

## **WHIPPETS MAKE CASE FOR PLAYOFF PUSH, LEAGUE TRI CHAMPIONSHIP.**

In what was the sloppiest of the six Downingtown Civil Wars, the Whippets of Downingtown West pulled out a much-needed win. Tonight's win by Downingtown West helps their playoff position, should they win at Coatesville and Bishop Shanahan the next two weeks. A win also muddles the picture for the Ches-Mont League title, as a possible three way tie between the Whippets, Cougars, and Avon Grove Red Devils all have 3-1 records in the league. The tiebreaker is just as muddled, as Downingtown West beat Downingtown East tonight (26-14), Avon Grove beat Downingtown West (35-21), and Downingtown East beat Avon Grove (32-21).

Neither quarterback played exceptionally well tonight, as Bret Gillespie and Trey Lauletta were a combined 8 for 36, 5 interceptions, and a lost fumble. The difference was that Lauletta was 5-25, was victimized by two dropped passes that should have been touchdowns (Santangelo in the end zone, and Kroft inside the 15 yard line), and harassed by Downingtown West into five interceptions (and a near sixth). Bret Gillespie only completed three passes, but he made them count, two were for touchdowns.

Tonight's game was billed as the best game in the seven year (and sixth game- no game in 2007) rivalry between the two Downingtown High Schools. It lived up to it's billing as a heavyweight title fight for the first three quarters, as the score was knotted at 14-14. Both teams traded punches and counter punches all game, and we were thinking that it would take overtime to settle the score- as evenly matched as these two teams, and inter-district rivals were. However, an opportunistic Downingtown West defense took advantage of two Cougar miscues, and turned them into touchdowns.

After the first two drives, one would have thought that the team who had the ball last would win. Both teams used big plays to either score a touchdown, or set them up. Trey Lauletta completed his first four passes of the game on a long drive, the final one being a 34 yard touchdown pass to his junior tight end, Tyler Kroft. Downingtown West evened the score up on one of two 55 plus yard Bret Gillespie touchdown passes to Peter Mulville. Downingtown West capitalized on a Trey Lauletta interception to take a 14-7 lead on the second Bret Gillespie touchdown pass to Peter Mulville covering 58 yards on a flea flicker.

Downingtown East evened the score up on a 3 yard run by Drew Harris. Harris had a 47 yard run to put the ball inside the 5 yard line. The Whippets' opportunistic defense sealed the deal, as Tommy Woodward (four INTs) returned a Lauletta interception 62 yards for a touchdown, and another interception set up a 11 yard touchdown run by Keesan Christopher.

Up next for Downingtown East (6-2, 3-1) is West Chester East, who lost to Bishop Shanahan tonight. For Downingtown West (7-1, 3-1), it is a road game at Coatesville.