



# JUNCTION CITY DRAGONS PLAYOFF NOTEBOOK



## ARKANSAS CLASS 3A PLAYOFFS - Round 1

**NOVEMBER 10, 2023**

**PAUL H. MUSE FIELD AT DAVID CARPENTER STADIUM**



**MANILA VS JUNCTION CITY**

**2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING**

**JUNCTION CITY LEADS SERIES 1 – 0**

**2016 - 1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND - JUNCTION CITY (38) MANILA (20)**



### **LAST MEETING**

Hishmma Taylor rushed 27 times for 253 yards and two touchdowns, as Junction City defeated Manila 38 – 20 in the first round of the 2016 state playoffs.

### **THE MATCHUP**

Manila comes into this first round game with an overall record of 3 – 7. The Lions finished fourth in the 3A-3 conference with a conference record of 2 – 3. After losing a showdown to Prescott, Junction City reeled off four consecutive wins, three of which were conference games, to finish second in the 3A-5 with a 4 – 1 conference record and a 7 – 3 record overall.

## **DEVIN BALL**

- Named the 20<sup>th</sup> head coach of the Dragons in April 2023.
- Ball played for Junction City from 2005 – 2008. He started on defense in the 2005 state quarterfinal playoffs against undefeated and number one ranked Harding Academy. He helped lead the Dragons to a 21 – 16 upset win. The victory is considered one of the ten greatest wins in school history.
- Considered one of the greatest defensive players in school history, Ball finished his career with 419 tackles, second most in program history and his 46 tackles for losses is the third most in program history.
- During his Dragon career, Ball played on teams that went a combined 37 – 6, won two conference titles and in 2006 finished as a state runner up. In 2008, Ball's senior season, the Dragons won the school's second state title with a record of 13 – 0.
- The Dragons advanced to the state playoffs all four years Ball played and had an overall playoff record of 13 – 3.
- Ball made defensive plays in two memorable games that long-time Dragon fans will never forget. In the 2006 regular season finale with the 8AA conference title on the line, Ball recovered a fumble and ran for a touchdown that turned the game around for the Dragons. In the 2008 state finals, Ball's tackle on fourth and two against Des Arc, allowed Junction City to get the ball back and eventually kick the game winning field goal.
- He received several honors during his Dragon career including being selected All-Conference and All State three times. In 2006, Ball was named the El Dorado News-Times Rookie of the Year. He was an All-Star and All-Arkansas selection in 2008.

## **GAME NOTES**

- Junction City finished the regular season with an overall record of 7 – 3. It is the 41<sup>st</sup> time in school history that the Dragons won 7 or more games in a season. The first time the Dragons won 7 or more games in a season was 1923.
- The Dragons finished second in the 3A-5 conference with a record of 4 – 1. It was the 17<sup>th</sup> time in school history the Dragons have finished in second place in the conference.
- Quarterback Lamontra Hankton needs 12 plays to tie Kevin Payne (1999 – 01) for 10<sup>th</sup> for most plays in a season. Hankton has attempted 115 passes, rushed 76 times and has a pass reception to total 192 plays.

