

Travis adjusts to challenge

While schools such as Cypress Woods and Manvel adjust to their first seasons of varsity softball, Fort Bend Travis faces a more daunting challenge.

Travis, one of 10 Fort Bend ISD schools, plays in District 23-5A, which boasts powerhouses such as Fort Bend Austin, Clements and Elkins.

"It is a pretty big adjustment from JV to playing varsity in this district," coach **Gary Crissman** said.

The Tigers are 7-6 in 23-5A, just behind Kempner, which holds the district's fourth spot in the playoff race with an 8-4 record.

"We are still in it, but barely," Crissman said.

Crissman said he is pleased with the team's progress. The Tigers face a combination of injuries and an unforgiving non-district schedule.

Bellaire regains form

Bellaire softball coach **Brien Tuffly** was unsure what to expect this season, but with half of his lineup batting over .400, the Cardinals are on track to make another run in the playoffs.

"It's been a surprise, but we are hitting so well," Tuffly said. "Our top five are all over .400 and really getting the job done on offense."

Pitchers **Kelsey Goodwin** and **Katherine Espinosa** have also bolstered the Cardinals' success. Espinosa has 194 strikeouts in 100 innings on the season. In the Cardinals' only loss in District 20-5A, Espinosa struck out 17.

Bellaire (23-6, 8-1) will play Lamar (12-10, 9-0) in a rematch of the March 7 contest at 6 p.m. Monday at Butler.