

Short Picks

As we pass the half way mark in the schedule, we see the cream rise to the surface. Many of the top rated teams and those in the "Others to Watch" list of PFN will be going head to head in the next few weeks. Those games should be very competitive and very entertaining for you fans.

Last week's Short Picks were 14-2. As you can surely see, I try to pick those games involving undefeated teams versus no worse than one loss teams. This week has a plethora of those types of matchups. Prognosticating gets tougher each week.

In a game involving two District 7 teams, The Sabers of Ford City (4-1) travel to Shady Side Academy also 4-1. Shady Side's Indians have been involved in four games that came down to the final minutes with each being decided by a touchdown or less. The Ford City Sabers rely on a stout defense to win games. I look for a low scoring game with the Indians pulling out a win by a mere touchdown or less...**Shady Side Academy.**

West Chester Henderson played through the first half of the schedule undefeated. The Warriors put a 5-0 record on the line when they welcome the Whippets of Downingtown West. The Whippets haven't lost this season and are coming off a 43-0 victory in which the offense got back on track. Downingtown West is scary, but I'm going out on limb in picking...**West Chester Henderson.**

North Pocono fans will be cheering heartily when their Trojans take the field against the undefeated Comets of Abington Heights. Trojan fans see quite an improvement in this year's squad over last year's team. Can the wins keep coming? I think so, but not this week...**Abington Heights.**

Shikellamy's Braves suffered their first loss of the year last week. The Braves will try to get back on the winning track with a visit to Montoursville. Montoursville's Warriors are not the best remedy for any team looking for a win...**Montoursville.**

Northern York (5-0) looks to move into PFN's top ten with a win this week. The Polar Bears will have a tough time this week as they host the Trojans of Hershey. The Trojans only loss came to a very good Greencastle-Antrim team. I don't like picking against the home team in close contests, but sometimes you have to go against tendencies...**Hershey.**

PFN editor, Tom Elling, must be real proud of his alma mater the Black Knights of Moshannon Valley. Mo Valley is undefeated and very much in the thick of things in the District 6 playoff picture. The Black Knights host the undefeated Blue Devils of Bellwood-Antis. This meeting might be titled the "The Black and Blue Game". Sorry Tommy, I give a slight edge to the Blue Devils...**Bellwood-Antis.**

Homer Center's Wildcats and the United Lions are still alive in the playoff hunt. This week is a must win game for both the Wildcats and the Lions. This game will go to the wire...**United.**

The Trojans of Center host Aliquippa's Quips. The Quips have unarguably one of the richest football traditions of all time in the state if not in the nation. That tradition also brings a bull's eye. Center's Trojans take aim at the Quips...**Center.**

Undefeated Beaver Falls travels to Beaver Area (4-1) where the Bobcats have been playing very solid defense. The Bobcat defense will get tested by a high scoring Beaver Falls Tiger offense. The Tigers play defense too...**Beaver Falls.**

Five-0 Shaler faces the 4-1 Tigers of North Allegheny. Shaler's head coach Neil Gordon has the Titans program on a winning track. North Allegheny is coached by Art Walker, Jr. Both coaches are well respected for their development of football powers. Great coaches, but the players will decide the outcome...**North Allegheny.**

Upper St. Clair's Panthers (4-1) are led by Quarterback Alex Park and wide receiver Tim Kikta. Panthers opponent this week is Bethel Park. The Blackhawks' secondary has very capable young men who can shut down a passing game...**Bethel Park.**

St. Marys' Flying Dutchmen travel to Tyrone. The Golden Eagles have won four straight since the opening day loss. St. Mary's (District 9) plays a primarily District 6 schedule while compiling a commendable 4-1 record. The Golden Eagles are one of District 6's best programs...**Tyrone.**

Mercyhurst Prep hopes to stay unbeaten when they travel across town to Iroquois. Iroquois' Braves will need a strong defensive showing if they hope to stop the Laker offense...**Mercyhurst Prep.**

Wilmington got upset and knocked out of the top spot in PFN's rankings. The Greyhounds attempt to get back on the winning track against long time rival Sharon. Greyhounds got a wake-up call last week...**Wilmington.**

I picked North Schuylkill's Spartans a couple of weeks ago to beat Schuylkill Haven. My sources were right about this Spartan bunch. The Spartans take on another undefeated team in the Blue Raiders of Tamaqua. Another undefeated goes down...**North Schuylkill.**

In the slobber knocker of the week, Father Judge's Crusaders battle the Explorers of LaSalle College. Both schools lost to St. Joe's Prep for the only loss on the season. I see this game going into overtime. It is that close. The old college W.A.G. is the call here...**Father Judge.**

In other games:

Bishop McDevitt (12) over Cardinal Dougherty

Jeannette over McGuffey

Clariton over Chartiers Houston

Emmaus over Dieruff

Warren over Franklin

Farrell over West Middlesex

Curwensville over Ridgeway

Woodland Hills over Kiski Area

Sto-Rox over Steel Valley

Penn Hills over Central Catholic

Gateway over Hempfield

Central Cambria over Forest Hills

Tussey Mt. over Northern Bedford

Loyalsock Twp. over Mt. Carmel

Greencastle-Antrim over Red Land

Wyoming Valley West over Stroudsburg

Pennsbury over Harry S. Truman