

FROM THE SIDELINES: WITH LARRY SPEGAR

Congratulations again to Dunmore Head Coach, Jack HENZES on his 300th career coaching victory on October 20. Coach HENZES joins only 4 other elite coaches in Pennsylvania high school history to attain such a fete. The accomplishment was shared by Coach HENZES and many former Bucks as the entire Dunmore community celebrated the great milestone set at home in Dunmore by many of the Buck faithful. Observing the home Bucks locker room both before and after October 20's game in which Dunmore easily handled foe, Scranton Prep, current and former Buck players and family members shared in the special occasion by extending their heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to a man who has dedicated most of his life to developing the Bucks of Dunmore as a perennial contender and respected programs in all of Pennsylvania. It was in 1989 that Dunmore secured a A Class State Championship and the very first in District 2. HENZES has sent several players and coaches to the NCAA and the NFL over the years. Many of these individuals have stayed in contact with Coach HENZES and the Dunmore School District sharing a mutual respect which is centered around the man who has been at the head and heart of the Dunmore football program, namely Jack HENZES. It is hard to imagine football in Lackawanna County without Coach HENZES. One thing is for sure, we will not forget the excitement and enjoyment shared by all on October 20 when Coach HENZES left the field on the shoulders of his players and to the cheers of all in attendance for the man who has led, taught, coached and served his players and community with great dignity, respect and hard work and dedication over the years. Congratulations again to Coach Jack HENZES and the Dunmore Bucks as they celebrate and enjoy the pinnacle of success and tradition which is so great in our cherished sport of high school football in Pennsylvania.

As we near the close of another exciting season, the playoff picture is developing rapidly. In A, Southern Columbia looms as the favorite in the Eastern bracket. Shenandoah Valley from District 11 appears to offer the biggest threat with Marian Catholic and Pius X close at hand. Steelton Highspire is also impressive from District 3. Old Forge knocked off Lackawanna Trail 20-12 this past weekend and demands respect in the A ratings.

In AA competition, Lakeland, Wilkes-Barre GAR, Wyoming Area and Valley View appear to be the front runners. I still like Lakeland and Valley View to meet in a rematch of a classic Week 1 overtime thriller for the District 2 Final.

In AAA, Selinsgrove is the power in the Eastern bracket. There will be contenders but the Seals of Selinsgrove are undefeated and appear to be the class of the AAA class. A talented and powerful Bethlehem Catholic team from District 11 waits in the wings for a possible matchup in the Eastern finals.

In AAAA, District 2 has the powers of Abington Heights, Delaware Valley, Wyoming Valley West and Hazleton Area. Wyoming Valley West was rolling along undefeated

until they were upset by Hazleton Area, who has gone on an undefeated roll since losing to Abington Heights in the season opener. Wyoming Valley West dealt Abington Heights its only loss of the season, while Abington dealt Delaware Valley its only setback of the season. Looks like District 2 will be very interesting competition come playoff time. Add to this equation District 11 powers, Easton, Parkland and Bethlehem Liberty and the Eastern Playoffs add much excitement for the upcoming playoffs.

See you on the sidelines!

LARRY SPEGAR