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Mount Paran Christian, Walker try to get back on winning track

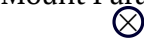
By Jack Martin MDJ Sports Correspondent
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Gavin Steele and Mount Paran's running game will try to break through Landmark's defense on Friday.
Cecil Copeland 2025, file

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Mount Paran Christian will visit Walker for another game in their Cobb County private school rivalry.



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Walker wants revenge after its 56-0 loss to MPC last year. The Eagles have the edge in this rivalry, winning 11 of 13 matchups.

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The Wolverines are coming off a 18-7 loss to B.E.S.T Academy last week, but despite the loss there were some bright spots. Their receivers averaged more than 17 yards per catch last week, showing the potential for the offense.

Wolverines coach T.J. Anderson said each week he tells the team to put forth its best effort.

“We are focusing on paying attention to technique and playing fundamental football,” he said. “We are controlling what we can control and most importantly having fun while playing this game. I think everybody knows our limitations.”

Mount Paran is coming off a 55-0 loss to Whitefield Academy. Coach Connie Arnold said the Eagles are facing a lot of challenges with injuries after the loss.

“We’ve had a lot of injuries so, we are asking a lot of underclassmen to step in for those who are hurt right now,” he said. “We hope to get some of those guys back over the next few weeks, but right now it’s just time for our younger guys to come play and play well. Our focus has been getting those guys ready”

Both coaches said this game being a rivalry and a regional contest does not change how they are preparing.

Anderson said nothing changes for Walker.



“It’s just another game and it’s the next game on our schedule,” he said. “It doesn’t change our culture or mentality. We want to go out there and try to do the best we can. Obviously we want to win the game, but nothing changes in our preparation.”

Arnold said every region game is important.

“Our kids are going to prepare and try to put their best foot forward,” he said. “We need to get through these next couple weeks with some injuries. It’s just exciting because it is a rivalry and a regional game. Our kids are always ready to play them (Walker) so they’re geared up for it.”

Both coaches gave each other credit saying their opponent is well-coached.

Junior running back Gavin Steele is averaging more than 98 yards a game in MPC’s run first attack.

Anderson said he is aware of the Eagles’ offense and what they like to run.

“I know they had a tough challenge last week against Whitefield,” he said. “They are just so well coached, and what they do offensively presents a challenge for anybody preparing to play them and that style of offense.”

Freshman receiver Teague Tatom has 716 all-purpose yards and two touchdowns for the Wolverines, and has stepped up in the recent absence of senior receiver Grant Addison.

Arnold said the team looks forward to facing its rival, and they are focused on slowing them down.

“He (Anderson) does an incredible job with those kids and I have a lot of respect for him as a coach,” he said. “It’s always fun to see our kids compete and be excited to play Walker and they (Walker) are the same.”

