

KATY

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and had a strong first quarter, leading 20-14 after one and were able to hold on to that, leading 33-30 behind an offense that made every extra pass to find open looks.

Cinco Ranch came back with a strong second half and both teams went back and forth not being able to gain any separation, Katy led 48-46 after the third quarter and built a five point lead in the fourth but Cinco never stopped pushing and tied the game with under a minute left in regulation. But Katy had the answer, Michael Hernandez, who was huge in the second half, hit a floater with just under 15 seconds remaining and then put the game away with another layup in the final seconds after a defensive stop, as Katy celebrated knowing how big of a victory it was.

"This felt amazing," Hernandez said. "You could feel what it meant in the locker room, we're just really happy. It's been a long time since we have had a chance to lock down a playoff spot and



Thomas Belaïter drives to the basket during Wednesday's game between Katy and Cinco Ranch at the Cinco Ranch gym.

to be in this position means everything, especially as a new group. We've been dreaming of this and we're just happy to be

in this spot." Hernandez led the way with 19 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter while Greg Santos

had 18, Brady Willis had 18 and Thomas Belaïter had 11.

Katy faces Seven Lakes before closing out district against Taylor, Tompkins and Morton Ranch. They know the job isn't done yet and they aren't letting off the gas.

"We have to play solid and play our game," Belaïter said. "We can't try and be something we aren't just because of who we're playing. It's all about playing our kind of game and competing."

District 19-6A

KATY 67, CINCO RANCH 63

Points: (K) Michael Hernandez 19, Greg Santos 18, Brady Willis 18, Thomas Belaïter 11, Connor Maceiras-Kimball 2; (CR) Dylan Jones-Bynum 18, Prince Jones-Bynum 16, Kellen LeCronier 13, Noah Pearce 9, Darren Moore 2; Halftime: Katy 33, Cinco Ranch 30; 3-Pointers: (K) Willis 4; (CR) Dylan Jones-Bynum 2, Prince Jones-Bynum; Noah Pearce; Record: (K) 18-10, 8-4; (CR) 19-12, 7-6;

TOMPKINS

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so unselfish. You could tell right away it was a special team."

The Falcons did it with a very young team and a team that had a lot of turnover from last year. But every player stepped up, the seniors led by example and always put the right foot forward and Tompkins continued to improve all year. Tompkins head coach has Tamatha Ray given all of the credit to the players and continued to do so on Tuesday, saying that the team fostered the right culture and worked hard every single practice along with being coachable and teachable.

"This is one of my favorite teams I've coached," Ray said. "That's the reward I get to coach these girls. We saw what they could be as a coaching staff but you can't know if that will come to fruition. It took a while for them to establish their identity. We knew coming in we can play fast and we have shooters and once they figured that out on the court they just ran with it. But that's the reward for us is that these kids executed the plan from the jump."

Tompkins used that fast pace and constant pressure to

give Paetow problems all night. The Panthers could never settle into a rhythm as the Falcons grew their lead from 11-3 after the first quarter to 30-15 at half and 48-27 at the end of the third quarter. Tompkins always seemed to find the open player as well, making extra passes and making sure the right person got the ball in the right situation.

"It's so fun, everyone in this group is equally excited for each other and there's no selfishness," said senior post Caitlyn D'Addieco. "Everyone is excited anytime anyone does well and we all want each other to do something and see everyone excel in their role. When you see that happening it's just really exciting."

The Falcons aren't satisfied with just making it this far though. They're excited for the bi-district round and no matter who they play, they are going to come out ready to fight for every inch.

"We all wanted this so badly," Panter said. "I know for me and Caitlyn, we wanted and needed a piece of this title for our senior year. It's what we've been working for this whole time. We're ready for playoffs."



Caitlyn D'Addieco shoots a layup during Tuesday's game between Tompkins and Paetow at the Paetow gym.

District 19-6A

TOMPKINS 63, PAETOW 36

Points: (T) Rihanna DeLeon 18, Gabby Panter 12, Sascha Coughran 12, Kate Hopkins 12, Caitlyn D'Addieco 6, Haylie Panter 2, Bella Riggan 1; (P) Lauren Johnson 8,

Kelis Milam 8, Naddilee French 7, Tiera Hall 4, Sam Neitsch 4, Rihanna Fulshear 2; Halftime: Tompkins 30-15; 3-Pointers: (T) Coughran 2, DeLeon; (P) Milam 2, Johnson 2, French; Records: (T) 29-6, 14-2; (P) 10-18, 5-11;

PLAYOFFS

from page B1

second half of district play, beating every opponent they have played by over 20 points, with their last single digit game coming all the way back at the beginning of December in a loss to Tompkins. Seven Lakes is ranked No. 24 in the state and is looking to make it to the area round for the third straight year.

Tompkins has been consistently strong all year. The Falcons have only lost six times in total on the year and have only lost by double digits twice. They come into the playoffs on a five-game winning streak. The Falcons have made it to the area round four straight seasons and will try to make it five straight this year.

Taylor (28-6, 12-4) finished in third place in district as the Mustangs clinched their first playoff berth since 2019. They Mustangs come into the game having won four of their last five. Cinco Ranch (18-10, 11-5) claimed the fourth and final playoff spot out of district for the third straight season. The Cougars carried a five-game winning streak into the last day of the regular season, but lost to Seven Lakes to end that streak, but the Cougars have been strong throughout the year and stayed in tough games.