- Hankton needs two more touchdown passes to tie Will Smith (2013 – 15) for 8<sup>th</sup> for most touchdown passes thrown in a season. So far Hankton has thrown 13 touchdown passes. Smith threw 15 in 2015.
- After attempting 17 passes against Gurdon last week, Hankton is now 9<sup>th</sup> for most pass attempts in a season. He moved past Sohn Enis (1986 – 88) who had 108 attempts in 1987.
- Hankton's 13 completions against Gurdon moved him into 8<sup>th</sup> place for most pass completions in a season. He moved past Will Smith (2013 – 15) who completed 59 in 2015. Hankton needs four more completions to tie Decoreon Dubose (65 completions in 2022) for 7<sup>th</sup> on the list. If Hankton completes 8 passes, he will tie Joe Lowe (69 completions in 2016) for 6<sup>th</sup> place and if he completes nine, he will tie Shuvasceiaye Frazier (70 completions in 2017) for 5<sup>th</sup> on the single season pass completion list.
- Running back Jor'davion Williams has now rushed for over 2,000 yards in his Dragon career. Williams has rushed for 563 yards this season, which gives him a total of 2,106 yards rushing overall.
- Williams has 325 career rushing attempts, which puts him in 10<sup>th</sup> all time on the career rushing attempts list. Earlier this season, he moved past Kevin Payne (1999 – 01) who had 323 in his career.
- In his debut start at quarterback on September 22<sup>nd</sup> against Fouke, Taylen Owens did what no Junction City quarterback has ever done. Owens passed for 221 yards and two touchdowns against the Panthers. No Dragon quarterback has ever thrown for more than 200 yards in their starting debut.
- Jakorey Larry's five pass break-ups against Fouke is a school record for PBUs in a game.
- Receiver Dominique Grimes is currently tied with Devontay Gilbert (2018 – 20) for 5<sup>th</sup> on the single season pass reception list with 26.
- Kicker Cole Hanry has connected on 66 of his 79 PAT attempts so far in his career. His 79 attempts ties him for 4<sup>th</sup> on the all time PAT attempt list with Demetrius Malone (2000 – 02). The 66 made attempts puts him in 6<sup>th</sup> place on the all-time made list. His next made attempt will put him in a tie for 5<sup>th</sup> with Phillip Hess (2009, 67 made) and his next one after that would put him in a tie for 4<sup>th</sup> with Randall Holyfield (2012 – 14, 68 made).

## **PLAYOFF NOTES**

- Junction City is making its 27<sup>th</sup> State Playoff Appearance and 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive appearance (1998 – 2023).
- Friday's game against Manila will be the Dragons 90<sup>th</sup> playoff game.

- The Dragons' record in the state playoffs is 70 – 19.
- Junction City's 70 playoff victories ranks in the top five in state history, regardless of classification.
- From 2012 – 15, Junction City won a school record 15 consecutive playoff games. The next longest streak was from 2008 – 10, when the Dragon won 10 playoff games in a row. The Dragons have won 8 games in a row twice. The first time was 2003 – 04 and the next time was 2018 – 19.
- Junction City has lost its last three playoff games in a row. In the 2020 semifinals, the Dragons lost to Des Arc. The Dragons lost in the first round in 2021 and 2022.
- At home, Junction City has a record of 48 – 6. Their road record is 14 – 10. At neutral sites, Junction City is 8 – 3.
- When the Dragons played Hector on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, it marked their 80<sup>th</sup> playoff game. Junction City was just the 9<sup>th</sup> program in state playoff history to have played in 80 or more playoff games.
- The Dragons have played 47 different teams in the state playoffs. They have played Des Arc the most (6 times).

### **NOTABLE PLAYOFF MILESTONES**

- 25<sup>th</sup> game: 2004 Quarterfinals against Perryville. Junction City won 37 – 20.
- 50<sup>th</sup> game: 2011 2nd Round against Mineral Springs. Junction City won 21 – 20.
- 75<sup>th</sup> game: 2018 1st Round against McCory. Junction City won 37 – 8.
- Junction City has hosted playoff games at two different venues. At old Dragon Stadium, the Dragons played their first playoff game on November 14, 1986. They defeated Clarksville in a first round game by a score of 29 – 7. It was the last game played at old Dragon Stadium.
- During the 2013 state playoffs, after receiving a first round bye, Junction City played four opponents they had already played before in the playoffs. It is the only time in school history this has occurred.
- The top rushing performances by a Dragon running back in the state playoffs were some of the best performances in school history. The most rushing yards in a game in school history took place in the second round of the 2015 state playoffs. C.J. Johnson rushed for 392 yards on 26 rushes and scored 4 touchdowns in a loss against Conway Christian. The next best performance was by JaQwis Dancy when he rushed for 325 yards on 13 rushes in a win against Des Arc in the quarterfinals. Dancy scored 3 touchdowns. In one of the most famous playoff games in not only Dragon history but state history too, was on November 26, 1999 when the Dragons met Shiloh Christian. Marcus Godfrey rushed for

312 yards on 22 rushes and scored 3 touchdowns in a loss to the Saints in the quarterfinals.

