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Championship Showdown: Collierville and Houston squared up during Thursday night's Region 7-6A championship showdown. The Dragons held off the Mustangs 42-35 to finish unbeaten in league play.

Photos By Ryan Frazier playmakerporiats.com

THE SHOWDOWN

Collierville survives Houston challenge to capture Regional title

By Thomas Sellers, Jr.
Richardson Media Group

Coming into the game with a combined 9 wins after 17 games, the Houston Mustangs and Collierville Dragons walked into the Collierville Football Stadium Thursday night with everything on the line.

After both teams navigated tough schedules loaded with some of the best teams from Mississippi, the Mustangs and Dragons entered the regular-season finale unbeaten in league play.

The Region 7-6A championship was on the line for Houston Head Coach James Thomas and Collierville Head Coach Joe Rocconi. In a thriller, the Dragons repeat as Region champs pulling out a 42-35 win over Houston.

After both teams scored two touchdowns in the first quarter, Collierville (6-4, 4-0 in Region 7-6A) grabbed a 21-14 lead by halftime.





Hard-Fought Battle: Houston and Collierville players competed for every yard during their Region 7-6A championship matchup. The Dragons edged the Mustangs in a high-scoring 42-35 contest.

Photos By Ryan Frazier playmakerporiats.com

With the Mustangs matching the Dragons score for score in the second half, that meant Collierville outlasted its rival for the championship.

Houston (4-5, 3-1) will be the No. 2 seed going into the playoffs and hosting a postseason game. In the big game to close the regular season, the stars shined with Mustang signal caller Canon Day passing for 199 yards and two touchdowns. His Collierville counterpart Dominic Rocconi tossed for 136 yards and a touchdown to Erik Walden Jr. The standout senior wideout caught two balls for 71 yards.

On the other side, Brennen Odle caught five passes for 91 yards and a score for Houston.

This game was won on the ground. Houston stayed in the game behind Raderius Robertson rushing for 157 yards on 33 carries and reaching the end zone once.

His Collierville counterpart Larry Johnson was the star of the game with 266 yards on the ground on just 13 carriers. Johnson reached paydirt three times in guiding the Dragons to the championship.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO LEAVE TOWN OF COLLIERVILLE

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — The Town of Collierville congratulates John Fox, Director of Public Utilities, who will be leaving the Town to accept a position with Tarpon Springs, FL. His last day with the Town will be January 4, 2027.

Fox has served as Collierville's Director of Public Utilities for the past five years, leading all aspects of the Town's water, wastewater and utility infrastructure. He dedicated 19 years to the Town, serving in Public Works and Utilities, beginning his career as a Project Manager in Public Works before serving 11 years as Public Works Director, where he oversaw a broad range of municipal infrastructure and operations.

Fox has also been very active in the Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association (TCAPWA), where he has served as West Tennessee Director, Vice President and President.

"John has been a steady and dedicated leader for Collierville, and residents have benefited every day from his work keeping our water and utility systems safe and reliable. We congratulate him on this new opportunity and thank him for his years of service to our community." said Mayor Maureen Fraser.



JOHN FOX
Photo Tour Collierville Magazine

"It has been a privilege to serve the residents of Collierville for nearly 20 years. I'm proud of what we've accomplished and especially grateful for the dedicated employees I've had the opportunity to work alongside. Their commitment to this community is what makes the difference every day. I appreciate the trust and support of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and Town leadership, and I'm confident the department will continue to serve Collierville well," said Fox.

The Town of Collierville congratulates John on this new opportunity and thanks him for his years of dedicated service to Collierville.

Donal Davis will serve as Interim Director of Public Utilities. Davis previously served as the Town's Wastewater Treatment Manager, and has demonstrated exceptional leadership and sound judgement, effectively managing critical infrastructure and navigating regulatory requirements. The Town is confident in Donal's ability to lead the Public Utilities Department.

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