

# Final Grades for Football This Week

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**By Joe Stokes**

We are now through the first nine weeks of the 2006 high school football campaign and the final points for PIAA playoff slots will be determined this week. With an expanded playoff format it appeared that former power house teams like Strath Haven, CB West and Cardinal O'Hara would be assured of post season action for years to come. However this season revealed that early losses may well doom each of their chances this year.

Strath Haven must beat Penncrest in the Media Bowl while Marple Newtown must fall to Central League rival Conestoga in order for the Panthers to attain a AAA playoff berth. Over in the Catholic League Cardinal O'Hara must find a way to defeat St. Joe's Prep the top rated team in *Ed Thomas' Southeastern Pa top 20* in order to have any shot at post season play.

Last week's predictions left this writer with another 4-1 record (31-9) on the season. The only game to go against last weeks predictions was O'Hara's loss to Roman Catholic. This game all but eliminates the Lion's for a run at The Catholic League crown.

Over in the Central League Ridley was able to ride its 49-0 win over Lower Merion to capture their first league championship since 1996. This week's action features two games that will determine AAA playoff berths. Strath Haven must win over cross town rival Penncrest to keep their hope alive. The Panthers will make it 19 straight Media Bowl victories

**Prediction: Strath Haven 28 Penncrest 17**

Marple Newtown enters this game with their first chance to enter post season action. All they need is a win over Conestoga. They will accomplish this goal.

**Marple Newtown 20 Conestoga 14**

Here is the rest of my fearless forecast:

**Prediction: St Joe's Prep 31 Cardinal O'Hara 13**

**Prediction: Council Rock North 17 Council Rock South 7**

**Prediction: Pennsbury 24 Neshaminy 21**