- The top passing performance in Dragon playoff history was Brady Hutcheson passing for 250 yards in a win against Mountainburg in the second round. Hutcheson was 7 of 8 and threw 3 touchdowns.
- The top receiving performance in Dragon playoff history was also in the Mountainburg game. Kevontae Haynes caught 4 passes for 188 yards and 2 touchdowns. Another notable performance was Jalen Davis in the quarterfinal victory against Clinton, when he had 7 receptions for 135 yards and a touchdown.
- One of the top overall performances in the state playoffs by a Dragon would have to be Shuvasceiaye Frazier's against Harding Academy in the first round of the 2017 playoffs. Frazier ran 50 plays (school record for plays in a game), rushed for 267 yards (school record for rush yards by a quarterback) on 30 rush attempts, scored two touchdowns and passed for another 100 yards. His total offense of 367 yards is the second most total offensive yards in a game, not only for the playoffs but overall in school history.
- In the 2013 state semifinal game against Carlisle, Matthew Freeman and Josh Armstrong both had over 20 tackles each. Freeman recorded 27 tackles and Armstrong recorded 24 tackles.
- When Devin Ball makes his playoff coaching debut, he will be the fifth coach to lead the Dragons into the state playoffs. David Carpenter coached in 68 of the Dragon's playoff games. Steven Jones and Brad Smith both coached in nine games and Terry Crumpler coached in two games.

### **PLAYOFF COACHING RECORDS**

David Carpenter 55 – 14

Steven Jones 8 – 1

Brad Smith 6 – 3

Terry Crumpler 1 – 1

## **47 DIFFERENT PLAYOFF OPPONENTS**

<b>OPPONENT</b>	<b>WE WON</b>	<b>WE LOST</b>
Clarksville	1	0
Booneville	0	2
Horatio	1	0
Harding Academy	2	2
Murfreesboro	3	0
Rison	2	1
Shiloh Christian	0	2
Gurdon	3	1
Charleston	1	2
Foreman	2	0
Carlisle	3	0
Hermitage	1	0
Hector	3	0
Hughes	2	0
Eudora	3	0
Lafayette County	1	0
Barton	1	0
Spring Hill	1	0
Perryville	1	0
Jessieville	1	1
Mountain Pine	1	0
Woodlawn	1	0
Cross County	1	0

Hazen	3	0
Hackett	1	0
Mount Ida	0	1
Dierks	3	0
Strong	1	1
Des Arc	5	1
Danville	1	0
Magazine	2	0
Bearden	3	1
Mountainburg	2	0
Mineral Springs	1	0
Marked Tree	2	0
Salem	1	0
Walnut Ridge	2	0
Earle	1	0
Johnson County Westside	1	0
Conway Christian	0	1
Manila	1	0
Rivercrest	0	2
Clinton	1	0
Osceola	1	0
McCrory	2	0
Fordyce	0	1
Poyen	1	0

