



2025 Nusenda Credit Union State Football Championships

Cleveland Edges Las Cruces for 2025 6A Title

The Cleveland Storm (12-1) secured their fifth state title in six years and seventh overall, holding off the Las Cruces Bulldawgs (12-1) in a thrilling 35-28 victory in the 2025 Nusenda Credit Union State 6A Football Championship.

Cleveland struck first, breaking loose for a 27-yard touchdown run with just over five minutes left in the opening quarter. Las Cruces responded early in the second, punching in a rushing score to tie the game at 7-7.

The Storm answered quickly, reclaiming the lead at 14-7 with a little more than eight minutes left in the half. The Bulldawgs continued the back-and-forth battle, evening the score again at 14-14 on an 11-yard rushing touchdown with 5:35 remaining in the second quarter.

With only nine seconds left before halftime, Cleveland surged ahead once more, taking a 21-14 advantage into the break.

Late in the third quarter, the Storm extended their lead to 28-14, but Las Cruces stayed within striking distance, closing the gap to 28-21 on a 15-yard touchdown run just before the start of the fourth.

Cleveland opened the final quarter with another score, pushing the margin to 35-21. Though the Bulldawgs managed a late touchdown to pull within seven, the Storm's defense held firm, sealing Cleveland's 2025 Class 6A state championship in a hard-fought finale.



Artesia Secures 5A Football Championship with Thrilling Comeback

The Artesia Bulldogs (12-1) claimed their 33rd state championship in stunning fashion, at the 2025 Nusenda Credit Union State 5A Football Championship, rallying from a three-score deficit to defeat the Roswell Coyotes (9-4), 25-24, in one of the most dramatic finishes in 5A history.

Roswell set the tone early, breaking free on a sweep left for the game's first touchdown just



3:22 into the matchup. The Coyotes struck again with 28 seconds left in the first half, extending their lead to 14–0. Artesia avoided a first-half shutout with a clutch 48-yard field goal as time expired, sending the game into halftime with Roswell ahead 14–3.

Roswell continued to control the game in the third quarter, ripping off a 32-yard touchdown run to push the margin to 21–3 with 7:44 remaining in the period. But Artesia refused to fold. The Bulldogs finally found the end zone late in the third on a 9-yard touchdown pass, trimming the deficit to 21–11.

The Coyotes added a field goal with just over ten minutes left, extending their lead to 24–11, but the Bulldogs were far from done. Artesia struck again through the air, connecting on a touchdown pass with just over three minutes remaining to close the gap to 24–18.

Then came the turning point: Artesia executed a perfect onside kick and recovered it, igniting the Bulldog sideline and the crowd. With the momentum fully shifted, Artesia marched downfield and scored the game-tying touchdown with 24 seconds left, knotting the score at 24–24 pending the critical extra point.

The Bulldogs drilled the PAT, taking a 25–24 lead— their first of the game— with only seconds remaining. Roswell had no time to answer, and Artesia completed its remarkable comeback to capture the 2025 5A state championship.

It's Back-To-Back Titles For The Bloomfield Bobcats

The Class 4A final between Bloomfield and St. Pius X was electric from the very first snap. Bloomfield quarterback Manual Chavarria wasted no time, launching an 85-yard strike to Peyton Duncan on the opening play. Duncan sprinted untouched to the end zone, giving the Bobcats a 7–0 lead less than a minute in.

But if Bloomfield delivered fireworks, St. Pius matched it with a rocket of their own. On the Sartans' very first offensive snap, sophomore sensation Hershul Olloway Jr. found daylight and never looked back, galloping 67 yards to tie the score at 7–7. That made two touchdowns in two plays of scrimmage.

The chaos wasn't done. Bloomfield retook possession and needed just two plays to score again—Chavarria connected with Caleb Hutchins who found his way to the endzone for yet another explosive touchdown. Three touchdowns in the first four plays of the game, and the Bobcats were back on top 14–7, a lead they would never relinquish.

Bloomfield kept the foot on the gas. Early in the second quarter, Chavarria muscled in on a short keeper to make it 21–7 with 9:26 left in the quarter. Less than three minutes later, he found Deasyl Priddy for a 28–7 advantage. Just before halftime—five seconds on the clock—Chavarria delivered another strike to Priddy, extending the lead to a commanding 36–7.

St. Pius showed resilience after the break. Isaiah Carpenter powered in from the backfield for touch-



downs at 9:40 and 5:39 in the third, cutting the deficit to 36–21 and breathing life back into the Sartans sideline. But Bloomfield slammed the door. Chavarria found the end zone again to push the lead to 43–21, and although St. Pius added one more score to make it 43–27, the Bobcats responded in emphatic fashion.

Peyton Duncan hauled in another touchdown for a 50–27 cushion. A defensive safety at the 4:30 mark stretched the margin to 52–27, and Bloomfield punched in one final score at 3:06 remaining to seal the championship at 58–27.

Manual Chavarria authored a performance for the ages, playing a role in seven touchdowns—five through the air and two on the ground. With that, the Bloomfield Bobcats claimed back-to-back Class 4A titles, their third in four years, cementing a dominant era in program history with a 58–27 victory.

