

Top 20 High School Football Rankings

Southeastern Pennsylvania Football

Featuring District 1, 12, the Philadelphia Catholic League and the Inter Ac

October 10, 2006

All teams are 4A unless indicated otherwise

A look at the 3A playoff picture in District One

(The playoffs for 4A and 3A begin Nov 10th and 11th)

The SCCL:

For a league that's being ripped apart with defections to the Ches-Mont and Central Leagues, the *Southern Chester County League* is going out in style (next year) with four viable teams battling not only for league honors but for a spot in the postseason. The leading contender is Garnet Valley (Glen Mills, Delaware County), undefeated at 5-0. It's a senior laden team with a dangerous quarterback in Matt McHugh who is just as likely to roll out for a big gainer as he is to pass. To date the Jaguars beat Penncrest 20-3, Academy Park 33-0, Chichester 37-13, Great Valley 46-3 and Oxford 41-16. The schedule is favorable with Unionville October 13th and Interboro November 11th, coming to them. They're at Sun Valley November 3rd. Other contenders are defending SCCL champ Unionville at 5-1 and Sun Valley, also 4-2. Unionville made a lot of noise at the top of the season by stunning Interboro 34-0. They return a good nucleus but lost division one lineman Steve Caputo, 6-4, 309 to a knee injury. For the year they've routed not just Interboro, but also Bishop Shanahan 35-0, Harriton 35-7, Oxford, 42-7 and Kennett 35-6. They were upset at home by Avon Grove 21-20. All of their remaining games are away at Garnet Valley, Great Valley, Sun Valley and Academy Park. Sun Valley debuted with a 12-7 shocker against Strath Haven, then went on to defeat Upper Dublin, 16-6, Academy Park, 22-7 and Harriton 33-3. They lost at Great Valley 17-7 and Glen Mills last week, 20-0. Harriton (4-2) added their name to the list of contenders with a 33-13 win against Great Valley. GV's Patriots (3-3) were expected to challenge with the return of a strong line, but subsequent losses to Phoenixville in the opener 28-7, Garnet Valley two weeks ago 46-3 and Harriton last week says that won't happen. Lots of critical games remain but the Jags are looking like the real deal out of the SCCL.

The PAC:

Following a strong opener against Great Valley, 28-7, it appeared defending PAC champ Phoenixville could sustain major losses from last year's team, namely, quarterback Bill Shirk, punishing FB/DT Travis Ford-Bey (terror at nose guard), two of their top three receivers and tailback Jon Wanzzyck. Despite good numbers returning to the OL, notably Joe Galie, a fine TE/OLB in Rob Lohr and receiver Tom Beasley, it wasn't meant to be. In game two they had no problems with overmatched St. Pius X, winning 41-6. That was the end of easy street with preseason PAC favorite Upper Perkiomen defeating them *in Phoenixville* 19-17. They regrouped unimpressively in a struggle with Pottstown before pulling out a 15-7 win. In their first road game of the year they lost at Owen J. Roberts 21-20, affording the Wildcats their first win of the season. At 4-2, the Phantoms can't slip

much further. PAC favorite Upper Perkiomen (5-1, 4-0 PAC) returned a ton of experience, especially on D with all their LBs and secondary returning. Senior OL/DL John Fieger (Pitt), 6-6, 285 and Dan Jones, 6-4, 265 return. Senior quarterback Sean Nevin threw for 1730 yards at 58% last year and has 844 pass yards this year with a 54% completion rate. The Indians score 28 a game. The D is disappointing with so many starters back by allowing 20 ppg. Take away the Frankford debacle, a 42-18 loss and they yield 16 a game, and that's against PAC opponents and William Allen. No one plays defense in the PAC except AA Lansdale Catholic (6-0, 5-0 PAC) at 11 ppg and 98 rushing yards yielded per game.