## **STATE PLAYOFF RESULTS**

1986	1st Round	Clarksville	Home	Won	29 – 7
	2nd Round	Booneville	Away	Lost	0 – 6
1998	1st Round	Horatio	Home	Won	49 – 8
	2nd Round	Harding Academy	Home	Lost	14 – 20
1999	1st Round	Murfreesboro	Home	Won	59 – 0
	2nd Round	Rison	Home	Won	42 – 20
	Quarterfinals	Shiloh Christian	Home	Lost	64 – 70
2000	1st Round	Gurdon	Home	Won	14-0
	2nd Round	Charleston	Away	Lost	14-27
2001	1st Round	Foreman	Away	Won	34-16
	2nd Round	Charleston	Away	Won	32-27
	Quarterfinals	Carlisle	Away	Won	35-21
	Semi-Finals	Shiloh Christian	Away	Lost	0-21
2002	1st Round	Hermitage	Home	Won	76-13
	2nd Round	Hector	Home	Won	14-6
	Quarterfinals	Hughes	Home	Won	56-0
	Semi-Finals	Harding Academy	Away	Lost	19-41
2003	1st Round	Eudora	Home	Won	66-0
	2nd Round	Lafayette County	Home	Won	21-7
	Quarterfinals	Hughes	Home	Won	56-14
	Semi-Finals	Rison	Home	Won	33-21
	State Finals	Barton	Little Rock	Won	40-12
2004	1st Round	Eudora	Home	Won	56-0
	2nd Round	Spring Hill	Home	Won	20-0
	Quarterfinals	Perryville	Home	Won	37-20
	Semi-Finals	Rison	Home	Lost	0-10
2005	1st Round	Eudora	Home	Won	29-28
	2nd Round	Jessieville	Away	Won	33-21
	Quarterfinals	Harding Academy	Away	Won	21-16
	Semi-Finals	Charleston	Away	Lost	8-24



2006	1st Round	Mountain Pine	Home	Won	67-0
	2nd Round	Murfreesboro	Home	Won	39-7
	Quarterfinals	Woodlawn	Away	Won	42-14
	Semi-Finals	Cross County	Home	Won	7-6
	State Finals	Jessieville	Little Rock	Lost	19-20
2007	1st Round	Hazen	Home	Won	45-0
	2nd Round	Hackett	Away	Won	41-12
	Quarterfinals	Mount Ida	Away	Lost	20-22
2008	1st Round	BYE			
	2nd Round	Dierks	Home	Won	39-0
	Quarterfinals	Strong	Home	Won	24-12
	Semi-Finals	Carlisle	Home	Won	29-7
	State Finals	Des Arc	Little Rock	Won	10-8
2009	1st Round	Dierks	Home	Won	45-0
	2nd Round	Murfreesboro	Away	Won	34-13
	Quarterfinals	Danville	Away	Won	42-6
	Semi-Finals	Magazine	Away	Won	56-0
	State Finals	Bearden	Little Rock	Won	24-14
2010	1st Round	Mountainburg	Home	Won	51-3
	2nd Round	Bearden	Away	Lost	8-27
2011	1st Round	BYE			
	2nd Round	Mineral Springs	Home	Won	21-20
	Quarterfinals	Magazine	Home	Won	9-3
	Semi-Finals	Strong	Home	Lost	19-29
2012	1st Round	Marked Tree	Home	Won	42- 0
	2nd Round	Dierks	Home	Won	56 - 0
	Quarterfinals	Salem	Away	Won	34 - 6
	Semi - Finals	Walnut Ridge	Home	Won	42 - 6
	State Finals	Bearden	Little Rock	Won	27 - 26
2013	1st Round	BYE			
	2nd Round	Gurdon	Home	Won	25 - 6
	Quarterfinals	Hector	Home	Won	51 - 7

