By RANDY GALLOWAY

The victory celebration following R. L. Turner's win over Garland Friday night was just like Kirk Drew planned it: short and sweet. It climaxed the District 7-AAAA South Zone crown for the Lions, giving them the neighboring close of Carrollton and Farmers Branch their biggest claim to fame since Turner joined the Class AAAA ranks three years ago.

But Drew was back to serious business Monday and he definitely didn't have Delano (North Zone champ) on his mind. The Lions close out regular season play Friday night in a zone game at Mesquite before hosting Denison in a winter take-all battle Nov. 18 at Lion Stadium.

And since the Skatists are the current problem, they were the main concern for Drew and his staff.

"With Phillips (Eddie, quarterback) throwing and running, plus the good backfield (Wayne McKennon), Mesquite has a high scoring machine," the Lion mentor said.

TURNER HAS been a tremendous pressure ball club all year but expectancy during the last two weeks (against Highland Park and Garland) now that the race is over, and the pressure off, at least for one week, will be interesting to see how the Lions function.

"I'll have to be a top effort," believes Drew, "because you just don't let down against a team like Mesquite and hope to win."

But a letdown is something Turner fans haven't had to worry about this year. The Lions always seem to be ready.

In fact, over-exaggerates put Turner in the hole early in the Garland game. On the first play from scrimmage, Oap speedster Eddie Washington hit over right tackle, zigged, then zagged and raced 60 yards for a touchdown. Garland got the two-point conversion and led 8-0 before a minute was gone off the clock.

"Our kids just knew we had to score," Drew said. "They were keyed up and he (Washington) got a good jump. That's what happens when you play that speed, you can't mistake a step."

TWO FACTORS figured greatly in the Turner win—the kicking game and the Lion defensive backfield. The first two Turner touchdown drives came after short Garland punts against the wind, giving the Lions field position around midfield.

Then after Turner spotted a drive deep into Owl territory in the fourth quarter, Montgomery dropped back to punt on a fourth down situation at the Garland 30. He faked a run, and punched a kick that was killed at the Owl 1. That move left Garland in poor field position the entire second half.

The Lion secondary—Mike Blakes, Montgomery, Jimmy Gann, Gary Chisholm and Prashie Hodge—played a tremendous part in stopping the Owl offense:

"We were spread thin on defense to contain them outside so it left a lot of responsibility on our secondary," Drew said.

CROSS COUNTRY—With the state playoffs right around the corner, most district races are going down to the wire.

Something has to give in District 4-AAAA this week as both zone races are still up for grabs.

In Zone 1, Richland travels to Wichita Falls Friday and a win by the Coyotes would give them the title . . . but if Richland wins, and Grand Prairie stops Irving, then GP will be the winner . . . and Richland gets the title if they beat Wichita Falls and Irving upsets the Gophers. Things aren't that complicated in Zone II . . . Wichita Falls Rider hostsMacArthur Thursday night with the winner taking the crown.

McKinney, the state's No. 1 ranked Class AAAA team, can sew up the District 8-AAAA running Friday night . . . the Lions invade surging Lake Highlands, which will put a 4-4 district record against the 53 McKinney mark. In District 8-AAAA, Athens was upset by Ennis last week and the latter could win the title by taking its remaining two games. . . . Ennis is at Duncanville this week.