

Malvern Homecoming



MHS HOMECOMING ROYALTY 2026 MOTORCADE



Gerren Smith/ Malvern Daily Record
The hometown Malvern Leopards football, cheer, dance teams with the homecoming royalty enjoying the Homecoming Motorcade 2026.

HOMETOWN MALVERN LEOPARD FOOTBALL



Leopards rolling on three-game winning streak, pumped up for showdown vs. Ashdown for homecoming night game

By GERREN SMITH
Sports Editor

MALVERN — Tonight, the hometown Malvern Leopards bring the Leopard nation fan base an unbeaten league record at 2-0 in the powerhouse 7-4A Conference set for a thrilling homecoming match-up hosting a 2-0 Ashdown Panthers team in a Week 6 showdown at Leopard Stadium.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. on David Alpe Field.

The Leopards have won its historic powerhouse run game that's been top-notch from the glory days of legendary football of the 1980's and 1990's during the "David Alpe era".

Last week's stellar road win against the Hope Bobcats 42-6 was the Leopards' best overall performance thus far.

Malvern brought out its historic powerhouse run game that's been top-notch from the glory days of legendary football of the 1980's and 1990's during the "David Alpe era".

The Leopards racked up 300 plus yards rushing the previous two games for back-to-back outings that propelled their total yards of offense in two 40 plus point scoring games in conference.

On top of the offensive spark by the Leopards, the defense has been even more sharp and intact by the Hot Spring County's orange and black color performers of the proud hometown gridiron competitors.

The head Leopard football coach John Fogleman has been very pleased by the production of his teams' way of execution on both sides of the ball since their Week 2 victory against Harmony Grove of Haskell.

Fogleman feels good about the team's concept and grit they've shown to put games away early. This has given them some positivity in the program and now are in a three-way tie for the top spot unbeaten with Ashdown and



Malvern Leopards



Ashdown Panthers

3-2
2-0
55-14 W
4-7
5th (7-4A)
38-31
2025

Current Record
Current Conference
2025 Game Score
2025 Record
2025 Conference Finish
Playoff Record
Last Playoff Appearance

3-2
2-0
14-55 L
1-9
7th (7-4A)
19-23
2024

Nashville.

This week's opponent comes in with a thirst of redemption after the Ashdown Panthers have fallen victim to the Leopards in the previous seasons. The Panthers are an improved team from past seasons and have weapons to show they're a solid threat on the field.

Fogleman knows these match-ups from here on are very important and Ashdown will be a challenge.

"We got the same record and all conference games are important," Fogleman said. "Both of us have beaten the same people in conference play and they're better this year," Fogleman said.

The Panthers' key star and performer is All-State performer Bryson French, a dandy receiver who's a top-notch playmaker.

"French is one of the best players in the conference and their quarterback does a great job getting him and the Ashdown receivers the ball," Fogleman said.

The Panthers have found ways to finish games in their previous wins and Fogleman noted that is something the Leopards will have to be able to stop.

While French will be key for the Panthers, also senior Mario

Lewis, a 6 '4" 240lb., who power clean nearly 300 lbs., is a very physical force on the field as a special lineman. Fogleman also mentioned that the Panthers have good linebackers and experienced upfront on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball. "Ashdown has improved in that area," Fogleman said. The Panthers are a spread offensive formation team which French has been very effective—hauling in four touchdown receptions last week vs. Genoa Central. Fogleman also says receiver Tyler Smith adds to their core of weapons — "We have to have a good game plan."

"We've got to limit their big plays and our kids have to understand last week's game is done and stay focus—can't get complacent because teams on our schedule get better every week," Fogleman said. The Leopards will still be without a few key players this week. Senior running back KD Shields has started back practice this week Fogleman says, but has been limited. "KD is questionable for Friday."

Also senior Jarrett Hathcock is still out again this week as well. But, Fogleman has been grateful to have senior running back

Wesley Morley on the field the previous last two games.

Morley has shined like the 4A trackster champion he's been. Morley has scored five touchdown runs in the previous two games—racking up season-highs in both performances. Morley racked up 127 yards rushing against Genoa Central for two TDs—then surpassed that phenomenal performance last week against Hope—racking up 193 yards rushing for three TDs scored.

"Wesley's return was big and he's worked to get back," Fogleman said. "He's coming back to full strides after a big breakout game," Fogleman said.

The Leopards piled up 417 total yards of offense (359 yards rushing) against Genoa Central for Week 4, and had 350 total yards of offense (340 yards rushing) facing Hope for Week 5 as the ground attack has been the driving force of superb play for Malvern.

Brad Saling, with senior leader Jeremiah Jimerson, quarterback Aaron Pinkston and Trevor Hodgson along with Terrence Hawkins have surged the ground attack for Malvern in previous games.

Malvern's defense had its best performance last week by shutting out Hope in the first half—42-0 at halftime on the road.

Fogleman believes the Leopards are making a great pitch of noise to be a threat in the powerhouse conference, but hopes the distraction of homecoming events doesn't affect the focus they'll need to face a good Ashdown team.

PREGAME HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES 2026

The evening homecoming ceremony will begin at 6:22 p.m. on David Alpe Field, which kickoff follows at 7 p.m.

Halftime will feature the Wall of Honor induction ceremony for the Class of 2026 recipients to be recognized on David Alpe Field.

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**Congratulations Davis
Black & Class of 2026!**

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