

Ramblers Look to Tame Mustangs; Trojans Face Crushers

By Brian Carson

The battle for the WestPAC and a possible undefeated regular season takes place in Windber as the 6-0 Ramblers meet the 6-0 Portage Mustangs on Friday night.

Windber (WestPAC 4-0), the top ranked team in District 5-A, is rated tenth in the state by Pennsylvania Football News and the Patriot News. The Ramblers ran a modern variation of the old single wing that was popular in the 30s and 40s.

And while the single wing offense is unusual to see in this day and age, it's the Windber defense that's grabbing all the attention. The Ramblers have not given up a single point in six games. That's right zip, nada, none. The defense gives up only 70 yards and game.

Windber has out-scored opponents 172-0, beating Blacklick Valley 20-0, Shade 28-0, Conemaugh Valley 44-0, North Star 20-0, Berlin Brothersvalley 46-0, and Conemaugh Township, 14-0. Matt Andrascik leads the Rambler offense with 559 yards rushing and seven touchdowns.

Portage averages 40 points and 339 yards a game with an offense that has put up 245 points. The defense has limited teams to 53 points on the season. The Mustangs have beaten Fendale (42-6), Blacklick Valley (41-14), North Star (26-20), Comemaugh Township (41-7), Conemaugh Valley (54-6), and Berlin Brothersvalley (41-0).

Offensively, Portage runs out of the Delaware Wing-T and the three-pronged rushing attack of Buck Murphy (718-12), Erik Dividock (478-9), and Ryan Fuller (461-10) provides the bulk of the offensive output.

QB Ben Wolford has thrown for 405 yards and three touchdowns and Roger Walkovich leads the defense with five interceptions.

Also on tap for week seven, the undefeated Johnstown Trojans (6-0) will take on the Bishop McCort Crushers (5-1) for first place in Laurel Highlands Section II division. Both squads come into the game at 3-0 in the conference.

Johnstown has out-scored opponents 196-82 on the season. The Trojans have stopped Penn Cambria 14-6, Central Cambria 46-27, Westmont-Hilltop 14-8, Richland 40-13, Somerset 47-19, and Bishop Carroll, 35-9.

Junior tailback Antwan Reed leads the way for Johnstown, ranked first in District 6-AAA, with 1,085 yards and 13 touchdowns. QB Brandon Hody has completed 39-of-67 for 721 yards with seven TDs and only two interceptions. His favorite targets are Demetrius Young (18-294-4) and Adonis Jackson (13-276-1). DE Adam Brezovic (61 tackles, 10.5 sacks) leads the defense.

The Crushers, ranked second in District 6-AA, have out-pointed opponents 187-54. Bishop McCort has won five straight after losing its opener to Bedford by a 25-24 score in overtime. The Crushers have defeated Forest Hills 18-16, Somerset 35-0, Bishop Carroll 27-7, Richland 47-8, and Westmont-Hilltop, 36-0.

Bishop McCort features a trio of runners – Scott Lewis (68-518-3), Brad Barbin (68-350-8) and Josh Kubinsky (37-249-2) – who get tons of action. QB Jordan DeFrances (51-of-105-738-6-7) likes to throw to Chris Seidel (17-374-2), Michael Cruz (14-141-2) and Barbin (11-137). Lewis leads the defense with 50 tackles and three picks.

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

Penn Cambria @ Forest Hills

The Panthers (5-1) and Rangers (5-1) square off in a contest that will decide the Laurel Highlands Section I champ. Penn Cambria is led by RB Matt Holsberger (117-775-17) and QB George Klayko (505 yards, five TDs). Forest Hills has All-state QB Travis Rearick (71-110-1,145-15-4) with Ross Carpenter (21-351-6) his favorite target.

Ligonier Valley @ Marion Center

Battle for first place in the Heritage Conference between the Stingers (6-0) hosting the Mounties (5-1). Marion

Center brings to the table a two-back attack with Todd Smyers (93-624-9) and Dan Hoover (70-619-8). Ligonier Valley likes to keep it on the ground as well with Steve Hunt (89-486-7), Brandon Boyd (80-463-6) and QB Jon Cotzhen (73-472-4).

Indian Valley @ Huntingdon

The Warriors (3-3) will try to stay alive in the playoff hunt by facing the Bearcats (5-1) on the road. Indian Valley is currently in the fourth and final playoff spot in District 6-AAA with Huntingdon ranked second. The Warriors rely on the power running of Nam Shartzter (975 yards, 12 TDs). The Bearcats feature RB Joey Riley and FB Tim Rohrer, as well as All-state TE Zack Reed.

