

Short Picks

Last week football fans were treated to some great games with a couple of OT'ers and some great individual performances (see PFN's Stat Stars). Short Picks came up with a bunch of winners as my prognostications produced 12 winners with just 3 losers.

Pittsburgh Central Catholic goes looking for win number three at Upper St. Clair. Central Catholic's Vikings were defeated last week, but remain in the PFN top 10. Meanwhile, USC is gunning for win number four as they roll out the welcome mat for the Vikes. The Panthers look like a team capable of running the table...**USC**.

Council Rock South (3-0) travels to Pennsbury (3-0). Council Rock's Golden Hawks opened the season by scoring 62 points in the first two games. However the Golden Hawks put a mere six points on the board in last week's win. Pennsbury's Falcon defense can be very stingy in the points against column...**Pennsbury**.

Abington's Ghosts get a shot at PFN's number four ranked Neshaminy. The Ghosts are 2-0 after an open date in week 3. With two weeks to prepare for the Redskins, the home standing Ghosts might give the Redskins all they want. Then again, close but no cigar for the Ghosts...**Neshaminy**.

Year in and year out, the Dunmore Bucks and the Lakeland Chiefs provide fans with a very spirited game as both teams are usually in the winner's circle when the season ends. Last year, however, the Bucks routed the Chiefs by a 35-13 score. The score this year will be a little closer with a repeat winner...**Dunmore**.

In AA action, Hanover travels to Old Forge as both teams put their undefeated records on the line. Old Forge's Blue Devils have been an offensive juggernaut in racking up 135 points. Hanover's Hawkeye features an offense led by Quarterback Brandon Colorusso. This one could be an offensive shootout with the Blue Devils coming out on top...**Old Forge**.

In the slobber knocker of the week, Bishop McDevitt ventures into the play pen of the Central Dauphin Panthers. The Crusaders' quarterback Matt Johnson led McDevitt to three wins by outscoring their opponents by a whopping 139-39 margin. Central Dauphin can also put some big numbers on the scoreboard with quarterback Anthony Gelbaugh at the controls. I look for a high scoring affair with the outcome decided by a field goal...**Central Dauphin**.

Off to another good start are the Eagles of Cocalico. The Eagles hope to better or equal last year's win total of 10. A win this week over the Manheim Central Barons would be just what the doctor ordered for double digit win total. The Barons have faced some stiff competition the past two weeks and this week will be no different. Cocalico must find a way to score against a very good Baron defense led by linebacker Dakota Royer...**Manheim Central**.

Greencastle-Antrim treks north on I-81 to Hershey, home of the Trojans. Greencastle-Antrim's Blue Devils three home wins coupled with last year's 10-2 record gives the Blue Devils the swagger necessary to win on the road...**Greencastle-Antrim**.

The Spartans of Hughesville and the Dragons of Lewisburg get together in what should be a good old fashioned donnybrook. Lewisburg has outscored opponents by a 131-0! Un-defeated, un-tied and un-scored upon and that is not bad! Hughesville scored 122 tallies while giving up just 13 points. Two great defenses and two very potent offenses will give district four fans an outstanding ball game. I'm going with the home standing Spartans...**Hughesville.**

The Glendale Vikings are off to one of the best starts in a decade or more as the Vikes picked up win number three last week. The Vikings will be tested this week when they travel to Moshannon Valley home of the Black Knights. Mo Valley is also 3-0. Vikings should get a little home cooking to go along with a one or two point loss...**Moshannon Valley.**

I talked to a couple of PIAA zebras who officiated a game for the Portage Mustangs. The consensus is the Mustangs are awesome baby! The Mustangs romp into Davidsville home of the undefeated Indians of Conemaugh Twp. Week four in the football season can sometimes be a letdown as players start reading impressive press clippings, practice routines can be a bit boring, and school days seem to be getting longer. I'm not sure if this is all true, but if the Mustangs show any signs of a letdown against the Indians, their undefeated season could end. No letdown here, Mustangs gallop...**Portage.**

Both Chartiers Valley and West Mifflin are 3-0 and in the "Others to Watch" section of PFN's rankings. Chartiers Valley's Colts cantor into West Mifflin's Titan stadium and should trot home with win number four...**Chartiers Valley.**

Hopewell will have its hands full as the Vikings welcome the Hurricanes of New Castle featuring running back Justin Fleo and quarterback John Mattarozzo. Justin and John provide the Hurricanes with a very sound one-two punch on offense to go along with a stingy Hurricane defense. Hopewell counters with sophomore running back Rushel Shell. By a whisker...**New Castle.**

In what should be a high scoring affair, Sto-Rox welcomes the Lions of South Fayette. The Lions offense is led by running back Christian Brumbaugh while the Sto-Rox Vikings move the chains by way of quarterback Paul Jones. Jones starts throwing when he comes out of the locker room. Last team with the ball wins...**Sto-Rox.**

After losing a heartbreaking 27-26 opener to St. Joe's Prep, the Tigers of McKeesport bounced back into the win column with two straight shutouts while scoring 109 points. The Tigers will try to continue the winning ways against undefeated McDowell. McDowell's Trojans moved into the WPIAL this season. The Trojans were victorious over two league opponents and won the opener against Cathedral Prep. That is a nice start for the Trojans who will face a fearsome offensive unit led by quarterback Ty-Meer Brown and running back Darian Robinson. Now that is a snootful...**McKeesport.**

In one of the top games of the week, PFN's number four Schuylkill Haven travels to North Schuylkill where the Spartans are sporting a 3-0 record. The Spartans are unranked as of this week, but they just might get Rich Vetock's attention after Friday evening...**North Schuylkill.**

A huge game is in store for the Explorers of LaSalle College and the Hawks of St. Joe's Prep. PFN has both the Explorers and the Hawks ranked. This should be a standing room only event. St. Joe's looks to bounce back after last week's loss at North Penn. The Explorers are just a shade below North Penn...**LaSalle College**.

In other Games:

Serra Catholic over Fort Cherry

Lansdale Catholic over Oxford

Northeast Catholic over Glen Mills

Marian Catholic over Pius X

Bethlehem Catholic over Allentown Central Catholic

Sharpsville over Kennedy Catholic

St. Mary's over Huntingdon

Woodland Hills over Bethel Park

Aliquippa over Beaver Area

Northern Bedford over Williamsburg

Central Cambria over Cambria Heights

Bishop McCort over Bishop Carroll

Windber over Ferndale

Wyalusing over Wellsboro

Montoursville over Milton

Wilson over J.P.McCaskey

Gettysburg over Shippensburg

Muhlenberg over Blue Mt.

Berwick over Wyoming Valley West

Methacton over Spring-Ford