On the opponents side of things, Ridge Point comes into the playoffs on a two-game loss streak but will provide a good challenge for whichever team they face in the first round. The Panthers earned a win over Ridge Point from early in non-district play, but that was when Seven Lakes was without some of their most important players, including Justice Carlton, Kimora Lopez and Gracie Hobin.

Travis has won two straight heading into the playoffs and has had good showing against strong teams this year, losing by 10 to Cinco Ranch, losing by four to Katy and beating Ridge Point in the two teams second matchup of the season.

Hightower comes off its biggest win of the season over Austin in the district finale. The No. 13 ranked Hurricanes only losses on the year have come to top teams in the state, once to Austin and once to No. 9 ranked Cy-Springs.

Austin claimed a share of the District 20-6A title losing just once in district play and having a historic regular season, only losing two game, to C.E. King early in non-district play and to Hightower in their last game of the regular season. The Bulldogs have won 26 of their last 27 heading into playoffs and have been dominant doing so.

Katy finished district in fifth place, while Paetow came in sixth, Morton Ranch finished seventh, Jordan finished eighth and Mayde Creek finished in ninth to round out the district table.

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS WALLER COUNTY

Sealed Qualifications will be received by Waller County until Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. for the Drainage-Specific Engineering Services RFQ (#240207-14). Specifications and Required Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at <https://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/BidsAndProposalRequests>.

The County intends to select one or more qualified Firms to perform drainage-specific engineering services for multiple projects located within Waller County. The selected Firm(s) may be asked to prepare hydraulic, hydrologic, and drainage studies; support the County in plans specification and estimates development, preparation, and review; drainage impact analysis review; cost estimate services; and assist with preparing drainage guidance documents. The selected Firm(s) will provide routine reports and updates to the Waller County Commissioners' Court and County Engineer.

Please submit one (1) original, four (4) copies, and one (1) electronic response on CD or flash drive. CD or flash drive must contain only one (1) file in PDF format and must match the original and copies of the response identically. Failure to provide proper electronic response may be cause for disqualification. Confidential information is to be placed in a separate envelope denoted as "confidential." Submittals shall be remitted to the County no later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November March 5, 2024. Response shall be signed in ink, by a person having the authority to bind the firm(s) in a contract. Complete Submittal packets must be remitted to Alan Younts, Waller County Auditor, Waller County Joe Kuciemba Annex, 425 FM 1488, Suite 119, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Please clearly mark the following on the envelope: RFQ Project Number: 240207-14 for Drainage-Specific Engineering Services. Submittals will be opened on March 6, 2024 in the Waller County Commissioners' Court meeting.

Waller County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Vendors are encouraged to submit proposals. Waller County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS WALLER COUNTY

Sealed Qualifications will be received by Waller County until Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. for the Mobility Bond Program Manager RFQ (#240207-26). Specifications and Required Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at <https://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/BidsAndProposalRequests>.

The County intends to select one or more qualified Firms to perform mobility bond program management services related to the County's approved \$280 million mobility bond package. The selected Firm(s) shall provide bond program management duties and responsibilities to include general coordination and management, design consultant management and oversight, manage communications, and bond financial management and oversight. The selected Program Manager will provide routine reports and updates to the Waller County's Commissioners' Court and appropriate staff.

Please submit one (1) original, five (5) copies, and one (1) electronic response on CD or flash drive. CD or flash drive must contain only one (1) file in PDF format and must match the original and copies of the response identically. Failure to provide proper electronic response may be cause for disqualification. Confidential information is to be placed in a separate envelope denoted as "confidential." Submittals shall be remitted to the County no later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November March 5, 2024. Response shall be signed in ink, by a person having the authority to bind the firm(s) in a contract. Complete Submittal packets must be remitted to Alan Younts, Waller County Auditor, Waller County Joe Kuciemba Annex, 425 FM 1488, Suite 119, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Please clearly mark the following on the envelope: RFQ Project Number: 240207-26 for Mobility Bond Program Manager. Submittals will be opened on March 6, 2024 in the Waller County Commissioners' Court meeting.

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February 1 Puzzle Answers

A	B	A	T	E	B	O	S	C	D	A	B	A
M	O	L	A	R	A	P	P	A	R	E	L	E
G	O	T	O	G	R	E	A	T	L	E	N	G
A	N	S	A	L	L	A	L	I	A	S	H	
			L	Y	S	I	B	I	S			
	S	O	D	S	S	A	N	E	S	T		
M	A	A	R		S	I	S	E	A	H	A	
A	R	N	E	C	L	A	S	H	S	C	A	B
C	A	T	V	A	I	N			S	H	I	M
B	A	S	I	N	S	A	M	E	S			
		P	A	N	T	C	A	B				
B	L	I	N	I	A	A	R		P	E	I	
G	O	U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	K	N	I
S	E	C	E	S	S	I	O	N	W	I	T	T
A	R	E	S	T	O	N		A	B	A	S	E

9	7	6	5	4	8	2	1	3
4	5	1	3	2	6	8	9	7
3	8	2	7	1	9	4	5	6
8	6	7	9	3	5	1	2	4
2	1	9	8	6	4	7	3	5
5	3	4	2	7	1	6	8	9
7	9	5	6	8	2	3	4	1
1	2	3	4	9	7	5	6	8
6	4	8	1	5	3	9	7	2

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