some very exciting finishes!

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