

Blake, Bears look to be a force to be reckoned with

BY MICHAEL ADAMS
Bastrop Advertiser

Bastrop's defense ranked seventh in District 25-5A last year in rushing yards allowed, points allowed and total yards allowed per game.

It was commonly known that if you wanted to beat the Bears, you had a better chance if you ran the football.

That's not going to be the case this year, according to anyone you talk to in the Bastrop locker room.

"We are going to be something to watch," said defensive back Bernard Blake.

As an opposite to last year, the Bears defense will be the unit with the most experience, with seven starters returning.

The reason for the new found defensive swagger is the secondary anchored by Blake and Pete Rodriguez.

Even with the talent in the secondary, Blake said it's not enough.

"We still have to prove ourselves," he said. "Everyone can say we are going to be good, but until we prove it, we are the underdogs."

Teams had a little less success throwing the football against Bastrop's secondary.

The Bears only gave up 93.5 yards per game through the air, compared to 275.2 on the ground.



PETE RODRIGUEZ



Staff photo by Michael Adams
Bernard Blake makes a hit during defensive drills at a recent practice. Blake and Bastrop's secondary could spell doom for opposing offenses.

New defensive coordinator Todd Patmon new that was going to have

to change.

"We are going to stop the run," Patmon said. "A lot of it is going to be our mentality. The guys have become stronger and got bigger in the offseason, but the difference will be our mental toughness."

Bastrop's defense had a good spring practice and looked really good in the spring game in May.

The Bears gave up just 113 yards rushing in the spring game and had seven tackles in the backfield.

Of the seven touchdowns the offense scored, two were earned on the ground.

"The spring was a good beginning for us," Patmon said. "We used it as our building blocks, but we

can't rely on the success we had in the spring. We have to keep our kids hungry."

There are probably a couple of games Bastrop's defense would like to take back from last year.

Bastrop lost to Westlake by 13, Anderson by seven and Austin High by nine.

As a matter of fact, the Bears biggest lost of the season was to Bowie by 21 points.

That's a big improvement compared to 2007's average margin of defeat of 27 points.

"I think we'll see that number get smaller this year," Perry said. "Our defense is going to have to be our strength this season."