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OFFENSIVE OUTLOOK

No overlooking WR Shipley this year

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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 smash-mouth District 25-5A.

But Monroe may have a point. Shipley was the second leading receiver in receptions, yards and touchdowns.

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.

Last season, Monroe didn't take over starting duties until midway through the season.

The two connected 44 times for 728 yards and six touchdowns in

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File photo
Bastrop's Auston Shipley, right, is the top returning wide receiver in District 25-5A, but he was left off the all-district first team in 2008.

SHIPLEY: Senior wideout looking to capitalize on productive '08 season

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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 protocol wide receiver.

He stands at about 5-10 and weighs 165 pounds, but he does have some speed, running a 4.5 second 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 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 season, 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 Connally 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."



Wide receiver Austin Shipley is one of several skill players that provide the Bears with offensive weapons.

Staff photo by Michael Adams