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Klein sets sites on bigger success in 2007

JB Shugarts leads the
blocking troops up
front

By [Alan Zepeda](#)
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The Bearkats went 7-3 last season with their only losses coming to the 10-0 Katy Tigers, the 10-0 Westfield Mustangs, and a playoff team in Cy Ridge. 5-1 in district play and easily handling more than solid teams like Klein Forest, Klein Oak, FB Marshall, and Humble Kingwood would normally seem like a pretty good season and primed for a playoff run.

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Unfortunately, because of Conroe losing their final two games to College Park and Oak Ridge, Klein ran into the buzz saw known as the Lufkin Panthers in the first round, where they lost 74-22.

Luckily for Klein they have some talented players coming back from that team. The unit that is the strength will be the offensive line, which has two D1 commits already. SR OL [J.B. Shugarts](#) has verbally committed to Ohio St. while SR OL [Clay Hebert](#) has done the same with the [Rice](#) Owls. SR DE/TE [John Youboty](#) has several offers himself and will be on the offensive line on occasion as well. SR QB Adam Smith returns at the helm of the offense. He only threw for a 40% completion rate and 282 yards but is a good leader. SR RB [C.J. Palmer](#), 2nd team All-District, leads the returning backfield with 398 rushing yards and 6 touchdowns. SR WR/RB Nick Farley was a utility player last year and accumulated 213 rushing yards and 129 receiving yards.

The Klein Bearkat defense will be very strong at the linebacker position this fall. SR LB [Brian Moore](#) ([Tulsa](#) commit) returns with SR LB Matt West who was 1st team All-District last season. The defensive line will be in good hands with Youboty down in the trenches along with SR DT Kyle Nichols and SR DE Henry Kaetzner. Unfortunately, the entire secondary was lost to graduation and the Bearkats will need some new faces to step up and start contributing immediately. One of those young faces will be JR S/WR Tyler Boss. Special teams is never to be overlooked, especially in high school football, and the Klein Bearkats are in a terrific spot as SR K Randy Bullock returns from last season where he was 1st team All-District. Bullock hit 11-14 FG and 39-39 EP and has a 54 yard FG to his credit. He has already had offers from TCU, Rice, and Tulsa.

If the Klein Bearkats can match their timely playmaking ability of last year and can replace all-everything RB Horace Gibson then they should find themselves in a tight battle for a playoff spot in the 2007 season. If they are fortunate enough to get in again this time around, I am sure they will be cheering for Lufkin to go to the D2 playoff bracket!