

Short Picks Week 13

Last week's results for Short Picks was a paltry 16-12. The results however indicate just how difficult the pick 'ems get in the last few weeks leading to Hershey. I am sure all you fans witnessed some really great contests. This week should provide the same to go along with a Happy Thanksgiving with lots of food, family, football and snoring.

Avon Grove's Red Devils push North Penn's Knights undefeated season to the brink. The Knights pull victory from the fire in the last few minutes...**North Penn.**

Running back Drew Harris of Downingtown East gives the Green Raiders of Ridley fits but the Green Raiders overcome a stout effort by Harris to win at the buzzer...**Ridley.**

In AAA competition Abington Heights meets Allentown Central Catholic. Heights offense has been very efficient lately riding the shoulders of running back Paul Gallagher. Meanwhile Central Catholic's offense is purring with quarterback Brendan Nosovitch under center and Kevin Gulyas catching the pigskin. If the weather is fair, look for a plethora of points on the board...**Allentown Central Catholic.**

Manheim Central had a close call last week as the Barons escaped with a 24-20 win. Meanwhile the Scouts of Conrad Weiser had their fans biting fingernails in a 28-27 double overtime win. This week could be the same nerve racking experience for both teams' fans. In another squeaker...**Manheim Central.**

Delone Catholic battles Lancaster Catholic at Hershey Park. Which one of these two will return to Hershey at a later date? My guess...**Lancaster Catholic.**

In a re-match, the 10-1 Trojans of Upper Dauphin hope to regroup against the Indians of Millersburg. The Indians handed the Trojans their lone loss on the season. It is tough to beat a team twice in one year, but it can be done...**Millersburg.**

Two 11-1 teams in Susquehanna Twp. and West York get together for what should be a very high scoring game. Township's all purpose standout Ben Dupree will keep the game moving at a high rate of speed...**Susquehanna Twp.**

The Eagles of Cumberland Valley get the opportunity to stifle Wilson West Lawn's quarterback Zach Zweizig. "ZZ" passed for 306 yards last week. If the Eagles stop Zach, they have a chance, but not too many teams have accomplished the feat...**Wilson West Lawn.**

To the surprise of many including this writer, the Dragons of Lewisburg knocked off undefeated Towanda last week. The Dragons meet the Loyalsock Township Lancers this time around. Township pulls the surprise this week...**Loyalsock Twp.**

The Johnstown Trojans are 8-3 playing in a tough District Six Laurel Highlands Conference. In the past the Trojans have sent some players on to division one college football and some have even

gone on to the professional level. The football program at Johnstown is back. The Trojans will find out just how far back they have come when they meet the Selinsgrove Seals in what is essentially a home game for the Trojans. The Trojans have a 15 minute drive to Richland Stadium. The long bus ride for the Seals may play a role in how they play, but the Seals should prevail ...**Selinsgrove**.

District 2 representative Northwest Area (9-3) plays District 4 Southern Columbia. Southern Columbia's Tigers "ain't" what they used to be, but are still good enough to advance...**So. Columbia**.

Bedford's Bisons are in the playoffs with a regular season losing record, but they are still playing. The Bisons (6-6) welcome the Karns City Gremlins (10-2) to Northern Bedford's Stadium. The Bisons impressed me with last week's win, so...**Bedford**.

The always tough Tyrone Golden Eagles meet a familiar foe in the Rangers of Forest Hills. I kind of remember these two teams playing for District Six titles in the past. 15 titles to be exact with Forest Hills having seven trophies and Tyrone with eight (I think). Tyrone must find a way to contain Rangers' running back Nick Dudukovich. The Rangers even the titles score with number eight...**Forest Hills**.

In Heinz Field, the WPIAL Championships take place with the opening game between the Bears of Clairton and the Rams of Rochester. The Bears and the Rams have more titles than I care to count. PFN has the Rams at number two all year. It seems like it has been an uphill climb all season for the Bears after the opening week loss. Clairton finally reaches the top of the mountain...**Da Bears**.

