

Playoff Bids on the Line in Week Nine

By Brian Carson

Week nine of the high school football season is upon us and this is the last week that teams in District 6 AAA and A, along with District 5-6 AA can pick up points for the playoffs.

Despite adding a 10th game to the regular season, only nine will count towards playoff points and seeds.

The scoring system for District 6 is as follows: Teams get 100 points for beating a team in the same class. The points are adjusted in increments of 20 for defeating a team of larger or smaller classification.

If a Class AAA team beats a Class AAAA team the win is worth 120 points. If a Class AA squad beats a Class A squad the win is worth 80 points and so on. In addition, 10 power points are awarded to a team for every win a beaten opponent has had.

This season, D6-A qualifies 16 teams, but you must have four wins to make it in regardless. Class AAA and AA stay the same with four and eight qualifiers respectively. Class AAAA is involved in the District 3 playoffs where 16 teams make it and all 10 games are counted in the point standings.

Here's a look at the playoff scenarios heading into week nine:

District 6-AAA

Johnstown (7-1), Huntingdon (7-1) and Hollidaysburg (5-3) have already qualified for the playoffs. The Trojans are ahead of the Bearcats by 10 points (830-820) in the standings and must win to maintain the top spot.

Neither team has an easy task this week. Johnstown faces Forest Hills (6-2) on the road, while Huntingdon hosts Philipsburg-Osceola (6-2). The Golden Tigers could claim one of the top two spots and host a playoff game if it beats State College (7-1) and the Trojans or Bearcats lose.

Bellefonte and Indian Valley are battling for the final playoff spot with the Warriors holding a slim 390-360 advantage. The Red Raiders (3-5) travel to Bald Eagle Area (2-6), while Indian Valley (3-5) hooks up with rival Lewistown (0-8) at Mitchell Field. Bellefonte must win and hope that the Warriors lose to grab the final playoff spot.

District 5-6 AAA

Unbeaten Tyrone (8-0) clinched the top spot in the playoffs last week. Bishop McCort (7-1), Penn Cambria (7-1), Marion Center (7-1), Philipsburg Osceola and Forest Hills are in as well.

Bedford (5-3) can clinch a spot with a win at home over Bishop Carroll (2-6). The eighth and final slot is a toss-up between Penns Valley (5-3), Chestnut Ridge (5-3) and Westmont-Hilltop (5-3). The Rams have 610 points, while the Lions and the Hilltoppers have 570 points each.

Penns Valley and Westmont have the tougher tasks ahead with the Rams hosting Tyrone and the Hilltoppers going on the road to meet Penn Cambria. Chestnut Ridge travels to Moshannon Valley (2-6) and appear to have the easier game.

District 6-A

Four teams are in a battle for the top seed depending on what happens Friday night.

Purchase Line (7-1), Portage (7-1), Southern Huntingdon (7-1) and Bellwood-Antis (6-2) are ranked first through fourth respectively with the Red Dragons holding a 60-point lead over the Mustangs for the number one spot.

Purchase Line travels to Saltsburg (0-8), Portage travels to unbeaten Meyersdale (8-0), Southern hosts Tussey Mountain (5-3), and Bellwood hosts Bishop Guilfoyle (3-5).

Seven other teams have qualified for the playoffs by reaching the four-win plateau: Juniata Valley (6-2), Glendale (6-2), Ligonier Valley (6-2), Laurel Valley (5-3), Northern Bedford (5-3), Blairsville (4-4) and Conemaugh Valley (4-4).

There are four teams on the bubble with three wins – Bishop Guilfoyle, Claysburg-Kimmel, Blacklick Valley and United.

The Marauders face Bellwood-Antis, the Bulldogs travel to Glendale, the Vikings host Conemaugh Valley, and the Lions will take on Marion Center.

If no one else qualifies, the top five seeds will receive byes.

Week Nine Schedule:

Chestnut Ridge (Dist 5 AA 5-3-0) @ Moshannon Valley (Dist 6 A 2-6-0)

Northern Bedford (Dist 5 A 5-3-0) @ West Branch (Dist 6 A 2-6-0)

Tussey Mountain (Dist 5 A 5-3-0) @ Southern Huntingdon (Dist 6 A 7-1-0)

Altoona (Dist 6 AAAA 5-3-0) @ Carlisle (Dist 3 AAAA 1-7-0)

Bellefonte (Dist 6 AAA 3-5-0) @ Bald Eagle Area (Dist 6 AA 2-6-0)

Bishop Carroll (Dist 6 A 2-6-0) @ Bedford (Dist 5 AA 5-3-0)

Bishop Guilfoyle (Dist 6 A 3-5-0) @ Bellwood-Antis (Dist 6 A 6-2-0)

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

Claysburg-Kimmel (Dist 6 A 3-5-0) @ Glendale (Dist 6 A 6-2-0)

Homer Center (Dist 6 A 1-7-0) @ Penns Manor (Dist 6 A 2-6-0)

Huntingdon (Dist 6 AAA 7-1-0) @ Philipsburg-Osceola (Dist 6 AA 6-2-0)

Johnstown (Dist 6 AAA 7-1-0) @ Forest Hills (Dist 6 AA 6-2-0)

Laurel Valley (Dist 6 A 5-3-0) @ Blairsville (Dist 6 A 4-4-0)

Lewistown (Dist 6 AAA 0-8-0) @ Indian Valley (Dist 6 AAA 3-5-0)

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

Mount Union (Dist 6 A 1-7-0) @ Juniata Valley (Dist 6 A 6-2-0)

Portage (Dist 6 A 7-1-0) @ Meyersdale (Dist 5 A 8-0-0)

Purchase Line (Dist 6 A 7-1-0) @ Saltsburg (Dist 6 A 0-8-0)

Richland (Dist 6 AA 3-5-0) @ Central Cambria (Dist 6 AA 4-4-0)

Somerset (Dist 6 AAA 1-7-0) @ Cambria Heights (Dist 6 AA 0-8-0)

State College (Dist 6 AAAA 7-1-0) @ Hollidaysburg (Dist 6 AAA 5-3-0)

Tyrone (Dist 6 AA 8-0-0) @ Penns Valley (Dist 6 AA 5-3-0)

Westmont-Hilltop (Dist 6 AA 5-3-0) @ Penn Cambria (Dist 6 AA 7-1-0)

Williamsburg (Dist 6 A 1-7-0) @ Everett (Dist 5 AA 0-8-0)

Saturday's Games:

Windber (Dist 5 A 7-1-0) @ Ferndale (Dist 6 A 2-6-0)

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

Marion Center (Dist 6 AA 7-1-0) @ United (Dist 6 A 3-5-0)