**Tonkawa Football October Preview**

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Coach Mike Kirtley and the Tonkawa Buccaneers have a huge road contest this Friday night. Kirtley says that his players are ready for this game and are excited to get out there and compete “We’ve just had a good run of kids that just love the game. This year we have a great challenge, because of a high ranked team we are in an underdog role, which is kind of new to us.” Tonkawa Faces an Oklahoma Christian team who is heavily favored, but the Coach is positive. Coach said The Saints use a spread offense and like to run, so getting some turnovers and tackling in space in this game is crucial. The Bucs lost to the Saints the second game of the season 35-14, but Kirtley thinks his team is prepared. In that contest, Tonkawa was tied 7-7 at the half with OCS, and if not for a couple big plays leading to a 21-0 run for the Saints in the third quarter, that game would have been much closer. “We think we’re an improved team from the first time we played them, but they probably are too so we will see what happens.” Kirtley said that if Tonkawa can hold the ball and control the clock, then they have a chance. Tonkawa went 3-1 in the month of October leading up to the playoffs. Including the Buccaneers massive 14-13 win over 15th ranked Alva.

Coach Kirtley said fans in Tonkawa are used to their program being in the post-season. “Having had the success we have had over the years our fans tend not to get excited too early. But having missed last year it probably changes that a little bit, but they are excited to be back in the playoffs.” Tonkawa has won four state championships in the last fifteen years. They had back-to-back titles in the 1999-2000 seasons while adding two more in 2005 and 2009. The Bucs will try to grab another one this year.

Kirtley said that this team is special to him and his staff. “It is just a really fun team to be around. They love the game and they want to succeed. They are excited and they’ve been exited throughout the year to get out there Friday night to do the best they can. It’s a team that the coaches will miss when it’s finished.” Tonkawa will clash with 2A #5 Oklahoma Christian Friday Night, at 7:30 pm in Edmond. Tonkawa with a win would advance to play the Lexington/Lindsay game winner next Friday. The Buccaneers are in good shape for next year too, graduating only seven seniors. “We will miss them, but we have young kids that are waiting their turn and will be ready to step up. That’s what a team with great tradition does.”