

COMMENTARY

Perry is clear choice for COTY

There has been some debate as of late on who the coach of the year is in Central Texas.

The two parties in this debate are Lake Travis' Chad Morris and Bastrop's own Gerald Perry.

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Personally, I don't think there is much debate.

There is a case for Morris, yes, but Lake Travis has been successful for the last three years.

There were some questions on how good the Cavaliers would be without Garrett Gilbert, arguably one of the best quarterbacks of all time.

In football, however, one player rarely will make a team better or worse.

Lake Travis is No. 1 in Class 4A and will probably be back in the state championship, but like I said earlier, the loss of Gilbert obviously isn't making that much of a difference.

I don't want to downplay the job Morris has done at Lake Travis this year because it is amazing.

However, it pales in comparison to the job Perry has done at Bastrop.

Here is my argument.

Bastrop has had a record of 6-24 in each of the last three seasons prior to 2009.

The Bears are a win away from a district championship, its first since 2001 and first in Class 5A.

Bastrop defeated Westlake, something it hasn't done in five tries prior to this year.

The Bears are also two wins away from having their first undefeated season since 1991.

The 1991 Bears had to forfeit two games that year due to playing an ineligible player, meaning Bastrop hasn't had an "official" undefeated season since 1944.

There could be argument that the 2009 Bears are lucky and are sneaking by with close wins over teams that are missing their best players.

Still, a win is a win and the game is not played by analysts and sports writers. It is played on the field.

The Bears beat Westlake and Anderson by three, Connally by four and Austin High by seven.

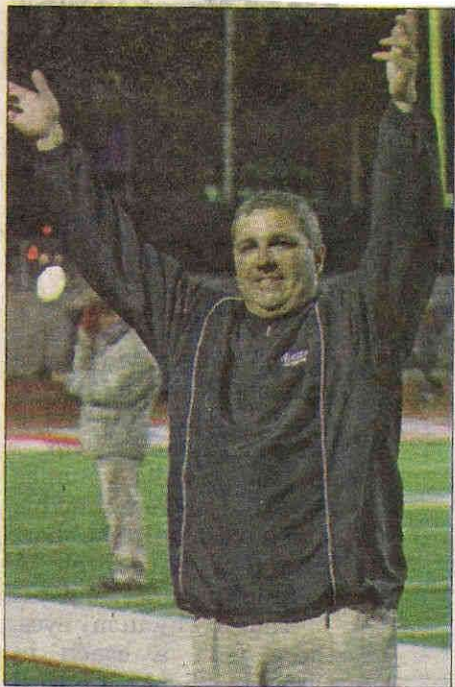
The truth is Bastrop has won those games because of coaching.

It takes a talented coach to put his team in position to win close games, something Perry has done from the beginning of this season.

One, two or even three years ago, Bastrop would have lost those games because they weren't taught how to win close games.

Perry and his staff have put in a system where these players are put into positions to win games like this.

He has taught a group of players, who have been told for so long they



File photo by Larry Overall
Bastrop head football coach Gerald Perry,
pictured above, has a strong case for
coach of the year accolades.

CITY: Perry has lead the Bears to a turnaround

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weren't able to win games against Westlake, Bowie, Austin High, Pflugerville and so forth, how to win.

That speaks volumes about the job Perry and his staff have done in the short time they have been in Bastrop.

That is why, in my eyes, there isn't a coach in District 25-5A, Central Texas or on the Class 5A level more deserving than Bastrop's own Perry to be coach of the year.