The Central League:

What appeared to be a one horse race in the Central for a 3A playoff berth became two with Strath Haven beating Upper Darby Saturday 12-0. The bonus points Haven gets are HUGE with the Upper Darby win. They evened their record at 3-3. Interestingly, all of the wins came by way of shutouts of Radnor 42-0, Haverford 45-0 and Upper Darby. Because three of the remaining four games are at home and winnable, they stand an excellent chance of finishing the season 7-3. The other playoff hopeful is Marple Newtown. The Fighting Tigers are 5-1, with shutouts of their last 4 opponents by a combined score of 121-0. One of those wins was against Strath Haven, 24-0. Two of the remaining games are at Ridley and Conestoga. Conestoga is better than their 3-3 record suggests and will likely be *more* when the two collide November 3rd in Berwyn. The other major hurdle is at Ridley this Friday. The Green Machine is 6-0 overall, 5-0 in league play. Marple is 4-1 in league action making this a pivotal game.

The Suburban One League, American Conference:

Since 1999, Upper Moreland has not had back-to-back winning seasons. Each winning season was followed by a losing season. Last year's 6-5 campaign saw them win their last five games, including a year ending 40-34 OT upset of Hatboro Horsham. That set the tone with the Golden Bears off to a 4-1 start this year. Among this year's wins are perennial American Conference powers Plymouth Whitmarsh, 28-19 and Upper Merion 13-7. Upper Merion's chances were dealt a serious blow with the loss to the Bears. They're at undefeated Wissahickon Friday, then at Methacton, followed by a homer to Cheltenham. Q-town is away on November 3rd with Pottstown closing things out the 10th.

District 12:

There are two teams making noise in the Pub's AAA Division, Edward Bok Vo-Tech (5-0, 2-0) and Benjamin Franklin (5-1, 2-0). Bok has the experience of last year to draw on, albeit a bad one in losing to Unionville in the first round 28-0. They got a taste, and are off to a powerful start this year scoring 28 points per game while allowing 1. Franklin is a clear notch below that with an offense scoring 17 and a defense allowing 7. The Pub has a long way to go to catch up with suburban teams but will not face a team like last year's Unionville, Strath Haven or Phoenixville if for no other reason than 3A teams are just as diminished as 4A teams this year. Aside from Garnet Valley, no one else is looking special.

1. St. Joseph's Prep (4-2, 3-0) The Hawks smothered winless Monsignor Bonner 55-0, running up a 490 to 98 total yardage differential in the process. The win keeps them undefeated in Red Division play with a home date Friday against fading Father Judge. Judge opened the season 3-1. But back to back losses by 20 points and up have them in a dog fight with Ryan, Bonner and O'Hara for a postseason spot in the Red Division playoff.

2. LaSalle (6-0, 3-0) This was one of the games seen last week and what a surprise seeing how LaSalle handled Cardinal O'Hara with relative ease. LaSalle won 24-7 at Springfield in a game that in no way mirrored the score. The Lions were trounced 310 total yards to 143. There was no rhythm to their offense and too many holes in the defense against a balanced LaSalle attack. Make no mistake about it, LaSalle is a powerful, well coached football team. The big guys up front, especially junior lineman Matt Lees a 6-2, 270 and senior Chris Cabrey, 6-4, 250, did a great job. Fullback Kevin Tamasitis, 5-11, 220 pound had some great blocks and critical gains for short yardage as did senior running back Joe Perese with 76 yards on 20 carries. Quarterback John Harrison was outstanding completing 20 of 29 passes for 200 yards and spreading the receptions out to seven receivers. Jack Forster led all receivers with 11 nabs for 125 yards. The D stepped up to shut O'Hara down to 52 yards rushing on 29 carries. The win keeps LaSalle undefeated at 3-0 in Red play, tied with St. Joe's. Bonner is in Friday followed by St. Joe's at Wissachickon the 21st.

