

Let the Playoffs Begin

November 9, 2006

By Joe Stokes

How is it possible that we have reached the start of the 2006 District One playoffs. It seems like yesterday that we were attending season openers on one of those sultry late summer Friday nights. The regular season was full of surprises as early season favorites suffered defeats that would later deny them a chance to enter post season competition. Defending AAA champion Strath Haven barely missed a playoff slot despite a furious second half of the season. Losses to Ridley, Marple Newtown and Sun Valley sealed their fate for 2006. Cardinal O'Hara backed into the playoffs despite their loss to St. Joe Prep last Friday. They will have a chance to salvage this season when they face LaSalle in the first round of the Catholic League playoffs at Northeast High this Friday.

Last week's predictions finally got this writer an undefeated 5-0 record (36-9) on the season. This week will not be so easy as the teams remaining are all coming off winning seasons and will be really pumped up to advance to the next round.

The AAAA third ranked Ridley Green Raiders suffered a great loss this week when one of their team's greatest supporters Louise Capriotti passed away. However anyone associated with Ridley football knows that they will be ready to play and will defeat Plymouth Whitemarsh in the first round.

Prediction: Ridley 28 Plymouth Whitemarsh 10

Marple Newtown enters the AAA fray for the very first time. Hope the Tigers enjoy the experience but they won't get past this round.

Prediction: Unionville 35 Marple Newtown 14

Here is the rest of my fearless forecast:

Prediction: LaSalle 27 Cardinal O'Hara 14

Prediction: West Chester East 31 William Tennent 21

Prediction: North Penn 28 Interboro 17

****Dedicated to the memory of Louise Capriotti DelawareCountySports.com**

