

Short Picks

Week Ten is the toughest week of the football season for this prognosticator. District play begins in some areas of the state which causes a rescheduling of games for many teams who don't start playoffs until next week. The playoffs that do start this week usually involve top seeds playing against low seeds that in many cases will result in blowouts. So I will do my best to find some games of interest to not just yours truly, but also to all you PFN fans.

Phoenixville's Phantoms have put together a fine 7-2 record. The Phantoms are led by QB Mark Ferko. Mark will need to put together a well-balanced attack this week at Lansdale Catholic where the Crusaders have posted an 8-1 record. The Crusaders are AA but they play a mostly AAA and AAAA schedule. That type of schedule will bode well for the Crusaders in the playoffs...**Lansdale Catholic.**

Upper Dublin (8-1) travels to Wissahickon (7-2). Upper Dublin's Cardinals have made a nice turn around on last season's 5-6 record. I think both teams will be 8-2 after this week... **Wissahickon.**

Head coach Gary Campbell Jr. has the Bulldogs of Berwick in the playoffs after an uncharacteristic 4-6 record in '06. The Bulldogs face a stiff test this week in a visit to Hazelton. The Cougars are gunning for a AAAA title in District 2. This game should provide District 2 fans with some excellent football. Close but no cigar for Coach Campbell...**Hazelton.**

West Scranton's Invaders have played really well all season long in winning 8 games and losing but 1. The Invaders host powerful Delaware Valley (9-0). Delaware Valley is also gunning for a District 2 AAAA title...**Delaware Valley.**

In what should be a real slobber knocker, the Muhls of Muhlenberg travel to Shillington, home of the Mustangs of Governor Mifflin. Both schools have one loss against eight wins. Look for a battle to the finish in which the home team comes out on top...**Governor Mifflin.**

In another knock down drag out game, the Trojans of Hershey host the Patriots of Red Land. The Trojans are led by QB Mike Wagner. If Mike has the ball in the final minutes of the game, he pulls out a victory...**Hershey.**

Titusville is 8-0! People in these parts haven't been this excited since the discovery of oil at the Drake Oil Well in Northwestern Pennsylvania. The Rockets will face what I think is their toughest test to date when they travel to Edinboro home of the Lancers of General McLane (last year's state champs). If the game were in Titusville I would go with the Rockets, but in the Champs' playpen...**General McLane.**

Whitehall will attempt to hang the first loss of the season on the Trojans of Parkland. Whitehall's Zephyrs need a solid performance from QB Andy Polony along with a supreme defensive effort if they hope to stay with the Trojans. The Trojans pull away in the second half...**Parkland.**

Gil Brooks has established St. Joe's Prep as one of the premier football programs in the state. The 7-2 Hawks travel to Conshohocken to face the 8-1 Eagles of Roman Catholic. Eagles Head Coach, Jim Murphy has a pretty solid program of his own at Roman Catholic. I see a real thriller in this Philly

Catholic League blockbuster. By a whisker...**Roman Catholic.**

Getting back to Northwestern Pa., you might want to travel to Kane to check out the sightings of "Big Foot" as has been reported in the news lately. In addition you should stop by Paul R. Miller Stadium to witness the Kane Wolves/Cameron County Red Raiders game. The Wolves are 9-0 as are the Red Raiders. The Wolves defense will be focused on the Red Raiders's QB, Jordan Crane. If you go, you might not see "Big Foot", but you will see two top quality football teams. In a squeaker...**Kane.**

Bishop McCort welcomes the Owls of Bradford. The Crimson Crushers have won eight games in the Laurel Highlands Conference while the Owls have put together a 7-1 record while playing mostly teams from District 9. The Owls only loss came at the hands of a District 6 team in week 7. The Owls find District 6 to be one tough area to win...**Bishop McCort.**

Westmont is looking for a tune-up for the District 6 playoffs when the Hilltoppers travel to Wilmington. The Greyhounds are a legitimate contender for a run deep into the states. The Hilltoppers have their share of team speed, but these 'Hounds can run...**Wilmington.**

District 7 playoffs begin this week. The best games seem to be in the class AA bracket. South Fayette's first year head coach, Joe Rossi would like to see his senior running back, Dillon Sauers have a 100+ yards rushing. Sauers will be running against Shady Side Academy's premier linebacker, Mike Farrell (6-7, 285). Farrell could be a real snootful if Sauers does not get some blocking...**Shady Side Academy.**

Burgettstown's Blue Devils will battle the Quips of Aliquippa. The Quips are not quite as strong as they have been in past years, but they are still pretty good...**Aliquippa.**

The Fightin' Planets of Mars and the Vikings of Valley lost a great number of starters from last year's squads. Mars head coach Scott Heinauer and Valley head coach Troy Hill have done a marvelous job of rebuilding their respective squads in '07. The Fightin' Planets have the WPIAL's number one running back, Billy Bair, in terms of rushing yards. You know I like teams with strong running attacks ...**Mars.**

In other games:

Ford City over Laurel
Beaver over Riverside
Beaver Falls over Greensburg Central Catholic
Blackhawk over Highlands
Monaca over Carmichaels
Serra over Riverview
Montour over Ringgold
Pine-Richland over Keystone Oaks
USC over Shaler
Woodland Hills over Norwin
Somerset over Central Cambria
Karns City over Forest Hills