3. West Chester East (5-1, 3-0) West Chester East swamped another opponent last week with their offense again lighting things up on the road at Avon Grove. East has scored 243 points in 6 games. That's 41 ppg! Some teams don't score that many points in a season. The victim last week was newcomer Avon Grove, who's learning the hard way that the Ches-Mont is not the Southern Chester County League. After a 3-1 start, the Red Devils ran into powerful Downingtown East and West Chester East. The results were a 49-23 loss to D-town East and last week's 43-0 loss to West Chester East. The challenge is much larger Friday with Coatesville bringing their powerful smash mouth brand to West Chester for a go at these Vikings. You know after last years 56-21 debacle that East has this one circled on the calendar. They showed great quickness against the last physical team to visit them, Downingtown West two weeks ago and should hold their own here against the larger Raiders who don't have as threatening a pass attack as West has.

4. Ridley (6-0, 5-0) The score last week against Haverford reads 42-0, but the real story is how Ridley's defense shut down the larger Haverford team almost totally by allowing a mere 55 total yards of offense. Wow! The Raiders got 360 of their own for an easy 42-0 win. The win was their third shutout of the year. To date they've allowed just one rushing touchdown, one passing score and a field goal. They'll need every bit of that against Marple Newtown (5-1, 4-1) who comes with their own impressive defense that has allowed but 26 points all year. With Upper Darby's upset by Strath Haven, they're also gunning for a piece of the Central League title. A win at Ridley Friday, assuming UD beats Penncrest, creates a 3 way log jam atop the league. Marple won last year 7-6

against a much weaker Raider edition. Ridley's passing scheme and Marple's lack of the same should be the difference. Few teams beat Ridley two consecutive years.

5. Council Rock North (6-0, 3-0) How about CR North getting a 26-10 road win at previously undefeated Souderton. As we said last week, "a win here for North would go a long way towards clinching the Continental as they've already defeated Tennett and Hatboro". So here they are atop the Suburban One Continental Conference all by themselves at 3-0. Well done! And they're looking good in the process with a two headed attack led by quarterback Scott Bradish and running back Dan Collins. It's great having balance and a coach that recognizes it. Bradish completed 8 of 12 passes for 135 yards while Collins rushed for 195 yards on 24 carries. Now that they've defeated their toughest opponents, the only enemy is complacency. Looking ahead to the schedule shows Norristown and CB East up next at home, followed by CB West and CR South on the road. You don't want to say the "U" word but they are looking very capable of making this a special season.

6. Downingtown East (5-1, 2-0) East awoke from a 13-6 deficit to beat Spring-Ford 36-20. This was all about East's potent offense that outscored Spring-Ford 30-7 down the stretch. Looming Ches-Mont rivals Downingtown West and West Chester East probably noted the Rams struck them for 3 scores through the air. Winless Bishop Shanahan at 0-6 is up next. After going all out against Coatesville last week in a 28-14 loss, the Eagles will probably have little left for the Cougars. How about defending Ches-Mont champ Downingtown East? Still on top of the league with four games to go.

7. Coatesville (5-1, 1-1) The Raiders (5-1, 1-1) beat Shanahan last week 28-14 to stay on the heels of conference leaders WC East (5-1, 3-0) and Downingtown East (5-1, 2-0). They've got their hands full this week with an away game at West Chester East.

8. Souderton (5-1, 2-1) Souderton got a rude wake up call last week when Council Rock North left their stadium with a 26-10 win! The defense couldn't stand up to North's big offense and the offense never really got untracked without their top tailback. Even with Ronnie Powell, it is hard imaging him making that much difference. Things don't get any easier for the Souderton with Hatboro Horsham dead ahead.

9. Archbishop Wood (5-1, 3-0) Archbishop Wood beat Kennedy Kenrick 42-0 to stay in a first place tie with Conwell Egan in the Blue Division race. How unusual is that seeing someone other than West Catholic and Archbishop Carroll in hot pursuit of Wood? Egan beat West Catholic last week 26-12 to lift their record to 3-3 overall and 3-0 in the Blue Division. Wood is on the road for three of the next four beginning with Bishop McDevitt Saturday.

