

## FROM THE SIDELINES: WITH LARRY SPEGAR

Abington Heights Handles Valley View 37-18: AAAA powerhouse, Abington Heights excelled at all phases of the game on Friday night with an impressive win over Valley View. Joe Diskin, Nick Pasqualichio, Dave Keisling, Shawn Pasternak, Vinnie Armetta, Kurtis Medeiros, Jake Roberts, Marc Wallace and Ray Bennett all enjoyed a big game for the Comets. Kyle Passeri was a standout again for the Cougars despite a losing effort. In fact, while we're still early in the season with one full half of football to play, look for at least 5, if not more of the above players to be on the District 2 and Lackawanna League All-Star Team for the 2006 Football Season.

In other games around District 2, Riverside pulled out a dramatic rivalry game with Old Forge 28-24. This one is always a classic and these schools simply hate one another (competitively speaking of course). For any pure football fan in Pennsylvania, this is simply one game and atmosphere you have to see. The schools are no more than 3 miles from one another and the stadium is full more than 1 hour before game time. The student body from both schools win the day and the stories told by fans of yesteryear offer a unique and incredible atmosphere for high school football.

Lakeland survived a surprising challenge from Carbondale Area 30-14. This one was close until Lakeland gained momentum in the second half. Carbondale played tough trying to bounce back following a few lopsided defeats after a great start in Week One.

Dunmore is another AA team which notched another win on Friday and remained undefeated with a hard earned 42-28 win over highly respected Lackawanna Trail. Trail, no stranger to "A" competition and Dunmore extremely familiar with the AA playoff system, seem poised for post season runs. Dunmore is undefeated and the Bucks continue to roll. Leadership is no trouble here, courtesy of 40 year mentor, Jack Henzes. Henzes and the Bucks secured a A State Championship in 1989.

One of the biggest surprises in District 2 to date, perhaps, was the upset of previously undefeated Wyoming Area by Wilkes-Barre GAR 26-7. Watch for more of the Grenadiers (Bet Luzerne County Commissioner, Greg Skrepenak is excited over that win – the former GAR, U of Michigan and NFL stud lineman). Also, look for Wyoming Area to be competitive and be back with a vengeance. Talk about Warriors, I'm sure Coach Paul Marranca will have his Warriors back on the war path and looking for some redemption in AA competition.

Mid Valley secured its first win by beating Susquehanna 21-18. West Scranton edged out Wallenpaupack 22-14. Montrose beat Scranton Prep 42-20. Scranton rebounded for a 40-14 victory over North Pocono. Delaware Valley continued its winning ways with a 52-20 mastery over Honesdale.

The big matchup in District 2 for Friday October 6 is Abington Heights visiting Delaware Valley. This game features AAAA powers and previews 2 of the premiere

AAAA programs in Northeast PA for the 2006 campaign. Delaware Valley will be out to avenge last year's defeat at the hands of the Comets. Look for a real good one here with plenty of outstanding talent on showcase.

In District 4, Southern Columbia made good on its bid to avoid a repeat of last year's loss to a tough Warrior Run team. If you recall, Warrior Run shocked Southern, and all of Pennsylvania, by handing the Tigers a defeat in 2005. Friday night was very different, however, as a new season brought another result and one we're getting accustomed to, Southern 59 and Warrior Run 0. Not surprising though after talking to Tiger players at the start of the season. Seems the guys at Southern were waiting all summer to get to Week 5 and face Warrior Run. Southern is now 5-0 on the season.

See you on the sidelines!

LARRY SPEGAR