



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

REL drops to 4A in biennial district shuffle

Robert E. Lee and Ross S. Sterling have spent the past four decades slugging it out in every sport for district supremacy.

When the University Interscholastic League released its 2010-12 realignment on Monday, the Ganders and Rangers were in different districts for the first time since Sterling opened its doors on Baker Road in 1967.

Lee, as expected, moved down in classification from 5A to 4A. Sterling remained a 5A school. Classifications are based on student enrollment, and the cut off for 5A is 2,065 students. Lee's current enrollment is 1,831.

On the flipside, Lee will now face a new cross-town rival in district play: Goose Creek Memorial. Lee now joins District 19-4A with Goose Creek Memorial, Barbers Hill, Crosby, Dayton, Galena Park, C.E. King, and North Forest.

"We are excited about the opportunity to play new people and to play schools that are closer to us in size. I feel that we have a more equal playing field and look forward to the tough competition in District 19-4A," said REL campus coordinator/head football coach Marvin Sedberry Jr. "It will be a very competitive district because the schools in our district have a rich tradition of success and playoff experience. 19-4A should be fun to watch. The Ganders are excited about the 2010 season."

Goose Creek Memorial athletic director/head football coach Bret Boyd said playing Lee would be fun for the community.

"Our kids and fans will look forward to that game I know," he said.

Sterling is in District 21-5A with West Brook, Channelview, North Shore, La Porte, and Port Arthur.

The reclassification and realignment of districts occurs every two years. The process sets the districts for football and basketball competition over the next two years.

"I was pleased to see that our travel will not be increased which is good for our student athletes, parents, fans, and for budgetary reasons," Goose Creek CISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Toby York said.

Despite the district shuffle, Dr. York said Lee and Sterling would continue to play "The Game," the annual match up between the two Baytown rivals, though it would be a non-district contest.

Lee and Sterling have fought it out on the gridiron for 43 years, and it is easily the most attended, most anticipated football game of the season.

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