

Short Picks

Week Nine brings down the curtain on the WPIAL (District 7) regularly scheduled season. Many of the final qualifiers for the WPIAL playoffs will be determined this week as the WPIAL prepares for the road to the championships at Heinz Field. Playing for a District 7 title in Heinz Field is the dream of every WPIAL football player! Meanwhile, the remainder of the state's football games involves teams jockeying for seeding position and bubble teams desperate for another win.

Last week's picks ended with 11 correct and six incorrect. In a couple of surprise outcomes last week, an old adage proved to be relevant today---"Fear no opponent, but respect every opponent." In the college ranks the U. of Oklahoma was a multi-point favorite over Texas Tech. The Sooners took Tech a little too lightly and the resulting loss KO'ed Oklahoma. I also noted a couple of Pa. high school teams with undefeated records or with one loss blemishes losing to teams that no one including yours truly thought it remotely possible. Never fear but always respect each and every opponent.

Abington's Ghosts host the Golden Hawks of Council Rock South. Two teams who could possibly meet again in the very near future as both are playing excellent football heading into the post season. District 1 fans get a preview of a possible future clash between two giants...**Abington.**

The undefeated Knights of Delaware County Christian travel to Springfield Twp. (Montco) home of the 8-0 Spartans. The Knights are enjoying a great run, but the Spartans are a just a slight bit better than the Knights...**Springfield Twp.**

Pat Ingulli rushed for 344 yards last week (see PFN "Stat Stars") as the Wallenpaupack Buckhorns pocketed win number 7 of the 2011 season. Mr. Ingulli will attempt to duplicate week 8's accomplishment against an underrated Scranton Knights team (5-3) who are playing solid defense the past couple of weeks. Ingulli gets some yardage, but not like last week...**Scranton.**

Quad A Daniel Boone's Blazers attempt to recover from their first loss in week eight to Gov. Mifflin by a 14-7 score. The Blazers get another tough opponent in the Scouts of Conrad Weiser. The final three game-stretch for both the Blazers and the Scouts is brutal. This one should be another dandy...**Conrad Weiser.**

Governor Millfin hosts the Eagles of Exeter Twp. Both the Mustangs and the Eagles will be playing for a top seed in the District 3 AAAA class. Governor Mifflin has more past experience in big games when it is crunch time...**Governor Mifflin.**

Bermudian Springs puts the undefeated season on the line against the very dangerous Thunderbolts of Littlestown. During Halloween week anything can happen, and I sure hope the Eagles respect the 'Bolts...**Bermudian Springs.**

I am sure you folks in District 4 have been waiting for this one. The Red Tornadoes of Mt. Carmel host the Tigers of So. Columbia. This year's score should be just about the same as last year's Tiger win of 17-14. This year the "Red Tornadoes Nation" is smiling. Not sure if this could be called a mild upset or not...**Mt. Carmel Area.**

North Star's Cougars will attempt to put behind a heartbreaking 21-20 loss to Windber as the Cougars go from the "frying pan into the fire" as they welcome the Indians of Conemaugh Twp. The Indians will lock up the WestPac conference title with a win and probably the number one seed in the District 5 playoffs. Not sure who gets the conference hardware if North Star wins. A victory by the Indians makes the whole thing easy...**Conemaugh Twp.**

Cambria Heights is a bubble team for the AA District 6 playoffs. Win two and the Highlanders are on the dance floor. The Cambria Heights is a team heading in the right direction as they face the Crimson Crushers of Bishop McCort. Over the past dozen years the Heights has been the Rodney Dangerfield of District 6. "They get no respect." Remember what I said earlier about R-E-S-P-E-C-T (Aretha Franklin). An upset special...**Cambria Heights.**

The Beaver Falls Tigers host the Beaver Area Bobcats. I suspect a real offensive shootout if the weather permits...**Beaver Area.**

The 8-0 Panthers of Franklin Regional visit the Greensburg-Salem Golden Lions. The difference in this game will be the playmaking of the Panthers running back Dane Brown...**Franklin Regional.**

The Jeannette Jayhawks and the Greensburg Central Catholic Centurians's game is one of the best rivalry games in the state. Both the Jayhawks and the Centurians are 8-0. By a whisker...**Jeannette.**

The Falcons of Coudersport are flying high with eight wins and no losses. The Falcons host the Gators of Port Allegany in what is always a battle to the finish between these two District 9 schools. This year will be no different. The Gators have an edge at the quarterback position in senior Matt Bodamer...**Port Allegany.**

In a slobber knocker special, the Whitehall Zephyrs and the Nazareth Blue Eagles will slug it out in Andy S. Leh Stadium in Nazareth. In 2010 these two behemoths battled to a 42-35 finish with the Blue Eagles coming out on top. Nazareth quarterback Dan Harding will test the Zephyrs' defense in another offensive explosion...**Whitehall.**

LaSalle College looks like a team heading to Hershey. The Explorers final season game with St. Joe's Prep should be much closer than last year's 31-7 Explorer victory. The Hawks will put up a gallant effort but the Explorers prevail...**LaSalle College.**

In other games:

West Catholic over Lansdale Catholic

Bok over Roxborough

Schuylkill Haven over Mahanoy Area

Tri-Valley over Juniata

Freedom over BECA

Sharon over Greenville

Slippery Rock over Oil City

Grove City over Dubois

St. Marys over Karns City

Otto-Eldred over Smethport

Yough over Charleroi

Upper St. Clair over Mount Lebanon

Kiski over Plum

Montour over Moon

Westmont over Bishop Guilfoyle

Mo Valley over So. Huntingdon

Bellwood-Antis over Mount Union

McDowell over Altoona

Windber over Berlin-Brothersvalley

Bedford over Central Cambria

Mifflinburg over Selinsgrove

Athens over Montoursville

Manheim Central over Lebanon

Valley View over West Scranton

North Penn over Hatboro-Horsham