

## Plenty of Playoff Caliber Games Across District 6

By Brian Carson

Week eight of the high school football season finds plenty of playoff bound teams squaring off and jockeying for seeding position come postseason time.

Kicking things off is the matchup between No. 3 ranked and unbeaten Tyrone (7-0) hosting the still reeling Indian Valley squad that is trying to rebound from its upset loss to Clearfield last week.

The Warriors (6-1) dropped a 19-13 decision to the Bisons in one of the best games of the 2007 season. On the other hand, the Golden Eagles stayed perfect on the year with a big 14-13 victory over Philipsburg-Osceola in a key D6-AA clash.

Tyrone's success begins with its defense. The Golden Eagles give up an average of only 4.1 points per game, out-scored opponents 152-29, and have given up only three touchdowns all season long. Matt Murray, Johnny Shaffer, Josh Bradley and Brandon Gehret are the leaders of this stingy D.

Offensively, Tyrone relies on the legs of Shayne Tate (126-1,078-8) to get the Golden Eagles moving the sticks. The senior has done a solid job replacing the injured Johnny Franco, who has missed most of the season with a leg injury. Mark Mingle also contributes out of the backfield. Wideout Shane Emigh (16-203-1) and Shaffer are the go-to guys for QB Levi Reihart when head coach John Franco decides to air it out.

Indian Valley is trying to avoid back-to-back losses and hold onto its number one seed in the District 6, Class AAA standings. The Warriors are currently on top with 810 points - just 10 ahead of second place Hollidaysburg, who IV defeated 35-28 in week 5.

Head coach Gawen Stoker has plenty of offensive toys at his disposal and he uses all of them. RB Thad Rosenberry (82-653-12), FB Skylar Romig (60-311-2), WR Jay Hartman (29-413-2, 248 yards rushing), WR Austin Long (14-282-5) and QB Jarrett Kratzer (61-of-117, 1,023-804) lead a potent IV offense that is scoring at a 28.4 points per game clip. Defensively, Todd Pully, Adam Weaver and Grant Harpster lead a strong front line, while LB Cody Battista and DB Long make the big stops.

In another key game with playoff implications, the Golden Tigers (6-1), rated second in D6-AAA rankings, take on the third-seeded Bellefonte Red Raiders (5-2) at home.

Hollidaysburg bounced back after a disappointing loss to the Warriors with back-to-back blowout wins over Huntingdon and Bradford. Head coach John Barton and his charges are averaging a gaudy 35.2 a game with sparkplug RB Brad Nocek (95-607-6) and QB Patrick Smith (55-of-102, 912-9-3) leading the way. WR Justin Gildea (27-458-5) is Smith's favorite target.

RB/LB David Glunt is a force on defense and dangerous on offense as well. In addition to his 265 yards and two scores on the ground, the senior has 63 tackles and 6 sacks on the season. Other top defensive playmakers include Brandyn Ott, Nick Milardo and Nocek.

First-year head coach Zach Wynnkoop has pushed all the right buttons for Bellefonte this season and looks to continue moving up the district standings with a win on Friday.

The Red Raiders love to go to the air and QB Ryan Poorman has three prime targets he looks for - Heath Sprout, Matt Fisher and TE Robbie Irwin are the playmakers with Sprout a dangerous return man as well. When Wynnkoop goes to the ground, Greg Benscoter and Bryant James handle the bulk of the work. The plan seems to be working as Bellefonte averages almost 27 points a game.

The defense has given up some ground to opposing offenses this season, but their 16.9 average is down from last season, thanks to the performances of Irwin and DB Andy Masullo.

Other key games on tap for week 8 include, Altoona (6-1) at Bishop McDevitt (5-2); Bellwood-Antis (4-3) at Penns Valley (6-1); Central Cambria (5-2) at Richland (5-2); Forest Hills (4-3) at Johnstown (4-3); Southern Huntingdon (6-1) at Tussey Mountain (5-2).

#### **Friday's Games:**

Bedford (Dist 5 AA 2-5-0) @ Bishop Carroll (Dist 6 A 1-6-0)  
Bellefonte (Dist 6 AAA 5-2-0) @ Hollidaysburg (Dist 6 AAA 6-1-0)  
Bellwood-Antis (Dist 6 A 4-3-0) @ Penns Valley (Dist 6 AA 6-1-0)  
Bishop Guilfoyle (Dist 6 A 4-3-0) @ Bishop McCort (Dist 6 AA 6-1-0)  
Blairsville (Dist 6 A 4-3-0) @ Penns Manor (Dist 6 A 3-4-0)  
Cambria Heights (Dist 6 AA 0-7-0) @ Somerset (Dist 6 AAA 5-2-0)  
Central (Dist 6 AA 2-5-0) @ Philipsburg-Osceola (Dist 6 AA 5-2-0)  
Central Cambria (Dist 6 AA 5-2-0) @ Richland (Dist 6 AA 5-2-0)  
Forest Hills (Dist 6 AA 4-3-0) @ Johnstown (Dist 6 AAA 4-3-0)  
Homer Center (Dist 6 A 3-4-0) @ United (Dist 6 A 1-6-0)  
Huntingdon (Dist 6 AAA 2-5-0) @ Bald Eagle Area (Dist 6 AA 1-6-0)  
Indian Valley (Dist 6 AAA 6-1-0) @ Tyrone (Dist 6 AA 7-0-0)  
Laurel Valley (Dist 6 A 5-2-0) @ Northern Cambria (Dist 6 A 4-3-0)  
Lewistown (Dist 6 AAA 1-6-0) @ Central Mountain (Dist 6 AAAA 3-4-0)  
Ligonier Valley (Dist 6 A 7-0-0) @ Saltsburg (Dist 6 A 1-6-0)  
Purchase Line (Dist 6 A 5-2-0) @ Marion Center (Dist 6 AA 2-5-0)  
Southern Huntingdon (Dist 6 A 6-1-0) @ Tussey Mountain (Dist 5 A 5-2-0)  
State College (Dist 6 AAAA 4-3-0) @ Central Dauphin East (Dist 3 AAAA 3-4-0)  
Williamsburg (Dist 6 A 1-6-0) @ Juniata Valley (Dist 6 A 4-3-0)

#### **Saturday's Games:**

North Star (Dist 5 A 5-2-0) @ Blacklick Valley (Dist 6 A 4-3-0)  
Altoona (Dist 6 AAAA 6-1-0) @ Bishop McDevitt (3) (Dist 3 AAAA 5-2-0)  
Conemaugh Valley (Dist 6 A 1-6-0) @ Ferndale (Dist 6 A 2-5-0)  
Glendale (Dist 6 A 3-4-0) @ Moshannon Valley (Dist 6 A 5-2-0)  
Mount Union (Dist 6 A 2-5-0) @ Everett (Dist 5 AA 2-5-0)  
Penn Cambria (Dist 6 AA 3-4-0) @ Westmont-Hilltop (Dist 6 AA 3-4-0)  
Portage (Dist 6 A 7-0-0) @ Rockwood (Dist 5 A 4-3-0)