

Short Picks

A great weekend of high school football is in store for all of you Pennsylvania football fans. The past season was filled with exciting games and great individual efforts. This weekend should be no different. The trip to Hershey for the eight finalists will be a memorable event for players, coaches, parents and fans. Congratulations to all of the participants.

Before I get to my picks, I would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers of Pennsylvania Football News, to Tom Elling, Rich Vetock and all the PFN contributors. Best wishes for a healthy 2010 and continued success with PFN.

If you can't make it to Hershey, I would advise you to pull up your favorite chair and turn on the television starting at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. Now for the hard part!

District 6 has two finalists in Hershey for the weekend. Hats off to all the teams and coaches in District 6 for making football a top quality product. Bishop McCort's Crimson Crushers makes the school's first appearance ever in the finals. Crusher opponent 'Da Bears of Clairton are returning to Hershey after a loss in last year's final. Two great running backs will be the feature show this week when McCort's Josh Seidel and Clairton's Deonte Howard take the field. The Crimson Crushers are a team of destiny...**Bishop McCort.**

The other District 6 team making a first trip to Hershey is the State College Little Lions. The Little Lions are somewhat of a surprise as they struggled a bit during the season while playing a tough District 3 schedule. Football guru Rich Vetock had picked State College as the number two team in the state in his pre-season poll. The Little Lions have lived up to that billing so never doubt the guru. State College faces LaSalle College from District 12. The LaSalle Explorers feature a stingy defense and a very efficient offense led by quarterback Drew Loughery. The Little Lions will counter the LaSalle offense with a defense anchored by Penn State bound Alex Kenney. Alex played one of his best games this season in last week's win over Cumberland Valley. So can Alex shut down Drew's favorite receiver? I think so, and District 6 gets two champs in '09...**State College.**

Both Lancaster Catholic and Greensburg Central Catholic won very close contests last week in very hard fought games. Lancaster won by a two point margin while Central Catholic gained a 4 point victory. This week's score will probably be just as close. Lancaster Catholic had over ten games this season in which the Crusaders scored in excess of 40 points. Quarterback Kyle Smith is the spark plug in the Crusader offense. The Crusaders must contend with Greensburg Central Catholic's running attack featuring the punishing tailback/fullback David Miller. I look for the Centurians to control the football and eat time off the clock thus keeping the high scoring Crusader offense off the field...**Greensburg Central Catholic.**

In what I think will be a shootout, the Manheim Central Barons hook up with the Seals of Selinsgrove. Previously, I did not see the Barons as a really explosive offensive unit. However, Barons' coach Mike "Huff" Williams unleashed his offense last week against a very good defensive team in West Allegheny. The Seals on the other hand have been racking up touchdowns against all opponents

throughout the year. So with "Huff" breaking out the offense and the Seals pasting of nearly every opponent, I see a plethora of trips to the end zone by both teams. Get to your seat early as the fireworks should start at the kickoff. Last team with the ball wins the Hershey kisses...**Manheim Central.**