

FROM THE SIDELINES: WITH LARRY SPEGAR

Dunmore Head Coach Jack HENZES has been the leader of the Dunmore Bucks for nearly 40 years. Having enjoyed a large share of success over the years, including a PIAA A Class State Championship in 1989 and countless winning seasons, HENZES is a household name with football tradition and excellence in Northeast Pennsylvania and across the State. Jack was with the Big 33 coaching staff during his career and has coached, taught and mentored many young men in developing into quality individuals. Look no further than Notre Dame and NFL Miami Dolphin great, Tim Ruddy or NFL Coaches, Vic Fangio, Tony Marciano and Joe Marciano. Jack's dad, the late John "Papa Bear" HENZES was a monumental and legendary great coach of the Blakely Bears from 1936-68. Papa Bear was inducted into the National High School Coaches Hall of Fame in Oklahoma in 2003. The senior HENZES registered countless impressive statistics at Blakely High, including 250+ career wins. Now, at the age of 70 and still going strong Dunmore Head Coach, Jack HENZES, Jr. is one win away from 300. HENZES will become only 1 of 5 coaches throughout Pennsylvania football history to attain this goal. Congratulations Coach Jack HENZES of the Dunmore Bucks. This coming week, October 20 at Dunmore the Bucks will play host to Scranton Prep. It may be a very special night for the Dunmore players, staff, fans and community. There is no one more fitting for the honor given the years of dedication, hard work and passion for the game of football shown by Jack HENZES throughout his career. Good luck again Coach HENZES on the quest for 300 and celebrate with your home crowd on Friday October 20, 2006.

Southern Columbia continues to roll along in District 4 A competition. The Tigers, playing in the spotlight in the PCN Game of the Week this past weekend, easily handled a talented Loyalsock group 56-8. Senior sensations and NCAA Division I talents, Henry Hynoski and Josh Marks continue to lead the Tigers' drive for title number 5. But make no mistake, this is a Tiger team loaded with experience and desire and behind the capable and prepared eyes of Head Coach, Jim Roth and staff, the Tigers are on the move. Steelton Highspire continues to impress in A competition with a 35-0 shutout over Milton Hershey. Also, sizing up A heavyweights in the East, watch out for marquis matchups down the road in District 11 with powers, Pius X, Shenandoah Valley and Marian Catholic. In District 2, Lackawanna Trail, despite tough losses to AA schools 3 weeks in a row, including perennial powerhouse, Lakeland, knocked off Bishop O'Hara 28-16 to remain very much in contention for District 2 honors. A big matchup down the road will find Trail squaring off with Old Forge, who is also enjoying a fine season under talented Head Coach, Mike Schuback.

Kyle Passeri is surrounded by good players at Valley View, but there is no other way to say it but the kid is just impressive week after week. Passeri, the speedy senior Cougar is an asset to say the least. He ran off 4 impressive TD runs on Friday night leading the Cougars to a 35-32 come from behind win against AAAA foe, Scranton. Passeri's runs were from 62, 72, 20 and 2 yards. He amassed 250 yards on 25 carries. That's an average of 10 yards per carry. Any school would be happy to see Passeri in their lineup. He's a serious threat to score at any given time on any play. Seeing him several times

this season already, “the boy can simply move.” His acceleration and bursts of speed are a treat to watch. Should Valley View win out over the next 3 weeks and they should, the Cougars are primed for a chase at AA Honors and I’ll say it again, watch for Valley View to hook up again with Lakeland in the District 2 AA Title Game. This would be a rematch of a hard fought overtime classic in Week 1 with Lakeland prevailing 14-13.

In other AA competition, Lakeland knocked off previously unbeaten Dunmore in convincing fashion, 35-0. Despite injuries and a tough Week 3 loss at the hands of AAAA talent, Abington Heights, Lakeland was back in fine form on Friday night courtesy of some outstanding play by Justin Virbitsky, Vince Tuzze, Derrick Perri, Craig Chopko, Ryan Pezanowski, Anthony Besten, Matt Norton and Drew Babcanec. Lakeland and Dunmore both stand at 6-1. Wyoming Area rebounded from 2 straight losses with a 20-14 win over tough AAA foe, Dallas. Wyoming Area is 5-2. 2 other AA teams to watch out for in AA are Wilkes-Barre GAR at 7-0 and Riverside at 5-2. Montrose picked up another win on Friday over Carbondale 12-8.

In AAAA competition, Wyoming Valley West remains undefeated thanks to a 42 point output after falling behind 21-0 to rival Berwick. This game was sold out due to the fact that WVW Head Coach, George Curry was formerly head dog of the Berwick Bulldogs for many years past. Also, Abington Heights remains strong and impressive with a blowout over Honesdale 41-7. In Week 6, Abington knocked off previously unbeaten Delaware Valley 21-13. Abington is 6-1 losing only a nail biter to WVW 28-27. Delaware Valley kept pace with a 35-0 shutout over Wallenpaupack. Scranton lost to Valley View 35-32.

Good luck to all teams in the upcoming Week 8 competition.

See you on the sidelines.

LARRY SPEGAR