

Short Picks

After opening week 1 with three misses in the prognostication department, Short Picks came back last week with just one miscue that being the Montoursville/So. Columbia game. This week's action begins on Thursday evening and lots of good games throughout the weekend.

Two of District Ten's top football programs collide in Sharon where the Tigers host the Oilers of Oil City. Both the Tigers and the Oilers have a storied football tradition. Oil City was a runner-up in the state championship game in 2004 and Sharon is usually in the playoff picture each year. Both teams should make the playoffs this season, but the Tigers have the best chance to go a little further...**Oil City.**

District 1 power Downingtown East (2-0) travels to West Lawn where the Cougars find an angry bunch of Bulldogs. Wilson West Lawn is coming off a very hotly contested loss with Manheim Central last Sunday night. The Cougars defense will be severely tested by Bulldog quarterback, Zach Zweizig. Too much Bulldog and a lot of ZZ...**Wilson West Lawn.**

St. Joe's Prep takes on another football power in week three as the Hawks host PFN's number one ranked AAAA North Penn. The Hawks opened the season with a win over top rated McKeesport and then last week they knocked off St. Peters of New Jersey. This game could very well be the first of two meetings between the Hawks and the Knights. Using the old reliable coin toss, it's heads...**North Penn.**

Berwick's Bulldogs take a bus ride to Exeter home of the Warriors of Wyoming Area. Both schools are off to a good start with 2-0 records. I see PFN ranking guru, Rich Vetock bumped the Bulldogs into the top ten of AAA. Rich must know something that I don't, so I'm going with...**Berwick.**

Manheim Central is coming off a very draining win on Sunday evening. Barons' head coach Mike "Huff" Williams has his work cut out for him as he not only has to get a game plan together for the Lancaster Catholic Crusaders, but he must find a way to get his Barons "up" for another quality opponent. The Crusaders are ranked second in PFN's AA classification. The Crusaders beat the Barons last year, so "Huff" may use that loss as a motivator this week. In another nail biter... **Manheim Central.**

Bloomsburg has picked up right where the Panthers left off last year with two wins in the early going. The Panthers will find out just how good they are this week when they trek to Montoursville. Montoursville is off to a great start with hopes of improving on the '08 record of 10-3. Bloomsburg must find a way to corral Warriors' running back Cody Haupt. If Cody get loose it will be a long night for the Panthers...**Montoursville.**

Windber and Portage usually face off in the late stages of the season in either a scheduled game or a playoff game. The Ramblers have an early trip into Portage where they are quite familiar with the enthusiastic Mustang fans. The Ramblers are also familiar with Mustang running back, Mike Sinosky. I think the Mustangs might run wild...**Portage.**

Homer Center's Wildcats look for win number three when they travel to Marion Center. Marion Center opened the season with two wins, one more than all of last season. The Stingers apparently

want to put '08 behind them. Should be a closely contested ball game as I see the Wildcats get stung...**Marion Center.**

Two big time football programs take the field in Beaver Falls when the Tigers host the Quips of Aliquippa. I might mention Tony Dorsett, Mike Ditka, and Joe Namath (Pro-Football Hall of Famers) are from these two former steel mill towns. The Quips and the Tigers racked up 24 wins between the two of them in '09 and the feat may be duplicated again this year. With games like this I will be lucky to be .500 this week. I'm sticking with the home team...**Beaver Falls.**

Head coach, Joe Rossi, and his Lions of South Fayette roll out the welcome carpet for the Golden Eagles of Keystone Oaks. The Eagles trounced the Lions last season by a 53-3 score (might be bulletin board material). Keystone Oaks is led by running back Matt McCann and defensive lineman Max Kielbasa (now that's what I call a Western Pa. name). With revenge a factor and the home field advantage I see a three point win for...**South Fayette.**

In a battle between two District 7 heavyweights, the Tigers of North Allegheny welcome the Panthers of Upper St. Clair. The Panthers pulled out a 30-28 win over the Tigers last year and I see a similar score this year, but in favor of...**North Allegheny.**

The always tough Red Raiders of Cameron County meet the Rover Dogs of Brockway in Brockway's Frank Varischetti Stadium. The home standing Rover Dogs are led by quarterback Derek Buganza. In another closely contested fray...**Cameron County.**

Two undefeated schools meet in Knox home of the Panthers of Keystone. The Panthers welcome the Bobcats of Clarion. The Panthers fall from the ranks of the unbeaten...**Clarion.**

Jeff Bell, head coach of the Eagles of Grove City, knows he must come up with a game plan to stop the running attack of this week's opponent, the Greyhounds of Wilmington. Wilmington has a very fitting mascot in the Greyhounds as this team is fast. The speedster for the Greyhounds is running Back Derrick Burns (big brother is playing at the Pitt). Derrick is sure to give Coach Bell a headache...**Wilmington.**

Easton's Red Rovers put a perfect record on the line when they face the Trojans of Parkland. Easton is a much improved team over last season, but not quite up to speed with the Trojans...**Parkland.**

Northwestern Lehigh goes after win number three at home against the Warriors of Wilson. Wilson's offense is solid behind the passing of Tyler Smith. Friday's forecast is calling for rain and that might give a slight advantage to Northwestern Lehigh. When was the last time a weatherman got a long range forecast correct...**Wilson.**

In other games:

LaSalle College over West Catholic

Palisades over Catasauqua

McDowell over Norwin

Lakeview over Linesville

Corry over Girard

West Mifflin over Elizabeth Forward

Center over New Brighton

Chartiers Valley over Belle Vernon

St. College over Central Dauphin East

Towanda over Troy

Susquehannock over York William Penn