

Short Picks

As we reach the halfway mark in this '07 season, I'm sure you have noticed some surprises coming from a number of teams from around the state. Some of those surprises include Hershey, Bloomsburg, Cameron County, Harbor Creek, and Titusville. There are numerous others I'm sure and in the next few weeks we shall begin to separate the pretenders from the contenders. I hope your favorite team is still in the title chase.

Just a note from last week. In the Shenandoah Valley versus Minersville game I picked S. Valley much to my dismay as the Blue Devils got beat 27-0 by Minersville. I got an e-mail from a Shenandoah Valley fan informing me of the injuries to two key players for the Blue Devils. I appreciate this kind of information as it will have an effect on my picks in the following weeks. Thanks again.

Speaking of Shenandoah Valley I noticed the Blue Devils were hosting 4-0 Jim Thorpe this week. In what should have been a very competitive contest may not be at this point due to the Blue Devil injuries. So knowing that I go with...**Jim Thorpe.**

I can't take anything away from the Battlin' Miners of Minersville in their victory over Shenandoah Valley as coach Pat Mason has his Royal Blue and White ready to play. This week the Battlin' Miners go on the road to face Mahanoy Area. Mahanoy Area is a much better team than the 1-3 record indicates. Minersville could get caught looking ahead to next week's blockbuster with Jim Thorpe. Can Coach Mason keep his Miners from looking beyond this week? No peeking...**Minersville.**

In the Philly Catholic League we have the Wolverines of Kennedy-Kenrick putting its undefeated record on the line against 3-1 West Catholic. West's Burrs have shrugged off the season opening loss and could be a real burr in the Wolverines saddle...**West Catholic**

Sharon head coach, Bob Fromm has the Tigers back in the thick of things in District 10. The Tigers will be tested this week when they welcome the Greenville Trojans. Tiger fans are already looking ahead to week 8 with that game with Wilmington. I expect the Tigers will enter that game undefeated...**Sharon.**

In District 9 we have two undefeated AA schools meeting in New Bethlehem home of the Bulldogs of Redbank Valley. The Bulldogs roll out the welcome mat for the Gremlins of Karns City. The Gremlins should stay undefeated...**Karns City.**

Mt. Lebanon's Blue Devils only loss is to Pittsburgh Central Catholic while McKeesport's Tigers only loss came at the hands of Gateway. There is no shame in losing to either of those two top ranked teams and that is why Mount Lebanon versus McKeesport this week should be one of the best AAAA games in District Seven. Both the Tigers and the Blue Devils compete in the Great Southern Conference of the W.P.I.A.L. Everybody has trouble containing the well run triple option of the Tigers...**McKeesport.**

In another battle for first place in the Eastern Conference of the W.P.I.A.L. highly regarded Clairton (3-1) visits 4-0 Springdale. As usual, Springdale's Dynamos have an explosive offense while the Bears of Clairton are known for their defense. The Bears have an excellent offense this year to go with that defense. Both schools have a number of Division 1 recruits. Should be a good one...**'Da Bears.**

Undefeated Hollidaysburg treks to Lewistown where they find the Warriors of Indian Valley sporting a 4-0 record. The Warriors will have their hands full as the Golden Tigers are averaging nearly 40 points per game. The Warriors have a Tiger by the tail...**Hollidaysburg**.

The Seals of Selinsgrove have bounced back from that opening day loss to Danville with three wins. This week's opponent, Berwick, will tell if the Seals are all the way back. Berwick's Bulldogs seem to be back after the uncharacteristic 4-6 season of a year ago. The Bulldogs are at home, undefeated, and walking with the Bulldog swagger of old. This will be a really tough place for the Seals, but I think they can get out of Berwick with a "W"...**Selinsgrove**.

Loyalsock Twp. takes an undefeated record into Montoursville, PFN's # 7 ranked team in AA. I was informed by a Montoursville fan a couple of weeks ago that I should do my homework before picking against Montoursville. The loyal fan thinks the Warriors are unbeatable. I think Loyalsock will give the Warriors a good run for the money, but the fan has me convinced the Warriors are untouchable...**Montoursville**.

In District 3, Trinity will have to find a way to keep Steelton-Highspire's Jeremiah Young out of the end zone if Shamrocks hope to stay undefeated. The Steamrollers keep rolling along on the back of J.Young...**Steelton-Highspire**.

G.A.R.Memorial hopes to hang the first loss of the season on the Warriors of Wyoming Area. To do so, the Grenadiers will have to find a way to derail the Warrior high scoring offense...**Wyoming Area**.

John Algeo's Crusaders of Lansdale Catholic host Upper Perkiomen's Indians. The Indians moved to 3-1 with that win last week over Pottstown. Can the Indians put a damper on Crusader running back, John Howell? Howell is coming off a 244 yard rushing effort last week. If John gets some openings it could be a long night for the Indians...**Lansdale Catholic**.

In other games:

Ridley over Radnor

Coatesville over Glen Mills

Riverside over Old Forge

State College over Bishop McDevitt

Pottsville over Gov. Mifflin

Warwick over Manheim Twp.

Bloomsburg over Mt. Carmel

Chestnut Ridge over Penns Valley

Conemaugh Twp. over North Star

Altoona over Chambersburg

Westmont over Bishop Carroll

New Castle over Ambridge

Ford City over Northgate

Monaca over Avonworth

Pine-Richland over Indiana

Thomas Jefferson over Keystone Oaks

Oliver over Langley

Clearfield over Bellefonte

Titusville over Erie Central

Whitehall over Nazareth