

## Wildcats open grid practice

Written by Don Wallace  
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The thundering sounds of the Wildcats coming down to the high school practice field disturbed the quiet Monday morning.

More than 100 Sulphur Springs players rambled through the dew to begin work at 8:06 a.m. Monday as football practice officially began for the Wildcats.

Most of the players had been in the multi-purpose building getting practice equipment and making adjustments to helmets and shoes.

Sulphur Springs head football coach Greg Owens delivered a short talk to the group before they got to work.

"We are running a little late today, it's the first day. But tomorrow, we will be on the grass at 8 a.m.," Owens said.

The junior varsity and varsity players hit the field with the eagerness reserved for the first workout of the football season.

"We're just seeing who shows up the first day. We are putting our basic plays today," Owens said.

Owens said the players would toil on the grass high school playing field until about 11 a.m. They would take a break, then do more work indoors and lift weights.

Monday was the first day of workouts for most football classifications. Pads are allowed beginning Friday.

Players divided into position drills in the 72 degree temperatures under cloudless skies.

Coaches shouted instructions and encouragement to the squad.

Defensive coordinator Triston Abron said, "We have to fly around!"

Abron added, "You have to talk to each other - communication - that's a key part to success on defense."

Other defensive coaches also shared tips to players.

"Never let him cross your face," coach Scott Rozell said. "We need to be more violent."

Chris Owens injected, "Come off the freakin' ball... you are letting that guy push you around."

Offensive coordinator Matt Young chapped his hands and said, "What a great day."

New coach Johnny McSheffery worked with running backs and saw all smiles back coaching at his alma mater.

Practice with pads begins Friday. The team will scrimmage at Liberty-Eylau on Aug. 15 in Texarkana.

Grid tickets went on sale today at the SSHS media center.