

Bearcats, Bison Square Off in MAC; Tigers Must Stop a Red Tornado

By Brian Carson

This Friday night's high school football action will be highlighted by a Mountain Athletic Conference Seven Mountains League showdown between Huntingdon and Clearfield.

The Bearcats (4-1, MAC 3-0) set atop the conference standings and are rated third in the District 6-AAA rankings. Huntingdon has beaten Mount Union 35-13, Bellefonte 26-14, Lewistown 42-0 and Punxsutawney, 24-7. The lone loss came at the hands of Tyrone, ranked fifth in the state by Pennsylvania Football News and the Patriot News, by a 35-13 count.

The Bearcats rely heavily on the running game with Joey Riley (48-407-7) leading the way. All-state tight end Zack Reed has only five receptions for 38 yards and a TD this season, but he's second on the team in tackles with 36 from his linebacker spot. QB Shawn Shoemaker has thrown for 200 yards and two scores.

Defensively, Huntingdon is paced by Tom Rohrer (41 tackles) and Kevin Cressman (three interceptions). The Bearcats give up only 13.8 points per game.

The Bison put up tons of points (164) with their air attack, but they give up just as many (143) on the defensive side of the ball. Clearfield has won four straight since a season-opening 56-35 loss to Bradford. The Bison have defeated Brookville 39-35, Indian Valley 38-35, Bellefonte 21-17, and Lewistown, 31-0.

Offensively, Clearfield is led by senior QB Andrew Janocko (74-of-122-1,099-6-5) and wideout Adam Jury (35-514-2). RB Isiah Morgan (92-414-5) and receiver Doug Kephart (20-406-2) contribute in a big way as well.

Jarrin Campman (33 tackles) and Tyler Kirkwood (31 tackles) are the mainstays on the defensive side of the ball.

Also on tap for week six, Hollidaysburg (3-2) will face the Red Tornado of Mount Carmel (3-2), the most storied program in Pennsylvania High School football history.

Mount Carmel is the all-time victories leader in Keystone State history with 753. That win total is fifth all-time in the United States. The Red Tornado has captured five PIAA state titles and numerous state championships before the PIAA instituted the playoffs in 1988.

Mount Carmel defeated Biglerville 28-6, Shamokin 26-12 and Bloomsburg, 12-6. The Red Tornado lost to No. 1 ranked and defending PIAA Class A champions, Southern Columbia by a 54-0 score and dropped a 21-3 decision to Lancaster Catholic.

Sophomore QB Marcus Wasilewski (26-of-64-382-5-7) directs the offense with help from RB James Haynes (58-299-1) and flanker Jonas Pachuski (12-225-4). Ryan Kogut (three interceptions) and James Goins (36 tackles) are the stalwarts of the defense.

The Golden Tigers, down from Class AAAA, find themselves ranked second in D6-AAA and look to maintain that standing with a win on Friday. Hollidaysburg beat Central Mountain 8-0, DuBois 42-7, and Central Dauphin East, 32-20. The Tigers have lost to Altoona 41-0 and Woodson (Washington, D.C.) by a 26-6 score.

Hollidaysburg features a trio of runners – Brad Nocek (66-255-3), Matt Wimbush (50-194-3) and David Lafferty (22-119-2). QB Patrick Smith (286 yards) likes to hook up with Jared Wilson (10-132) and Brock Porter (9-81-1). Lafferty (three picks) and Nocek (two interceptions), along with Greg Kanski (36 tackles) lead the defensive charge.

Here's a look at some of the other key week six games on tap in District 6:

Central Mountain @ Indian Valley

The Warriors (2-3) need a victory to stay alive in the District 6-AAA playoff hunt. Indian Valley racked up over 600 yards of offense with RB Nam Shartzler rushing for an IV record 278 yards, but the Warriors still lost to Bellefonte

last week. The Wildcats (3-2) have amassed over 1,200 yards rushing with Ryan Maggs (99-617-2), Dustin Hawkins (65-341-5) and QB Kyle Turchetta (52-262-4) leading the way. Turchetta has also thrown for 455 yards and three scores.

Tyrone @ Bellefonte

Ryan Poorman threw for a Centre County record 436 yards last week in a 55-54 win over Indian Valley. The victory gave the Red Raiders (2-3) a fourth-place ranking in the district and a potential shot at a return to the playoffs. The Golden Eagles (5-0), ranked fifth in the state in Class AA, have surrendered only 27 points all season with three shutouts in five games. The defense has recorded 17 sacks on the season with Jason Reese (six) and All-state line-man Tyler Hoover (3.5) out in front. Offensively, Tyler Golden (25-of-43-625-7-0) has been the leader at QB, while Johnny Franco (102-600-8) and the return of Tyler Gillmen (21-161-3) have bolstered the running game.

Bishop Guilfoyle @ Penns Valley

The Rams (3-2) will try to keep their playoff hopes alive when they take on the Marauders (1-4) in a Mountain Athletic Conference Nittany Division contest. Tailback Chris Korn (100-693-6) leads the Penns Valley offense, while LB Eric Herrold (49 tackles, two sacks) is the go-to guy on defense. BG relies on the twin rushing attack of Jacob Librizzi and Nick Perehinec.

