

Stingers Looking For Heritage Title; Trojans Hope to Bounce Back

By Brian Carson

The Marion Center Stingers look to stay unbeaten and capture the Heritage Conference championship with a win over Purchase Line, second in the conference with a 6-1 mark, on Friday.

Marion Center (7-0) is rated third in the District 6-AA rankings behind Tyrone, while the Red Dragons are first in District 6-A, just three points ahead of Southern Huntingdon.

The Stingers have out-scored opponents 248-89, beating Penns Manor 33-12, Homer Center 27-7, Blairsville 42-21, Saltsburg 40-0, Northern Cambria 42-21, Laurel Valley 32-8, and Ligonier Valley, 34-20.

Marion Center is led by the solid 1-2 ground attack of Todd Smyers (113-716-11) and Dan Hoover (84-692-10). Hoover also has five interceptions on the season. Quarterback Justin Hill has thrown for 613 yards and six touchdowns with only one interception. Dave Yackubosky leads the Stinger defense with 98 tackles.

Purchase Line has out-pointed the opposition by a 209-86 count with wins coming against Northern Cambria 32-20, Laurel Valley 7-0, Ligonier Valley 21-14, Blairsville 34-21, United 41-12, Penns Manor 41-12, and Homer Center, 40-6.

Offensively, the Red Dragons are led by running back Logan Smith, who has ran for 520 yards and four touchdowns this season.

Also on tap for week eight, Johnstown (6-1) looks to bounce back from its first loss of the season, a 30-0 setback at the hands of Bishop McCort. The Trojans won't have an easy task as they take on Bedford (5-2) in a Laurel Highlands Conference matchup.

Johnstown has out-scored opponents 196-112 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 Antwuan Reed leads the way for Johnstown, ranked second in District 6-AAA, with 1,119 yards and 13 touchdowns. QB Brandon Hody has completed 43-of-80 for 798 yards with seven TDs and only three interceptions. His favorite targets are Demetrius Young (21-357-4) and Adonis Jackson (14-290-1). DE Adam Brezovic (70 tackles, 10.5 sacks) leads the defense.

The Bison, ranked sixth in District 5-6-AA, have out-pointed opponents 173-143. Bedford is currently on a three-game winning streak. The Bison have defeated Bishop McCort 25-24, Somerset 41-0, Central Cambria 7-0, Central 26-14, and Cambria Heights, 40-13. Bedford has lost to Forest Hills 44-14 and Penn Cambria, 48-20.

RB Jesse Feaster (59-551-6) and QB Peter Westwood (416 yards passing, 8 TDs) lead the Bison offense. Jeremiah Jaber is the main man on defense with 85 tackles and 3.5 sacks.

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

Bishop McDevitt @ Altoona

The Mountain Lions (4-3) need a win to keep their slim playoff hopes alive. Standing in the way are the Crusaders (5-2), who feature the running talents of Dave Onorato (752 yards, 6 TDs). WR Julian Harrell (28-396-2) and QB Kyle Koncar (676 yards, 5 TDs) are also threats. A.J. Alexander leads the Altoona charge with 654 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns. D.J. Patterson has collected six interceptions on defense.

Indian Valley @ Tyrone

The Warriors face a tough task this Friday when they take on the undefeated Golden Eagles, ranked fifth in the state by Pennsylvania Football New and the Patriot News. Indian Valley (3-4) holds a one point lead over Bellefonte for the fourth and final playoff slot in District 6-AAA. Tyrone (7-0), ranked first in the district in AA, is led by RB Johnny Franco (874 yards, 12 TDs) and QB Tyler Golden (860 yards, 10 TDs) on offense. The defense has given up only 45 points all season and posted four shutouts. RB Nam Shartzter has over 1,000 yards for Indian Valley.

Penns Valley @ Bellefonte

The Red Raiders (3-4) find themselves one point behind Indian Valley in the D6-AAA standings for the fourth and final playoff spot. Bellefonte relies on the passing game of QB Ryan Poorman and receivers Heath Sprout and Matt Fisher. The Rams (4-3) are one point behind in the final playoff slot in the AA standings and will be looking for Chris Korn (1,003 yards, 8 TDs) and a solid Penns Valley defense to provide a spark.

Rockwood @ Portage

The Mustangs are looking to bounce back after suffering their first loss of the season at the hands of Windber last week. Portage (6-1), third in D6-A, will face the Rockets (5-2), who have won four straight and haven't given up more than 12 points in each game. Portage relies on the running attack of Buck Murphy (754 yards, 12 TDs), Ryan Fuller (533 yards, 10 TDs) and Eric Dividock (533 yards, 9 TDs).

