

Stadium Stop

By Scott Goodheart

Week #6

Thomas More Prep 17, Cimarron 14



The home side of Lewis Field Stadium. Cimarron's bunched offense attracts several blue jerseys in the box. TMP's coaching staff calls the Defense.

HAYS—A few true fans found themselves fighting the Kansas wind to watch an exciting ball game Friday. As the game started off it looked like it would be a run away as the Blue Jays of Cimarron got some early breaks with good field position took advantage of TMP's mistakes take a 14-0 lead into halftime. This is the third weekend in a row that would serve as homecoming for the city of Hays, although this wasn't TMP's or Hays High's but the college version, also known as Fort Hays State's Oktoberfest. The Volga German heritage is wide spread throughout Hays and Ellis County. Spectators may have seen numerous cars sitting at Frontier Park as Okotoberfest Festivities were wrapping up another celebration, near Lewis Field Stadium.

When you hear the name Monarchs, everyone's first reaction is who in the heck names their mascot after a butterfly. This long time joke has been going on since the school has been in existence. The Monarchs, mascot is actually interpreted as the Monarch being consider a buffalo herd, once the "Monarch of the Plains." This large mammal can actually be seen quite close to Lewis Field Stadium, a part of Frontier Park West.

The Monarchs west coast style offense looked like it would be in trouble with the wind playing a major factor on TMP's efficiency throwing the football. However, TMP stuck with their plan and continued to what they felt was necessary to put them in a position to win the football game. Throwing a football directly into the wind can be difficult; the key is controlling the tip of the ball. Sometimes it takes athletes a lot longer to understand how to throw a ball into the wind, there is an over-emphasis on controlling

the tip of the football, snapping the wrist. It took me one game and a butt chewing to figure this out. This may have played factor in the 1st half of the game last Friday night.

Lewis Field Stadium is home to several schools, but is on the Fort Hays State University campus. The Hays High Indians and TMP-Marian Monarchs call Lewis Field home as well. I will say, I think it's a great opportunity for student-athletes to get to play in great facilities, although there was hardly any atmosphere at the game Friday night. With the large Lewis Field stadium setting may have been a decent crowd, but looked like no one was at the ball game. Fort Hays, Hays High, and TMP are not the only schools to share facilities, a large number of schools do the same throughout the state. Emporia State and Emporia High both use Welsh Stadium. Several schools share facilities in Wichita, using Wichita State's Cesena Stadium, but it's still not enough some games are played on Thursdays. It only makes sense to have one facility for a community to use, but I'm still a fan of the small town atmosphere.

The Fort Hays State Student -Athletes are in charge of the Concession Stand offering a wide range of concessions to satisfy a hungry fan. Large fountain drink, popcorn, and candy by for a crisp Abraham Lincoln five dollar bill; if that isn't what you're craving, Hays' famous Lamoto's pizza is served at all home Fort Hays athletic events. As far at the stadium, it has a limestone wall running around the stadium. A large press box skies over Lewis Field serving as media, coaches, and the president's box. The flag pole at the north end of the stadium is awkwardly tall. It's probably the largest flag pole I've ever seen in any football setting and I've seen a lot. If you have a need for Monarch gear, the booster club sets up underneath the grandstand of the home side.

The TMP Pep Band didn't have the traditional marching band, which I don't mind. I just like hearing good high school bands. They had a drum trap set, almost something you would see at a basketball games. The student band members had on Monarch t-shirts on too which I thought was nice to see, just relaxed and casual. Not only that, the band was playing some of the same music that's on my iPod. New hits like: Katie Perry's Teenage Dream, Lady Gaga's Born this Way, Enrique Igelasis' I like it, and the Kesha's song Animal.

The history of TMP is a rich one, having a prestige private style school can traced back to 1908. There were three schools which have merged into one. The Schools were Marian High School, St. Francis Seminary, and St. Joseph's Military Academy consolidated around 1975. The school used to be an all Male school which was just Thomas More Prep. When the school became coed, this is where the Marian came into the name, making it Thomas More Prep-Marian. The Catholic schools of Hays maybe needing to adapt with changing times and will most likely have another merger again; the city of Hays, has had two middle schools in the city for several years, due to budget cuts it was a decision based on USD 489 to consolidate middle schools (Kennedy Middle

School and Felton Middle School) into one which will begin in the 2012 school term. The name is yet to be decided. However, it is brought to the attention that there is an attempt to use the 3rd floor of TMP-Marian High School, serving as the Catholic Middle School of Hays. Kennedy Middle School use to be a catholic middle school until it was made a public school.

The Monarchs have had a rich tradition of athletics from winning three state titles in baseball-1961, 1974, 1981, softball in 2007 and 2008, girls basketball in 2010, and final boys basketball in 2005 and 2007. In 2003, was the last time TMP had a team go deep into the playoffs for a football squad. The Monarchs have not had a history of being known as a football school, but they are taking steps in the right direction in doing so with Coach Jon Borer. Borer and the Monarchs were 2-7 last season, and are already at 4-2 on this season thus far. District play begins where the Monarchs will play: Phillipsburg, Norton, and Goodland in hope to find a playoff spot when November rolls around.



Storms on the horizon won't keep these fans from the game.

FHSU student athletes treat fans by their to the concession stand. Chevrolet.

TMP's victory bell pulled decked out



Goal post view of Cimarron following a running offense. touchdown.

TMP cheerleaders watch the game, as their mascot looks to bring the pep club to their feet.

Cimarron's P.A.T
Blue Jay

