

Short Picks

Week nine brings down the curtain on the regular season schedule for the WPIAL schools. The District 7 championship journey to Heinz Field commences next week. Meanwhile the remaining high schools in the state are jockeying for positions for the playoffs scheduled for week eleven.

Short Picks recorded a lackluster 13-6 for the previous week. I must however compliment myself for the upset call of Center over PFN's number two ranked Beaver Falls. Editors Tom and Rich noticed the call for the upset. That pick was huge and it might just help me to pick up a one year extension on my contract to continue writing for PFN.

We have a big game in District 1 between the undefeated Green Raiders of Ridley and the once-beaten Jaguars of Garnet Valley. The Jags have made a run into the state playoffs the past couple of years and they look like a team that could go deep this year. The Green Raiders will expose any weaknesses the Jags might need to fix for a playoff run...**Ridley.**

The Dallas Mountaineers put their undefeated season on the line with a visit to Berwick. The Bulldogs have six wins to go with two tough losses Selinsgrove and Wyoming Valley West. This game is a must see for you fans in District 2 as I know the 'Eers and the Bulldogs will put on a great show. The 'Dogs have the better defense...**Berwick.**

The Blue Devils of Old Forge put their undefeated season on the line as they visit the Spartans of Mid Valley. Both the Blue Devils and the Spartans feature stingy defenses, but I think the Blue Devils are a tad better...**Old Forge.**

Northern York's Polar Bears are 7-1 with a hic-cup two weeks ago in a loss to Hershey. The Polar Bears travel to Susquehanna Twp with hopes of avoiding another hic-cup against a very good Indians squad. This will be one of the better games in District 3 as both teams are gearing up for the playoffs. I like the home team Indians...**Susquehanna Twp.**

Penn Manor is 7-1 with some solid wins over quality opponents. The Comets face a top shelf team in the Bulldogs of Wilson West Lawn. Wilson looks like one of the strongest contenders in District 3 AAAA...**Wilson West Lawn.**

Towanda's Black Knights welcome the Lancers of Loyalsock Twp. The Black Knights fans will get a look at a feisty Lancer bunch...**Loyalsock Twp.**

Bellwood-Antis has rolled to a 8-0 record with District 6 title hopes in the Blue Devils' sights. The Blue Devils travel to Mount Union where the Trojans are 6-2. Blue Devils continue to roll...**Bellwood-Antis.**

In '08 the Little Lions of St. College knocked off the high flying Crusaders of Bishop McDevitt. The Crusaders were 8-0 at the time. The Little Lions travel to McDevitt where the Crusaders are once again 8-0. Can the Little Lions pull off the upset again? Close but no cigar...**Bishop McDevitt.**

Marion Center and United hook up in classic Heritage Conference battle in District 6. Both squads are an identical 7-1. Friday night is going to be a muddy mess so I'm picking the mudders...**United.**

The "Slobber Knocker of the Week" is happening in District 7. Gateway's Gators visit the Tigers of McKeesport. This game may be repeated in Heinz Field at a later date. Football Fans in the Pittsburgh area might want to get over to McKeesport for what will be a classic confrontation. Gators by a whisker...**Gateway.**

Serra Catholic, ranked 10th in PFN, rumbles into Clairton home of the Bears. Clairton is ranked number 5 in PFN. Serra's Eagles will be tested by a always tough Bear defense. The Bears also have a productive offense...**'Da Bears.**

Single A Keystone travels to AAA Punxsutawney. The Keystone Panthers will keep the score close with the Woodchucks...**Punxsutawney.**

At 6-2, the Bradford Owls have been a hoot for the hometown fans. The Owls entertain the Ramblers of Erie Cathedral Prep. The Ramblers are also 6-2. Don't let the Ramblers record fool you as this game could get ugly...**Cathedral Prep.**

In another inter-district matchup, the Cougars of Hazleton host the Cavaliers of East Stroudsburg South. The Cavaliers absorb the second loss of the season...**Hazleton.**

The Spartans of North Schuylkill are 8-0 and ranked 6th by PFN. The Spartans host the Panthers of Panther Valley. I like the way the Panthers have been playing lately...**Panther Valley.**

In other games:

Pottsville over Gov. Mifflin

Easton over Bethlehem Liberty

Wilmington over Slippery Rock

General McLane over Northwestern

Cameron County over Smethport

Clearfield over Huntingdon

Woodland Hills over Plum

Northgate over Sto-Rox

Hopewell over Moon

Penns Manor over Homer Center

Central Cambria over Somerset

Everett over Claysburg

Southern Columbia over Mt. Carmel

Lewisburg over Bloomsburg

Shippensburg over Red Land

Hershey over Big Spring

Myers over Pittston

North Pocono over Honesdale

Penncrest over Strath Haven