

Short Picks - Week 10

It is the final week of the regular season for many and the start of the march to Hershey for a number of others. District 6, 12, and 7 kickoff the playoffs this weekend. It looks like some good games to go along with what should be easy contests for the number one seeds.

Last week Short Picks recorded 12 wins versus 4 losses. The playoff season will be just as tough picking if not tougher.

For openers, West Chester Henderson has played some pretty good football although the Warriors record (5-4) doesn't really indicate that fact. The Warriors have another toughie this week with the Cougars of Downingtown East. The Warriors lost the last four and I'm not sure they are mentally ready for East, but I'm looking for the upset...**Henderson.**

Two heavy weights square off in Fairless Hills home of the Falcons of Pennsbury. The Falcons welcome the Redskins of Neshaminy. Both squads are 9-1. I like the Redskins by a touchdown...**Neshaminy.**

Much to my surprise, Hazleton's Cougars got blown out last week. The Cougars look to rebound this week against the Bulldogs of Berwick. Berwick comes off a big win over Dallas (one of Short Picks calls) and now goes against the AAAA Cougars. An angry bunch of Cougars at home is a recipe for a 'Dog and Cat fight...**Hazleton.**

Old Forge is gunning for an undefeated season as the Blue Devils host Susquehanna Community. Getting that 10th win won't come easy. Susquehanna (6-3) will be fired up to hang the first loss on the Blue Devils, but I see victory for...**Old Forge.**

The Central Dauphin Rams host the Eagles of Cumberland Valley. The Eagles will find the going rather difficult on the Rams home turf. In a mild upset...**Central Dauphin.**

The Indians of Eastern Lebanon County (ELCO) would like to get win number 9 this week against the 8-1 Lancaster Catholic Crusaders. ELCO runs into a juggernaut...**Lancaster Catholic.**

West York has pretty much breezed through the season with a 9-0 record. The Bulldogs host the 7-2 Thunderbolts of Littlestown. I don't think the Bulldogs will take the 'Bolts lightly. I wouldn't be surprised if the 'Bolts came out on top by pulling off the upset. Another upset call would be too many in one week. Home field advantage gives the Bulldogs a slight edge...**West York.**

Wyalusing gets a shot at the undefeated Black Knight of Towanda. The Black Knights look like a contender for the AA District 4 title... **Towanda.**

The Highlanders of Cambria Heights have one last chance for a victory in '09 as the Heights host the Hilltoppers of Westmont. Westy is looking for win number two on the year. I hate to see any team go winless...**Cambria Heights.**

In District 6 playoff action the Heritage Conference United Lions meet the 3-6 Mauraders of Bishop Guifoyle. BG played a very strenuous schedule and elected to enter the playoffs with a losing record. This one will be close...**United.**

The Hornets of Juniata Valley travel to Marion Center home of the Stingers. I bet someone gets stung in this game...Juniata Valley.

Two teams looking for the first win of the season as the Harbor Creek Youth 0-8 visit the Cardinals of Cochranon (0-8). Unfortunately somebody is going home with a goose egg for '09. The winner is...**Cochranon.**

Union City put together a nice 7-2 season and finishes with the undefeated Lakers of Mercyhurst Prep. The Lakers get a test and pass, barely...**Mercyhurst Prep.**

Back to District 6 where two coaches have done a marvelous job of turning around football fortunes. Rick Kozak has worked the Glendale Vikings into a very respectable program. The Viking opponent in this week's playoff game is Blacklick Valley. BV has come back from the dead under the leadership of Billy "Zip" Zamboni. Blacklick Valley's mascot is the Vikings so I can't go wrong by picking a Viking win in this one, but I can't do that, so I'll go with "the Zipper"...**Blacklick Valley.**

The 7-2 Black Knights of Moshannon Valley host the Trojans of Mount Union. The home field advantage won't be enough to overcome the speedy horses of the Trojans...**Mount Union.**

In Allentown we have two teams looking for win number one. Allentown Dieruff and Allentown Allen play awesome schedules and thus the reason for the lack of wins. Allen went winless last season so a win here would be fantastic. Dieruff crushed the Canaries in '08 by a 53-0 margin. It won't be as bad a score this year, but just as painful...**Dieruff.**

In the Philly Catholic League, Cardinal O'Hara visits the Explorers of LaSalle College. The Explorers are a quality playoff contender. I can't help myself this week as I keep seeing all these upsets...**LaSalle College.**

In the District 12 AA Catholic Final, Bishop McDevitt will attempt to avenge an earlier season loss to West Catholic. It is tough to beat a team twice in one season, but the Burrs can do it...**West Catholic.**

In the WPIAL first round of action, I would like to pick one game from each of the four classifications so I will start with single A. Fort Cherry beat Brentwood handily in week three. Brentwood lost the first four games of the season then came back with five wins in row. This game looks like a lock for Fort Cherry, but something about the way the Spartans turned things around makes me like...**Brentwood.**

McGuffey's Highlanders host the Quips of Aliquippa. The Quips are a nine seed. Really! The Quips will not go away easily...**Aliquippa.**

In the AAA, any number of 5 to 6 teams could end up in Heinz Field for the WPIAL championship. I seem to think Hopewell might be one of the finalists. The Vikings entertain the Trojans of Derry. The Trojans will get a snoot full of Vikes running back Rushel Shell...**Hopewell.**

In the AAAA, Mt. Lebanon visits the 8-1 Titans of Shaler. Mount Lebo's Blue Devils exit the playoffs early...**Shaler.**

In other games:

Gateway over Plum
Upper St. Clair over Penn Hills
North Allegheny over Latrobe
McKeesport over North Hills
Woodland Hills over Baldwin
Central Catholic over Seneca Valley
Bethel Park over Penn-Trafford
Thomas Jefferson over Laurel Highlands
Montour over Franklin Regional
West Allegheny over Knoch
New Castle over Greensburg Salem
Mars over Trinity
Chartiers Valley over Hampton
Uniontown over Belle Vernon
South Fayette over Beave
Beaver Falls over Steel Valley
Sto-Rox over Shady Side Academy
Mount Pleasant over Kittanning
Keystone Oaks over Burrell
Center over Washington
Greensburg C.C. over Freeport
Rochester over Carmichaels
North Catholic over Jefferson-Morgan
Monessen over Springdale
Laurel over Burgettstown

Beth-Center over Serra

Clairton over South Side Beaver

Avonworth over Monaca