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## PRIVATE SCHOOL NOTES

### Cardinals looking at familiar foe

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Fort Worth Christian boys basketball coach Scott Thannum knows any deep playoff run by the Cardinals usually involves a matchup with Houston Westbury.

However, historically, that matchup also means the end of the Cardinals' run.

Houston Westbury has won 13 TAPPS state championships in the past 15 years and Fort Worth Christian has yet to beat the private school powerhouse.

The Cardinals are 0-2 in playoff matchups against the Wildcats. Westbury won two state championships in 5A, three in 4A, three in 3A and five in 2A.

The Cardinals, who lost to Houston Westbury 59-46 in a state semifinal game last season, try to rewrite history when the two meet in a TAPPS 5A state semifinal game at 7 p.m. Friday at UT-Tyler.

If the Cardinals win, they will advance to the TAPPS state final for the first time since the 1997-1998 season.

Fort Worth Christian (27-8) recorded a school-best 28 victories that season and is one victory from tying that mark.

"You know every year when you start in October, all roads go through Westbury," Thannum said. "I'm pleased that this group was able to answer the bell in a sense as far as getting to this point this year. This year's 11 seniors know how it felt in the locker room after we lost to Westbury last year. It's not so much as getting revenge, it's a matter to be the first team to knock them off."

Fort Worth Christian played one of its most complete games of the season Saturday in a 72-50 regional playoff victory against Tomball Concordia Lutheran.

Despite being outrebounded 40-33, the Cardinals had nine players score. Tommy Smith scored 12 points in two quarters and Nick Pierson scored six of his 10 points in the first quarter.

### Final four

The Nolan Catholic girls are making their first TAPPS basketball final four appearance since 1988, when they won a state title.

The Lady Vikings play Bishop Lynch, a team they lost to twice during the regular season, in a TAPPS 6A state semifinal game at 10 a.m. Friday at UT-Tyler.

Nolan Catholic hung on for a 66-64 victory against San Antonio Antonian in its regional game Friday. The Lady Vikings trailed by as much as 17 points in the second quarter and took their first lead in the fourth quarter. Freshman post Amanda Patterson made a short bank shot as time expired to give Nolan Catholic the victory.

The Lady Vikings (25-11) finished with nine victories last season. Bishop Lynch has won state titles in 13 of the past 14 seasons.

"We're definitely the underdogs," Nolan Catholic coach Joey Simmons said. "It's taken me literally two years to instill the confidence in the kids that they can play at this level. We got to the final four, but we don't have to be satisfied with that."

### Two is better than one

Fort Worth Christian, Watauga Harvest, Grapevine Faith and Lake Country each have girls and boys basketball teams still competing in the playoffs.

At Lake Country, the boys and girls teams have made T-shirts that bear the saying "Two teams, one dream." The Lake Country boys haven't made a playoff appearance in more than a decade and will play Baytown Christian in a TAPPS 3A regional game at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Waco Midway High School.