St. Michael's Horsemen Win Third Straight 3A Football Title

The St. Michael's Horsemen (13–0) capped off a perfect season by defeating the Dexter Demons (10–2), 28–21, securing their third consecutive state title and the eighth football championship in school history in the 2025 Nusenda Credit Union State 3A Football Championship game.

Dexter struck quickly, breaking loose for a 35-yard run up the middle to take a 7–0 lead. The Demons maintained the momentum, punching in another rushing touchdown just over a minute before the end of the first quarter to build a 14–0 advantage.



St. Michael's found its spark late in the second quarter. With just over a minute remaining in the half, the Horsemen finally reached the end zone to cut the lead to 14–7. Their defense immediately stepped up, forcing a stop and giving the offense one more chance before the break. St. Michael's capitalized, scoring on the final play of the half to pull even at 14–14, completely shifting the energy of the game.

Dexter regained control late in the third quarter, scoring with only seconds remaining to edge ahead 21–14. But the fourth quarter belonged entirely to the Horsemen.

St. Michael's exploded for 14 unanswered points, beginning with a 44-yard touchdown pass to tie the game. Minutes later, the Horsemen surged ahead as the quarterback powered in for a 10-yard rushing score, giving St. Michael's its first lead of the contest.

That final touchdown proved decisive, as the Horsemen held firm defensively to secure the 28–21 victory and celebrate yet another championship in their growing legacy.

Texico 3-Peats with 2A Football Championship Victory

The Texico Wolverines (9–3) dominated from start to finish in a commanding 42–7 victory over the Eunice Cardinals (9–3), securing their third consecutive 2A state championship and the ninth title in program history in the 2025 Nusenda Credit Union State 2A Football Championship.

Texico blasted out of the gate, striking first on a 23-yard touchdown pass to take a 7-0 lead with 8:12 remaining in the opening quarter. The Wolverines kept the pressure on, adding another score with 4:22 left in the first to jump ahead 14-0.

Their momentum carried into the second quarter as Texico extended the lead to 21-0 with just over ten minutes left in the half. The Wolverine defense suffocated the Eunice offense, repeatedly forcing stops and setting up short fields. Texico capitalized once more before halftime, punching in a touchdown to take a commanding 28-0 lead into the break.

The second half began much like the first, with the Wolverines marching down the field and scoring again to stretch the advantage to 35-0 early in the third quarter. Eunice finally broke through with a touchdown of its own, cutting the deficit to 35-7 with just over three minutes remaining in the third.

But Texico answered in the fourth, adding one final touchdown to push the margin to 42-7, sealing a dominant performance on both sides of the ball.

With the victory, the Wolverines completed their 3-peat and continued to solidify their status as one of New Mexico's premier small-school football dynasties.

Logan Repeats as 6-Man State Champions

The Logan Longhorns (11-1) claimed their second straight 6-Man football title in dramatic fashion, repeating as state champions after a wild comeback win over the Grady Bronchos (10-1), 32-31.

Grady set the tone early, scoring the game's first touchdown with just under four minutes left in the opening quarter. On the first play of the second quarter, the Bronchos connected on a touchdown pass to extend the lead to 13-0. After a quick defensive stop, Grady wasted no time striking again, pushing the advantage to 19-0 with 7:20 left in the half.

A strong defensive stand set up another Broncho touchdown—this one through the air with 2:34 remaining—stretching the lead to 25-0. Logan finally broke through late in the half with a corner-end-zone touchdown to make it 25-6, but the Bronchos immediately answered with a long scoring pass, taking a commanding 31-6 lead into halftime.

Logan opened the third quarter on defense and capitalized quickly, forcing a fumble that turned into a



touchdown to make it 31–12. Another defensive stop set up yet another Logan score, drawing the Bronchos within 31–20 with just over four minutes left in the third.

The fourth quarter brought more momentum for Logan. Steady defense and timely offense eventually pushed the Longhorns ahead 32–31 with just over two minutes remaining—a lead they would not relinquish.

Logan held on in the final minutes to complete the comeback and capture their second consecutive state championship in six-man football.

Fort Sumner/House Back on Top of the 8-Man Division

Fort Sumner/House Foxes (11-0) earned their 13th blue trophy and the first since 2022, with a 28-14 win in the 2025 Nusenda Credit Union 8-Man State Football Championship over the Melrose Buffaloes (10-3).

Both defenses dictated the pace early, but a late blocked punt in the first quarter swung momentum to Fort Sumner/House, giving the Foxes a 6–0 lead after one. Melrose responded quickly to open the second quarter, hitting a strike of 40-plus yards down the middle to tie the game at 6–6. The Foxes answered before halftime, punching in a late score to take a 12–6 advantage into the break.



Melrose opened the third with purpose, driving the length of the field and finishing with a 7-yard touchdown run. A successful two-point conversion put the Buffaloes ahead 14–12 with 6:53 left in the quarter. But Fort Sumner/House countered with a 30-yard touchdown pass at the 2:50 mark to reclaim the lead at 20–14.

The Foxes added to their cushion early in the fourth quarter on a 1-yard touchdown run, extending the margin to 28–14. That proved to be the decisive blow, as Fort Sumner/House held firm the rest of the way to capture the 2025 Nusenda Credit Union State 8-Man Football Championship.