Penn Cambria @ Richland

The Panthers (6-1) bring a fourth-place District 6-AA ranking and a Laurel Highlands Section I championship into their contest with the struggling Rams, who have lost four straight after a 3-0 start. Division I prospect Matt Holsberger has rushed for 854 yards and 19 touchdowns to lead the Penn Cambria attack. He also has 81 tackles and seven sacks on defense. QB George Klayko has thrown for 655 yards and seven scores with his favorite target being Bobby Glenn (20-337-6). Richland is led by QB Marco Pecora (1,362 yards, 12 TDs) and wide receiver Dan Fenton (36-538-7).

Northern Cambria @ Laurel Valley

The Colts (5-2) will try and hold on to the eighth spot and have home field for the first round of the playoffs. Standing in Northern Cambria's way is the Rams (4-3), who occupy one slot below at No. 9. RB Jeremiah Dunchak (665 yards, 7 TDs) and QB Joey Rocco (541 yards, 8 TDs) lead the Colts offense, while Aaron Paronish (103 tackles) is the main man on defense. Laurel Valley has given up only 60 points and recorded three shutouts this season.

Week Eight Schedule:

Bishop McDevitt (3) (Dist 3 AAAA 5-2-0) @ Altoona (Dist 6 AAAA 4-3-0)

Central Dauphin East (Dist 3 AAAA 2-5-0) @ State College (Dist 6 AAAA 6-1-0)

Bedford (Dist 5 AA 5-2-0) @ Johnstown (Dist 6 AAA 6-1-0)

Rockwood (Dist 5 A 5-2-0) @ Portage (Dist 6 A 6-1-0)

Bald Eagle Area (Dist 6 AA 2-5-0) @ Huntingdon (Dist 6 AAA 6-1-0)

Bellwood-Antis (Dist 6 A 5-2-0) @ Moshannon Valley (Dist 6 A 2-5-0)

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

Cambria Heights (Dist 6 AA 0-7-0) @ Bishop McCort (Dist 6 AA 6-1-0)

Central Cambria (Dist 6 AA 3-4-0) @ Bishop Carroll (Dist 6 A 2-5-0)

Forest Hills (Dist 6 AA 5-2-0) @ Somerset (Dist 6 AAA 1-6-0)

Glendale (Dist 6 A 5-2-0) @ West Branch (Dist 6 A 2-5-0)

Hollidaysburg (Dist 6 AAA 4-3-0) @ Oxford (Dist 1 AAA 1-6-0)

Indian Valley (Dist 6 AAA 3-4-0) @ Tyrone (Dist 6 AA 7-0-0)

Juniata Valley (Dist 6 A 5-2-0) @ Williamsburg (Dist 6 A 1-6-0)

Marion Center (Dist 6 AA 7-0-0) @ Purchase Line (Dist 6 A 6-1-0)

Penn Cambria (Dist 6 AA 6-1-0) @ Richland (Dist 6 AA 3-4-0)

Penns Manor (Dist 6 A 2-5-0) @ Blairsville (Dist 6 A 3-4-0)

Penns Valley (Dist 6 AA 4-3-0) @ Bellefonte (Dist 6 AAA 3-4-0)

Philipsburg-Osceola (Dist 6 AA 5-2-0) @ Lewistown (Dist 6 AAA 0-7-0)

Saltsburg (Dist 6 A 0-7-0) @ Ligonier Valley (Dist 6 A 5-2-0)

Southern Huntingdon (Dist 6 A 6-1-0) @ Claysburg-Kimmel (Dist 6 A 3-4-0)

United (Dist 6 A 2-5-0) @ Homer Center (Dist 6 A 1-6-0)

Saturday's Games:

Central (Dist 6 AA 1-6-0) @ Westmont-Hilltop (Dist 6 AA 4-3-0)

Central Mountain (Dist 6 AAAA 4-3-0) @ Bishop O'Reilly (Dist 2 A 1-6-0)

Ferndale (Dist 6 A 2-5-0) @ Conemaugh Valley (Dist 6 A 3-4-0)

Mount Union (Dist 6 A 1-6-0) @ Bishop Guilfoyle (Dist 6 A 2-5-0)

Northern Cambria (Dist 6 A 5-2-0) @ Laurel Valley (Dist 6 A 4-3-0)