

Short Picks

Week three is upon us and it looks like we have a huge number of really good games between undefeated teams in each of the twelve districts. I have my work cut out for me this week.

If you haven't checked "Stat Stars" for the past two weeks, please check it out. Some of the performances to date are truly outstanding.

I want to thank the Altoona Mt. Lions for coming through with the win last week. I went out on a limb in picking the Lions to win. Can they pull off another victory against Cumberland Valley in District 3/6 tough quad A? Mt. Lions feature A.J. Alexander while the Eagles will ride the arm of QB Chris Jordan. CV is averaging 45 points per game. This one could get crazy...**Altoona.**

New addition to the Laurel Highlands Conference in District 6, Bishop Guilfoyle, travels to Patton where the Highlanders of Cambria Heights are debating the exit of the Laurel Highlands Conference. One wants in the other wants out. If Heights wins maybe they stay...**Cambria Heights.**

State College is off to a 2-0 start. The Little Lions host the Rams of Central Dauphin. If the game gets close look for the Lions to pull out a victory with the foot of place kicker, Russell Nye. State gets ready for next week's game with rival Altoona...**State College.**

In what should be an evenly matched game, the Dragons of Purchase Line travel to Ligonier Valley. Valley won impressively on the road the first two weeks of the season. The Mounties get a real test from the Dragons...**Ligonier Valley.**

Johnstown's Trojans leave the valley and ride up the "Easy Grade" a mile or so to Price Field home of the Hilltoppers of Westmont. Trojan coach, Kevin Marabito gets a taste of a Saturday afternoon game in Westmont. Hilltopper coach, Darren McLaurin seems to have re-tooled his team from last year's 5-4 finish. This one should be a real nail biter...**Westmont.**

Cameron County visits Coudersport. Coudy has been the class act in District 9 the past few years. Could the Red Raiders of the two traffic lights town of Emporium dethrone the Coudy Falcons? Cameron County is led by QB Jordan Crane. This kid is for real...**Cameron County.**

Kane's Wolves are also looking for some respect in District 9. The Wolves travel to St. Mary's, home of the Crusaders of Elk County Catholic. Dutch Country Stadium will be rocking if the Wolves are unable to keep Eric Mastrogiacomo out of the end zone. Eric scored 6 TD's last week. Dutch Country will be rockin'...**Elk County Catholic.**

The Highlander's of Peabody are building an offensive line to go with running back, Stewart Townsend. Peabody runs head long in to powerful Brashear of the Pittsburgh City League. That offensive line is not quite ready for this...**Brashear.**

Head Coach Randy Gunther has his Bobcats of Seneca off to a good start. The Bobcats welcome the always tough Tigers of Fairview (10-2 in '06). This one goes to overtime...**Fairview.**

Linesville's Lions (District 10) are averaging 48 points per game. The Lions "O" will be tested by the

Panthers of Saegertown. The stingy Panther defense gives up a mere 8 points per game. I like defense...**Saegertown.**

The Defenders of Warrior Run travel to Bloomsburg where the Panthers must still be celebrating that victory over Southern Columbia last week. I wonder when was the last time Bloomsburg beat Southern Columbia? I hope the Panthers have come back to earth...**Bloomsburg.**

Montoursville had a great season in '06 and the Warriors have high hopes for this year. They host the Spartans of Hughesville this week. The Spartans feature running back Ammon Swisher. In a mild surprise...**Hughesville.**

In a blockbuster game in District Two, Dallas travels to Berwick. The Mountaineers must contend with a Bulldog team coming off a very uncharacteristic 4-6 season. I never mess with an angry Bulldog...**Berwick.**

In a slobberknocker, PFN's # 2 ranked West Scranton (AAA) hosts PFN's # 7 ranked Dunmore (AA). This just might be one of the top five games in the state this week. Look for a packed house, so get there early. I must revert to the coin toss, and it's heads...**West Scranton.**

Bob "Gump" May and Mike "Huff" Williams get together in Manheim where "Huffs" Barons are licking their wounds after a week two loss. Manheim Central will welcome the Trojans of Hershey, but don't expect any sweetness from Coach "Gump" Trojans. The Trojans are looking for win number three in Manheim. The Barons are looking to regroup...**Manheim Central.**

Quad A Muhlenberg is looking for some respect as the undefeated, un-scored upon Muhls meet PFN's # 5 Wyomissing (AA). Wyomissing was last season's District Three champ. In another great game, look for low scoring and hard hitting...**Wyomissing.**

Souderton's Indians would like to break into PFN's top ten and a win this week over North Penn would probably put the Indians in Vetock's elite group. I don't think North Penn's Knights have any thoughts of dropping out of the top ten...**North Penn.**

The Falcons of Pottsgrove will have to find a way to contain QB Mark Ferko of Phoenixville. Look for another superb performance by the QB...**Phoenixville.**

In District 12, Freire Charter School attempt to stay undefeated as the Dragons go on the road again to meet the Electrons of Benjamin Franklin. Ben Franklin has one of the tougher programs in the Philly City League. The Electrons get a real charge out of winning...**Ben Franklin.**

John Bartolovic of Ford City has put together one of the better programs in the W.P.I.A.L. John's Sabers are coming off a 10-2 season with two wins this year. The Sabers travel a short distance up the Allegheny River to Kittanning where the Wildcats have emerged as another force in the region. The Wildcats have built their team around running back Bobby Keys. I'm still impressed by the Sabers...**Ford City.**

Don Yannessa' Bridgers of Ambridge are flying under the radar. The Bridgers opened the season with a victory over the Quips of Aliquippa and a win in week two over Uniontown. Coach Yannessa will be burning the midnight oil this week in his preparations for the Hopewell Vikings. Hopewell is loaded for a possible state title run...**Hopewell.**

District 11 fans will be treated to a number of excellent games. The first of which is Bethlehem Liberty at Whitehall. The Hurricanes of Liberty aren't ranked # 2 for no reason...**Bethlehem Liberty.**

The second featured game has District 11 Pius X traveling to District 3 Steelton-Highspire. The Royals pack a punch with QB Tony Casciano and receiver Wade Williams while Steelton-Highspire comes at you with running back Jeremiah Young. This is the "Whoa Nellie" game of the week. You might buy a ticket for a seat, but I guarantee you won't be sitting much. By just a whisker...**Steelton-Highspire.**

In other games:

Wyoming Valley West over Pleasant Valley
Beth Freedom over Parkland
Monaca over South Side Beaver
Pittsburgh Central Catholic over Mt. Lebanon
Central Bucks East over Central Bucks South
Trinity over Susquehanna Twp.
Northern over Mechanicsburg
Wyoming Area over Wikes-Barre Myers
Ridgeway over Johnsonburg
Titusville over Oil City
Phillipsburg over Bellwood
Shippensburg over Scotland School
Manheim Twp. over Elizabethtown
Kennett over Bayard Rustin
Bristol over Pennington Preparation
Hazelton over Stroudsburg
Selinsgrove over Shikellamy
Myersdale over Rockwood
Central Cambria over Penn Cambria
Clairton over Apollo
Indiana over Highlands
Hollidaysburg over Clearfield