10. North Penn (4-2, 3-0) North Penn won their fourth straight game beating stubborn Bensalem last week 24-14. With Neshaminy getting upset by Pennridge, the Knights are all alone atop the National at 3-0. But they have two tough games coming up with Abington in this week, followed by Neshaminy the following week. North will not likely

find the going as easy this year as last year when they beat the Ghosts handily in Abington 28-7.

11. Pennsbury (5-1, 2-1) The Falcons took out some frustration on poor Truman (1-5, 1-2) last week with a convincing 42-13 win. The game followed the disappointing 22-16 loss at North Penn the week before where they failed to hold a half time lead. Pennsbury passed the ball nine times in this one, completing 7. In the end it was a heavy dose of standard Falcon football as they pounded it for 334 yards rushing. The win keeps them one game behind North Penn in the SOL-National with four games to go. Bensalem is in Friday and should give *Air Pennsbury* the opportunity to diversify the attack even further.

12. Downingtown West (5-1, 1-1) Downingtown West gained their third shutout of the season by drubbing Henderson 42-0. The win keeps them close to Ches Mont leaders WC East at 3-0, Downingtown East at 2-0 and Coatesville at 1-1. The Whippets are at Avon Grove Friday then it gets nasty with consecutive homers against Dtown East and Coatesville.

13. Neshaminy (4-2, 2-1) Neshaminy lost to Pennridge 33-13. Taking nothing away from the Rams, how many thought the score had to be a typo? But it wasn't and congratulations to Pennridge. A few more scores like that and well see a plethora of 7-3, 6-4 team in the postseason. Why not! This sure puts a competitive Central Bucks South right in the center of the bulls eye Saturday when they venture to Neshaminy. The Skins won last year 48-0.

14. Hatboro Horsham (5-1, 2-1) The Hatters kept just off the pace with Council Rock North by routing Central Bucks West. The 50-27 explosion was their largest output of the season. It came as good warm up for the Souderton game Friday. The Indians are coming off a loss at home to CR North and may be without star running back Ronnie Powell for another game. These are the games you need your top players. What a blow if they don't have him for the second consecutive week.

15. Roman Catholic (5-1, 2-1) Roman is quietly winning a lot of football games aren't they. Except for a one point win against Valley Forge and the loss to St. Joseph's, they are pounding people by the average score of 29-8. Not too many weeks ago we were praising Archbishop Ryan's showing against Pennsbury, then again with the upset of Archbishop Wood. But now, after Roman beat them 35-7? With Judge fading and now Ryan and the mystery at O'Hara, the Cahillites are positioning themselves well for a high seed in the playoffs. Three of the next four are home. That's good because it's a quality slate beginning with North Catholic Saturday followed by a road game against another north team, Father Judge, followed by two homers, Cardinal O'Hara and LaSalle.

16. Abington (4-2, 2-1) Abington got their first road win of the year by defeating a tough Central Bucks South team 35-32. Talk about being close, CB South's losses have all been by three points. That's simplistic but all that separates the Titans from a 6-0 won-loss are those few points. Back to Abington; the Ghosts are slowly getting all the offensive pieces together since their 1-2 start by putting up 21 in a losing cause to Neshaminy, 44 in the

big win against Pennridge two weeks ago and 35 last week against CB South. That bodes well against a North Penn team that hasn't found its offensive stride yet. They got close against Neshaminy, and you know beating a team of Pennridge's stature was good tonic. They're a confident bunch going into North Penn Friday and only one game off the lead.