The Centurians of Greensburg Central Catholic have shifted into high gear with an effective running game with feature back David Miller. The Centurians go into Heinz Field with hopes of keeping the running game going against the defensive unit of the Quips of Aliquippa. This one will come down to a field goal. The Quips have kicker John Lord...**Aliquippa**.

Having stunned Thomas Jefferson last week, West Allegheny moves on to the title game in Heinz Field against the Vikings of Hopewell. The West Allegheny's Indians lost in the initial meeting with Hopewell by a 34-26 score. Did I tell you it is tough to beat a team twice in one season?...**West Allegheny**

In the WPIAL slobber knocker of the week, the one loss Wolverines of Woodland Hills battle the undefeated Gators of Gateway. I would bet my lunch on one of these two teams going to Hershey. Gateway has the explosive offense while Woody High seems to rely more on its defense. Late in season, in foul weather, I like defense...**Woodland Hills**.

District 8 champ, Schenley meets District 10 champ Erie Cathedral Prep. I think these two met a few years back and my crystal ball really let me down with a pick I care not to mention. Not using the crystal ball this time, just good old fashioned football "know how"...**Cathedral Prep**.

Sharon's Tigers worked their way into the District 10 championship game with the Greyhounds of Wilmington. The Greyhounds have just enough speed to nose out the Tigers...**Wilmington**.

Sharpsville versus Farrell (PFN's numero uno for our Hispanic fans). Sharpsville lost by a 12-7 score in the first meeting with the Steelers. It won't be any easier this time around for the Steelers...**Farrell**.

Dunmore was a runner-up in the state finals in '07 while this week's opponent West Catholic was a runner-up in the state title last year (what a game that was). This game will be similar to the '08 state final for West...**Dunmore**.

Interboro's Buccaneers and the Pottsgrove Falcons travel to Coatesville to determine the District 1 AAA champ. Both the Bucs and the Falcons are 12-0. By a gnat's eyelash...**Pottsgrove**. (Hey, Richie, I found the correct spelling of gnat. That's the way Mr. Webster spells it.)

District 11's Tri-Valley Bulldogs meet the Winged Lions of St. Pius X out of District 1. How could I not like a Winged Lion?...**St. Pius X**.

PFN has Bishop McDevitt ranked number two in AAAA and rightly so. The Crusaders have pretty much dominated most of this season's opponents. The Crusaders will get a much better test this week from the Comets of Penn Manor, but in the end the Comet's streak burns out...**Bishop McDevitt**.

Two highly esteemed football programs come together in Altoona' Mansion Park when the Bishop McCort Crimson Crushers meet the Bellwood-Antis Blue Devils. People in Bellwood love family, country, apple pie and Blue Devil football (not necessarily in **that** particular order). The Blue Devils face a Crusher team considered by many to be the best single A team in the state. The Crimson Crushers had better bring some fans to Mansion Park to compete with the "Bellwood Bunch" as I suspect Bellwood to have a population of zero on Saturday night. I'll listen to the pundits...**Bishop McCort**.

Clarion's Bobcats will be challenged by the Falcons of Coudersport. The Bobcats come away with the victory...**Clarion**.

North Schuylkill is undefeated and ranked in PFN's top five. The Spartans meet the Bulldogs of Northern Lehigh (10-2). I see a mild upset in the making...**Northern Lehigh**.

Easton's Red Rovers face traditional rival Phillipsburg, N.J. on Thanksgiving Day. Then the Red Rovers take a day's rest before playing in the District 11 final with Parkland. How the Rovers accomplish this feat I have no idea! Parkland's running back Andre Williams will be well rested for what should be a very tired Red Raiders defense. Can the Red Raiders come up with a yeoman's effort? I sure hope so...**Easton**.

George Washington and LaSalle College have been in some tough games all season. This week's fray should be no different. Look for the passing attack of LaSalle to be the difference...**LaSalle College**.

In other games:

Pitt over WVU Go Panthers!