Chestnut Ridge @ Bellwood-Antis

Another important game in the District 6 playoff picture. The Lions (3-3), currently in the eighth and final spot in Class AA, faces a Blue Devils squad looking to bounce back from their loss to Philipsburg-Osceola last week. Bellwood (4-2) relies on All-state RB Josh Kleinfelter, who is having another solid season with 967 yards and 15 touchdowns.

P-O @ BEA

The Mounties (4-2), holding down the seventh position in the District 6-AA rankings, looks to maintain their playoff aspirations with a win over the Eagles (2-4). P-O is led by the rushing attack of Dimitri Sidorick (88-454-5), Colton Harris (39-241-1) and QB A.J. Czap (75-386-6). BEA has a solid defense that gives up only 17 points a game, but the Eagle offense has managed to score only nine points a game.

Altoona @ Cedar Cliff

The Mountain Lions (3-3) and Colts (3-3) clash in a Mid-Penn Commonwealth contest with the winner hoping to keep their slim playoff hopes alive. Altoona has never won a game in Harrisburg since joining the Mid-Penn, but hopes the athletic ability of A.J. Alexander will change that. Cedar Cliff has put up 89 points in the last two games.

Week Seven Schedule:

Glen Mills (Dist 1 AAAA 3-3-0) @ Hollidaysburg (Dist 6 AAA 4-2-0)

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

Bedford (Dist 5 AA 4-2-0) @ Cambria Heights (Dist 6 AA 0-6-0)

Chestnut Ridge (Dist 5 AA 4-2-0) @ Bellwood-Antis (Dist 6 A 4-2-0)

Altoona (Dist 6 AAAA 3-3-0) @ Cedar Cliff (Dist 3 AAAA 3-3-0)

Bellefonte (Dist 6 AAA 2-4-0) @ Lewistown (Dist 6 AAA 0-6-0)

Bishop Guilfoyle (Dist 6 A 2-4-0) @ Tyrone (Dist 6 AA 6-0-0)

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

Central Mountain (Dist 6 AAAA 3-3-0) @ Bradford (Dist 9 AAA 5-1-0)

Claysburg-Kimmel (Dist 6 A 3-3-0) @ Northern Bedford (Dist 5 A 4-2-0)

Glendale (Dist 6 A 4-2-0) @ Tussey Mountain (Dist 5 A 4-2-0)

Homer Center (Dist 6 A 1-5-0) @ Purchase Line (Dist 6 A 5-1-0)

Indian Valley (Dist 6 AAA 3-3-0) @ Huntingdon (Dist 6 AAA 5-1-0)

Johnstown (Dist 6 AAA 6-0-0) @ Bishop McCort (Dist 6 AA 5-1-0)

Laurel Valley (Dist 6 A 3-3-0) @ Saltsburg (Dist 6 A 0-6-0)

Ligonier Valley (Dist 6 A 5-1-0) @ Marion Center (Dist 6 AA 6-0-0)

Moshannon Valley (Dist 6 A 2-4-0) @ Juniata Valley (Dist 6 A 4-2-0)

Penn Cambria (Dist 6 AA 5-1-0) @ Forest Hills (Dist 6 AA 5-1-0)

Penns Valley (Dist 6 AA 3-3-0) @ Mount Union (Dist 6 A 1-5-0)

Philipsburg-Osceola (Dist 6 AA 4-2-0) @ Bald Eagle Area (Dist 6 AA 2-4-0)

Portage (Dist 6 A 6-0-0) @ Windber (Dist 5 A 6-0-0)

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

Southern Huntingdon (Dist 6 A 5-1-0) @ Everett (Dist 5 AA 0-6-0)

Westmont-Hilltop (Dist 6 AA 3-3-0) @ Richland (Dist 6 AA 3-3-0)

Williamsburg (Dist 6 A 0-6-0) @ West Branch (Dist 6 A 2-4-0)

Saturday's Games:

Conemaugh Township (Dist 5 A 0-6-0) @ Conemaugh Valley (Dist 6 A 3-3-0)

Meyersdale (Dist 5 A 6-0-0) @ Ferndale (Dist 6 A 2-4-0)

Rockwood (Dist 5 A 4-2-0) @ Blacklick Valley (Dist 6 A 3-3-0)

Penns Manor (Dist 6 A 2-4-0) @ United (Dist 6 A 1-5-0)