17. Wissachickon (6-0, 3-0) At 6-0 you've got to suspect this team is for real, and they are. They're led offensively by senior quarterback Zach Kreider, 6-4, 185 and a sizeable line that's getting the job done. Seniors Dmitri Sidorchew, 6-0, 238, Ray Carter, 6-4, 290, Ed Flitter, 5-10, 235, John Casalnuovo, 6-0, 245, Jun Park, 6-1, 280 are a load. Tyrell George, 6-0, 230 doubles at FB/OLB and is well supported by a number of quick backs. The defense is anchored by senior DE Tyreek Spain, who at 6-3, 230, has a full ride to Temple. The other end is junior Scott Biel, 6-4, 250. The DL is veteran with good experience returning to the linebacker positions and the secondary. They are scoring 32 a game and allowing 9. Most of all you've got to like what Coach John DeSimone has done with the program in just four years. After a stint at North Penn and subsequent promotion to D/C in 2002, he opted out of North Penn for the head coaching position at Wissahickon, guiding the Trojans to a 3-9 record. Remember they had only won 2 games the previous three years (0-12, 2-10, 0-12), so 3-9 represented a quantum leap. The following year they won 4 games. Then in 2004 and 2005, they broke through with consecutive 6-4 campaigns. Well done Coach. The feeling here is the Trojans are a legitimate team. Time will tell, but they've sure put themselves in good position for a high seed in the postseason. They're at home Friday against AAA playoff hopeful and SOL-American contender Upper Moreland (4-1, 2-1)

18. Malvern Prep (3-1, N/A) Malvern Prep lost a heartbreaker last week in Delaware to their # 1 team Salesianum in overtime 22-15. Inter-Ac play begins Friday against Haverford School.

19. Upper Darby (5-1, 4-1) Upper Darby fell out of the ranks of the unbeaten last week by losing a key Central League game at home to Strath Haven 12-0. You wondered when Strath Haven would put it together in the same way many of us have wondered when and now if, O'Hara ever will. For Haven, it couldn't have come at a better time. In fact, if it came any time later it would have been TOO late with the playoff clock ticking away. For the Royals, there is still a lot of football to play. Three of their remaining four games are away. Two are Penncrest and Radnor. The other is Nov 10th at WC East. In between all of that is a home game against Ridley, October 20th.

20. Pennridge (3-3, 1-2) Last week's words went like this, "About the 2-3 Rams, they just don't have it this year. They've been outscored by Hatboro Horsham, North Penn and Abington by a combined score of 89-43. The wins came against CB East and Bonner. After giving North Penn a game two weeks ago, there was nothing left for Abington where the Rams fell 44-23" Good for Pennridge in proving that so much hog wash by routing Neshaminy last week *in Langhorne* 33-13. Rams tailback Tristan Roberts rushed for 182 yards on 38 carries, a 4.8 ypc average. It's safe to say he's back! Quarterback Joe Reichwein embarrassed the Skin's secondary with three TD strikes. Great, great win by a team most of us had written off. That's why they play the game! Because there will

probably be more scores like this one in the weeks to come, and because of the expanded playoff, teams like Pennridge are right back in the postseason playoff hunt. Well done Pennridge! They're home against Truman Friday where they should reach 4-3.

A brief aside; a few *pointed* emails last week suggested Interboro at 5-1 should be ranked despite their wins coming against teams with a combined won-loss of 4-26! (at 1-5 Academy Park Saturday) The loss came against the *only* plus .500 they played, Unionville, a 3A team that destroyed them 34-0. Of course it's heresy here in Delaware County not ranking Interboro or Strath Haven regardless of their won-loss or performances. Both have the opportunity to prove they belong, Strath Haven by reaching the 3A playoffs and Interboro by winning once there.

Honorable Mention

North Catholic (4-2, 2-1)

Conwell Egan (3-3, 3-0)

Chestnut Hill Academy (5-0, N/A)

Frankford (3-1, 2-0)

Central Bucks South (3-3, 1-2)

Tennett (3-2, 2-1)

Interboro (5-1, 1-0)

Glen Mills (3-3, N/A)

3A Marple-Newtown (5-1, 4-1)

3A Strath Haven (3-3, 3-2)

3A Garnet Valley (5-0, 2-0)

3A Unionville (5-1, 3-0)