



Staff photo by Michael Adams

Bastrop defensive back Bernard Blake, seen in this photo from spring practice on May 6, is getting attention from several Big XII schools, including Kansas and Kansas State.

BASTROP FOOTBALL

Big XII knocking on Blake's door

BY MICHAEL ADAMS
Sports Editor

Defensive back Bernard Blake has the normal pressures of any 17 year old.

As he is preparing to begin his senior year in the fall, Blake is still trying to decide where he wants to attend college, just like most other young men his age.

His decision, however, is going to be much tougher, as the 5-foot-11, 175-pound safety has been the hot commodity among college coaches visiting Bastrop during spring drills.

"He's high on most of the scouts' radars that are visiting us during

workouts," said Gerald Perry, Bastrop head coach. "I'd bet he's going to start getting offers in the next week or so."

The list of colleges that have shown interest in Blake is long and prestigious and includes: Colorado, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Baylor, UTEP, TCU and Division III powerhouse Mary Hardin-Baylor.

With all the attention and the pressure of deciding which school he wants to play for on Saturdays in 2010, Blake stays humble.

"Football is just a blessing," he said. "I know that I have to work hard in the classroom and get my education because football isn't

always going to be there."

Perry said Blake is deserving of the attention because of his work ethic.

"He has great speed, a great attitude and is very intelligent," Perry said. "He is a role model for future Bastrop Bears. I tell the coaches all the time, 'He won't do anything to damage your name or his.'"

Perry went on to compare him to a former player of his at Plano East - Terrence Wheatley, who now plays for the New England Patriots.

"They are almost identical," Perry said.

While Blake waits for his big

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decision day in February, he plans on enjoying his senior year.

He expects big things from the Bears defensive unit this year and said

the competition in the spring is a good sign of things to come.

"I think the defense looks pretty good and we are coming along," Blake said. "I am loving it."