



1101 North 1st • Abilene, Texas 79601  
www.abilenevisitors.com • debi@abilenevisitors.com  
325.676.2556 • 800.727.7704 • Fax 325.676.2556

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contact:** Debi Schultz, [debi@abilenevisitors.com](mailto:debi@abilenevisitors.com) / 325-338-2344; Gary Grubbs, [ggrubbs@lawrencehall.com](mailto:ggrubbs@lawrencehall.com) 325-437-0833 or Doug McIntyre – 325-669-2765

**MORE INFO:** For rosters, game previews, etc., visit: <http://gochampionsclassic.com>

### Sixth Annual Action Sports Medicine Champions Classic Kicks Off Tonight at Shotwell Stadium

The reigning 2009 Texas 5A-Division II Champion Abilene Eagles and two State Champion Runner-Ups from 2009 take the field at the Sixth Annual Action Sports Medicine Champions Classic at Shotwell Stadium.

**Thursday night, September 2 at 7:30 p.m.** - An offensive Six-Man shoot-out between the Abilene Christian High School Panthers and the Newcastle Bobcats.

**Friday night, September 3 at 7:30 p.m.** - The Abilene Cooper Cougars and Austin Westlake Chaparrals will renew their rivalry.

**Saturday, September 4 at 11 a.m.** - Abilene hosts the Louisiana Class 4A State Runner-up as the 2009 Class 5-A Division II State Champion Abilene High Eagles take on Franklinton High School Demons.

**Saturday, September 4 at 7:30 p.m.** - The Hamlin Pied Pipers- District 7-1A – Division II against the Quanah Indians of District 2-1A-Division I.

#### **Football Commentary**

**Thursday Night Game:** The Panthers are picked to win the Six-Man District 6 – Division I Championship. This forecast is based upon the strength of returning starters from Coach Mark Coley's 2009 team. Newcastle also returns a number of starters from Coach Spitzer's 2009 team, which should put the Bobcats in the District 10 Six-Man Division II race.

**Friday Night Game:** The Cougars of Coach Mike Spradlin will be returning to Class 5A, after a brief stint in Class 4A. The Cougars are expected to be a playoff team in 2010 from the re-formed "Little Southwest Conference" District 3-5A, which includes Odessa and Midland schools. The Coogs return seven starters on both offense and defense from 2009's District Champions, including the RB tandem of Davon Riddick and Alford Cooper. The Austin Westlake Chaparrals, under Coach Darren Allman, a former HSU standout, are ranked #4 in the pre-season polls in Dave Campbell's *Texas Football Magazine*. A real slugfest is expected between the Coogs and Chaps during the Classic.

**Saturday 11:00 a.m. Game:** Franklinton boasts a high-octane offense that in 2009 became Louisiana's All-Time Single Season scoring team. Head Coach, Shane Smith, will return a seasoned squad of seniors and juniors; so expect to see a lot of offensive fireworks from the Demons. The 2010 Abilene High Eagles are picked #2 in the preseason polls; #1 in the coaches' poll; and a repeat favorite as Class 5A-Division II State Champions by many writers in Dave Campbell's *Texas Football Magazine*. Boasting a seasoned group of returners, led by the Sims Duo of 2009 5A Player of the Year RB Herschel Sims and returning QB Ronell Sims, Coach Steve Warren and the Warbirds are expected to bring a lot of fireworks on offense and a swarming defense.

**Saturday 7:30 p.m. Game:** The finale for the 2010 edition of the Action Sports Medicine Champions Classic will feature matchup between The Hamlin Pied Pipers and Quanah Indians. Both teams are expected to make a playoff run this year, so

expect explosive hard hits. Hamlin will put 14 returning starters on the field on offense and defense, while Quanah returns a total of 15 starters from last years' team. High powered offenses and stubborn defenses will go against each other so this one should be a lot of fun to watch.

The Champions Classic is in its sixth year and is promoted by the Abilene Sports Alliance, a committee of the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Classic is sponsored by Action Sports Medicine and Rehab, Texas Chevy Dealers and other local sponsors. The Sports Alliance was created to increase the economic impact in the Abilene community through sporting events. An additional goal is to raise money for annually awarded scholarships to local graduating high school seniors from Abilene HS, Cooper HS, Wylie HS and Abilene Christian HS. To date, the Champions Classic has awarded \$44,000 in scholarships.

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