

# Shipley, Bears won't be overlooked



By Michael Adams  
Bastrop Advertiser

District 25-5A coaches snubbed him in 2008.

They told him that he wasn't good enough to be a first team all-district selection despite being the second leading wide receiver in all categories.

But Bastrop wide receiver Auston Shipley has put that behind him and says district coaches won't be able to overlook him again.

Even his quarterback, the slippery Josiah Monroe, was upset about Shipley being left off the first team.

"He worked so hard and he earned that spot," Monroe said. "He is one of the best receivers in this district."

That's a bold statement considering the talent and speed at the wide receiver position in the smashmouth District 25-5A.

But Monroe may have a point.

Shipley was the second leading receiver among all 25-5A players in receptions, yards and touchdowns in 2008.

He had 412 yards more than Connally's Spencer Eggleston, a first-team selection.

Shipley had 25 more receptions than Bowie's Philander Moore, another first-team selection.

As for receiving touchdowns, Shipley had six, which was two more than DeAndre Perry and two less than Westlake's Mike Walker.

"It was definitely disappointing," Shipley said.

This year, however, Shipley will be playing pitch-and-catch with Monroe all season.

Monroe didn't take over starting duties in 2008 until midway through the season. The two connected 44 times for 728 yards and six touch-



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**Bastrop receiver Auston Shipley returns after an impressive junior year that included plenty of catches but few accolades. Shipley and the Bears believe they won't be overlooked in 2009.**

downs in 2008, but Shipley said he expects big things for one of the top quarterback-wide receiver duos in the district.

"We have a rhythm down," the senior said. "Josiah is so quick and knowing that, I can adjust my routes."

Shipley isn't your prototypical wide receiver. He stands at about 5-foot-10-inches and weighs 165 pounds, but he does have some speed, running a 4.5 40-yard dash.

Monroe said it's a relief to have a wide receiver to throw to like Shipley.

"I know I can always count on him," he said. "He is such a talented receiver that all I have to do is get the ball right in his vicinity, and he's going

to catch it. He's due to have a big year."

A big year is what Shipley is counting on to elevate him into a college football player.

Shipley said he is has been spending his summer sending highlight tapes to college coaches and attending camps.

"A lot of them are telling me that it will depend on this season," he said. "I don't know where I am going to end up, but I know I will be going to play football somewhere."

In the meantime, however, Bastrop is hoping that the Monroe-Shipley combination can lead an inexperienced offense.

The Bears, who were 2-8 last sea-

## If you go

### Bastrop ISD Memorial Stadium

755 Highway 21 West

**Where to eat:** Fans that still wish to travel into town before games have plenty of options. However, with the new stadium located out of town, there is a local gem right around the corner. If you want some burgers or fish, **The Roadhouse** in Bastrop, located near the entrance to Bastrop State Park on Highway 21 East, is the way to go in town. The burgers are well known as a mouthful. If you don't want to go that far from the stadium, **Fitties Barbecue**, located at 1376 W. Highway 71 right before the exit for the stadium, has the best catfish and food for your dollar. It is very inexpensive and offers a convenient location. Fitties is located on the westbound lanes of Highway 71 before the Coffee Dog coffee shop.

## 2009 schedule

Date	Team	Time	2008
Aug. 28	at Hays	7:30	w. 34-27
Sept. 4	San Marcos	7:30	l. 27-26
Sept. 11	at Shoemaker	7:30	l. 36-15
Sept. 25	*Pflugerville	7:30	l. 28-10
Oct. 2	*at Connally	7:30	l. 17-7
Oct. 9	*at Westlake	7:30	l. 49-36
Oct. 16	*Anderson	7:30	l. 42-35
Oct. 22	*at Austin High	7:30	l. 37-28
Oct. 30	*Akins	7:30	w. 37-7
Nov. 6	*at Bowie	7:30	l. 42-21

\*Denotes District 25-5A game

son, return just three starters from last year's high-powered offense.

Shipley and Monroe both feel they can get to the playoffs this year.

To do so, Bastrop is going to have to get through a resurgent Connolly team and Austin High.

"We were in most of the games we played last year, but lost it in the last two quarters," Shipley said. "One of the things we have been working in the offseason on is starting strong and finishing games stronger. If we do that, we are going to surprise some people this year."

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