Altoona @ Central Dauphin

The Mountain Lions (3-2) and the Rams (3-2) clash in a Mid-Penn Commonwealth clash that could all but eliminate the loser from any hopes at a district playoff berth. A.J. Alexander is a multiple scoring threat for Altoona. Central Dauphin has lost to top-ranked Harrisburg and the 4-1 State College Little Lions.

Bellwood-Antis @ P-O

The Blue Devils (4-1) bring a four-game winning streak and a No. 10 state ranking from PFN into their game with P-O. All-state tailback Josh Kleinfelter (102-806-12) is having another monster season and will be the main focus of the Mountie defense. Philipsburg-Osceola (3-2) relies on a three-headed ground attack with Dimitri Sidorick (70-346-5), Colton Harris (35-243-1) and QB A.J. Czap (63-345-4).

Bishop McCort @ Westmont-Hilltop

The Crushers (4-1) battle the Hilltoppers (3-2) in a key Laurel Highlands contest. Bishop McCort, tied for second in the conference with Johnstown, relies on the power running game of Brad Barbin (56-268-6), Scott Lewis (39-253-3) and Josh Kubinsky (35-251-2) for the bulk of their offensive output. Westmont is led by flanker Nicholas Khuri (19-380-7) and RB Chaz Merriman (63-409-2). QB Joe Valcheff has passed for 569 yards and seven touchdowns. The Hilltoppers are rated ninth in the district, one spot shy of a playoff berth, while the Crushers are rated second.

Week Six Schedule:

Carlisle (Dist 3 AAAA 0-5-0) @ State College (Dist 6 AAAA 4-1-0)

Berlin Brothersvalley (Dist 5 A 1-4-0) @ Portage (Dist 6 A 5-0-0)

Northern Bedford (Dist 5 A 4-1-0) @ Glendale (Dist 6 A 3-2-0)

Altoona (Dist 6 AAAA 3-2-0) @ Central Dauphin (Dist 3 AAAA 3-2-0)

Bald Eagle Area (Dist 6 AA 2-3-0) @ Moniteau (Dist 9 AA 5-0-0)

Bellwood-Antis (Dist 6 A 4-1-0) @ Philipsburg-Osceola (Dist 6 AA 3-2-0)

Bishop Carroll (Dist 6 A 1-4-0) @ Johnstown (Dist 6 AAA 5-0-0)

Bishop Guilfoyle (Dist 6 A 1-4-0) @ Penns Valley (Dist 6 AA 3-2-0)

Blacklick Valley (Dist 6 A 3-2-0) @ Meyersdale (Dist 5 A 5-0-0)

Cambria Heights (Dist 6 AA 0-5-0) @ Penn Cambria (Dist 6 AA 4-1-0)

Central (Dist 6 AA 1-4-0) @ Bedford (Dist 5 AA 3-2-0)

Central Mountain (Dist 6 AAAA 3-2-0) @ Indian Valley (Dist 6 AAA 2-3-0)

Conemaugh Valley (Dist 6 A 3-2-0) @ North Star (Dist 5 A 3-2-0)

Ferndale (Dist 6 A 2-3-0) @ Shade (Dist 5 A 0-5-0)

Forest Hills (Dist 6 AA 4-1-0) @ Central Cambria (Dist 6 AA 2-3-0)

Hollidaysburg (Dist 6 AAA 3-2-0) @ Mount Carmel (Dist 4 AA 3-2-0)

Homer Center (Dist 6 A 1-4-0) @ Ligonier Valley (Dist 6 A 4-1-0)

Juniata Valley (Dist 6 A 3-2-0) @ Tussey Mountain (Dist 5 A 4-1-0)

Lewistown (Dist 6 AAA 0-5-0) @ Punxsutawney (Dist 9 AAA 1-4-0)

Moshannon Valley (Dist 6 A 1-4-0) @ Williamsburg (Dist 6 A 0-5-0)

Mount Union (Dist 6 A 1-4-0) @ Southern Huntingdon (Dist 6 A 4-1-0)

Purchase Line (Dist 6 A 4-1-0) @ Penns Manor (Dist 6 A 2-3-0)

Richland (Dist 6 AA 3-2-0) @ Somerset (Dist 6 AAA 0-5-0)

Saltsburg (Dist 6 A 0-5-0) @ Northern Cambria (Dist 6 A 3-2-0)

Tyrone (Dist 6 AA 5-0-0) @ Bellefonte (Dist 6 AAA 2-3-0)

United (Dist 6 A 1-4-0) @ Blairsville (Dist 6 A 2-3-0)

Clearfield (Dist 9 AAA 4-1-0) @ Huntingdon (Dist 6 AAA 4-1-0)

Saturday's Games:

Bishop McCort (Dist 6 AA 4-1-0) @ Westmont-Hilltop (Dist 6 AA 3-2-0)

Marion Center (Dist 6 AA 5-0-0) @ Laurel Valley (Dist 6 A 3-2-0)

West Branch (Dist 6 A 2-3-0) @ Claysburg-Kimmel (Dist 6 A 2-3-0)