	Semi- Finals	Carlisle	El Dorado	Won	38 - 28
	State Finals	Des Arc	Little Rock	Won	60 - 0
2014	1st Round	Walnut Ridge	Home	Won	62 - 8
	2nd Round	Bearden	Home	Won	42 - 0
	Quarterfinals	Des Arc	Home	Won	48 - 0
	Semi Finals	Earle	Home	Won	50 - 16
	State Finals	Hazen	Little Rock	Won	38 - 6
2015	1st Round	Johnson County Westside	Home	Won	48-0
	2nd Round	Conway Christian	Home	Lost	36-41
2016	1st Round	Manila	Home	Won	38 - 20
	2nd Round	Rivercrest	Away	Lost	13 - 14
2017	1st Round	BYE			
	2nd Round	Harding Academy	Home	Won	31 - 30
	Quarterfinals	Clinton	Home	Won	50 - 43
	Semi Finals	Osceola	Home	Won	44 - 38
	State Finals	Rivercrest	Little Rock	Lost	14 - 48
2018	1st Round	McCrary	Home	Won	37 - 8
	2nd Round	Mountainburg	Home	Won	50 - 14
	Quarter Finals	Des Arc	Home	Won	55 - 13
	Semi Finals	Foreman	Away	Won	40 - 20
	State Finals	Hazen	Little Rock	Won	36 – 22
2019	1 <sup>st</sup> Round	BYE			
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Hector	Home	Won	50 – 14
	Quarter Finals	Des Arc	Home	Won	46 – 14
	Semi Finals	Gurdon	Home	Won	44 – 37
	State Finals	Fordyce	Little Rock	Lost	6 – 28
2020	1st Round	Marked Tree	Home	Won	38 - 0
	2nd Round	McCrary	Away	Won	50 - 30
	Quarter Finals	Poyen	Away	Won	48 - 38
	Semi Finals	Des Arc	Away	Lost	20 - 22
2021	1 <sup>st</sup> Round	Gurdon	Home	Lost	22 – 26
2022	1 <sup>st</sup> Round	Booneville	Away	Lost	14 – 42

## **DRAGON SPORTS NETWORK**

- The DSN has been the home of Junction City football since 2013.
- The DSN has covered a total of 131 Dragon football games. Junction City's record in those game is 102 – 29.
- The game against Manila will be the 33<sup>rd</sup> playoff game covered by the DSN. Junction City's record in those games is 25 – 7.
- The DSN has covered five of the Dragons state final appearances, with Junction City winning three times.

## **TEAMS THE DSN HAS COVERED**

TEAMS	APPEARANCES	RECORD
Bearden	10	10 – 0
Beebe	1	0 – 1
Booneville	1	0 – 1
Carlisle	2	2 – 0
Clinton	1	1 – 0
Conway Christian	1	0 – 1
D'Arbonne Woods	1	1 – 0
Des Arc	5	4 – 1
Drew Central	2	2 – 0
Earle	2	2 – 0
England	2	1 – 1
Fordyce	7	3 – 4
Foreman	2	2 – 0
Fouke	4	3 – 1
Genoa Central	2	2 – 0

Gurdon	4	3 – 1
Hampton	8	8 – 0
Harding Academy	1	1 – 0
Harmony Grove	6	1 – 5
Haynesville, LA.	8	2 – 6
Hazen	2	2 – 0
Hector	3	3 – 0
Hermitage	3	3 – 0
Horatio	2	2 – 0
Johnson County Westside	1	1 – 0
Lafayette County	1	1 – 0
Lake Village	4	4 – 0
Manila	1	1 – 0
Marked Tree	1	1 - 0
McCrory	2	2 – 0
McGehee	2	2 – 0
Mountainburg	1	1 – 0
Osceola	1	1 – 0
Parkers Chapel	7	7 – 0
Poyen	1	1 – 0
Prescott	2	0 – 2
Rison	3	2 – 1
Rivercrest	2	0 – 2
Smackover	10	8 – 2
Spring Hill	1	1 – 0
Strong	6	6 – 0

Walnut Ridge	1	1 – 0
Woodlawn	3	3 – 0

**COUNTIES THE DSN HAS BROADCAST FROM**

Bradley, Calhoun, Chicot, Clark, Cleveland, Dallas, Desha Drew, Grant, Hempstead, Lafayette, Little River, Logan, Lonoke, Miller, Mississippi, Monroe, Nevada, Ouachita, Prairie, Pulaski, Sevier, Union, White, Woodruff

**PARISHES THE DSN HAS BROADCAST FROM:**

Claiborne, Union

