

## Short Picks - Week 8

Week seven produced 11 wins and 5 losses in the prognostication department. I hope to do much better this week. I searched the schedule for some 7-0 teams playing each other but none are available this week. While hunting for those undefeated or one-loss teams I happened across a couple of 0-7 teams playing each other this week. So let's lead off with some teams playing for their first win.

Erie Central Tech has great school colors-black and gold. The Falcons travel to Franklin in hopes of picking up their first win of the season. Franklin's Knights hope to do the same as time is running out. Tech looks like a touchdown favorite, but I like the home team by a whisker...**Franklin.**

Both Ellwood City and New Brighton have played brutally tough schedules. Most if not all of their mutual opponents have winning records. Once again I like the home team to pick up its first win...**Ellwood City.**

In another District 7 matchup of 0-7 teams, Northgate's Flames host the Quakers of Quaker Valley. Northgate must win this week to avoid a 0-9 season as I don't see the Flames winning in week 9 (Sto-Rox is next). Let's go Flames...**Northgate.**

In District Six Cambria Heights football has fallen on hard times. The Highlanders are playing out the season with a number of underclassmen in hopes of building for next year. The Highlanders host the Huskies of Bishop Carroll. Both the Highlanders and the Huskies are looking for a win. The Huskies have shown more improvement as the season progressed, but the Highlanders are way over due to sneak up on someone...**Cambria Heights.**

Downingtown West (previously ranked number four by PFN) suffered its first loss of the season. The Whippets may have been peeking ahead to this week's game with Downingtown East. D-Town East hosts the Whippets in what could be the second loss in two weeks for the Whippets...**Downingtown East.**

Delone Catholic is two points away from an undefeated season. The Squires look like serious contenders in AA of

District Three. Delone welcomes the Eagles of Bermudian Springs this Friday. The Eagles are 5-2 and cannot be overlooked in the playoff picture. The Eagles may just spring an upset...**Bermudian Springs.**

The Blue Devils of Greencastle-Antrim and the Polar Bears of Northern York have one loss each as both teams are looking to get into the thick of the playoffs. Triple A in District 3 is quite crowded right now so a win this week is very important to both the Polar Bears and the Blue Devils. Can the Blue Devils win on the road? I think so...**Greencastle-Antrim.**

In another AAA matchup, the Hershey Trojans entertain the Indians of Susquehanna Twp. Both squads sport six wins against one loss and each is coming off a Monday night victory which makes for a short week of preparation. The Indians travel to Hershey and come home with a sweet victory...**Susquehanna Twp.**

In District 3 Quad A, the Blue Streaks of Manheim Twp. will have their hands full with Wilson West Lawn's duo of quarterback Zack Zweizig and running back Kriss Brown. ZZ and Brown are just too much for the Blue Streaks...**Wilson West Lawn.**

Towanda's Black Knights (7-0) travel to Athens (5-2) in what is usually a good football game. Last year the Athens Wildcats beat the Knights on their way to a 10-2 record. The Black Knights should reverse the tables on the Wildcats this season...**Towanda.**

Reports are the Mt. Lions of Altoona will be playing in the WPIAL next season. Hopefully the schedule will allow for the Mt. Lions to continue its rivalry with this week's opponent, the Little Lions of State College. Altoona has struggled to date while the Little Lions have an impressive 6-1 record. State is the type of opponent the Mt. Lions will face each week in the WPIAL...**State College.**

Richland Rams head coach, Brandon Bailey, goes up against his former high school head coach and his father, Don Bailey. Brandon brought the Rams football program back to respectability and would love nothing less than a victory over his Papa's Forest Hills Rangers. Richland will give a super effort only to fall short to the older Bailey...**Forest Hills.**

The 5-2 Red Raiders of Meyersdale invade the home of the Vikings of Blacklick Valley. Blacklick Valley has become very successful recently under the guidance of head coach, Billy "Zip" Zamboni. The "Zipper" will find a way to get his top scorer Ted Worthington into the end zone...**Blacklick Valley.**

One loss Center travels to Beaver Falls where the Tigers are undefeated. This should be one of the best games in District 7. A win this week would almost guarantee the Tigers of an undefeated season as they have winless New Brighton next week. Center's Trojans are very capable of pulling off the upset and I wouldn't be surprised at all, so what the heck...**Center.**

Sto-Rox (6-1) is led by quarterback Paul Jones. Jones leads the Vikings into Pittsburgh to face the 6-1 Golden Eagles of Keystone Oaks. The Golden Eagles pick off a victory...**Keystone Oaks.**

In the Pittsburgh City League, Oliver's Bears battle with the Bulls of Brashear. This sounds like something from Wall Street "Bulls and Bears". The fray will occur at George K. Cupples Stadium on the South Side and the winner is...**Brashear.**

Farrell's Steelers undefeated season was nearly derailed last week as the Steelers squeaked out a 12-7 win. The Steelers face a Lakeview Sailors team (5-2) at home. Last week was a wake-up call...**Farrell.**

Two District 11 AA schools meet in Lansford home of the Panthers of Panther Valley. The Panthers have 6-1 record while visiting Tamaqua is also 6-1. Tamaqua's Blue Raiders need to prove themselves with a win over a team like the Panthers, but it won't be this week...**Panther Valley.**

In what is the final game of the season for both West Catholic and Bishop McDevitt (Dist. 12) you can bet on an offensive show. West is coming off a 57 point production last week and a 62 point romp the week before. Meanwhile, McDevitt racked up 74 points in the Royal Lancer's last two games. Have a scoreboard electrician available for this one...**West Catholic.**

In my slobber knocker of the week St. Joe's Prep (6-1) faces another juggernaut in undefeated Cardinal O'Hara's Lions.

The Prep's Hawks (PFN's #4) have but one loss to top ranked North Penn. Cardinal O'Hara (PFN's #8) finds itself in the first of a three game set against what I think are three of the top schools in District 12. The Lions pass the first week's test...**Cardinal O'Hara.**

**In other games:**

Bok Vo-Tech over Communications Tech

Catasauqua over Palmerton

Wilmington over Titusville

Mercyhurst Prep over Saegertown

Grove City over Meadville

Corry over Warren

Cameron County over Sheffield

Woodland Hills over Plum

Thomas Jefferson over Belle Vernon

Hopewell over Montour

Westmont over Bedford

Bishop McCort over Central Cambria

Wyalusing over So. Williamsport

Hugesville over Bloomsburg

Montoursville over Lyalsock Twp.

Berwick over Coughlin