

Playoff Victory Spoils the Turkey

November 15, 2006

By Joe Stokes

The good old days of high school football always featured a season ending battle of cross town rivals on Thanksgiving morning. The teams and their fans would pack the local field for a few hours of hard fought football and with the win came bragging rights till the next year's Turkey Bowl. As the modern era came upon us many more programs demanded a shot at the playoffs and the better teams would risk losing the big T-Day if they advanced very far in the bracket.

This year several Thanksgiving-Day games are sure to be cancelled. Ridley, North Penn, West Chester East, Abington and Hatboro-Horsham have all advanced to District One AAAA second round and with a victory this weekend it would be hard to imagine a Turkey treat for those communities. Although Easton did play two games in two days last year most schools in this quandary have opted out of their traditional game for the playoff opportunity.

Last week's predictions found this writer going 5-0 (41-9) on the season. This week has several close contests shaping up and the challenge of picking the winner will be as tough as it gets.

The AAAA third ranked Ridley Green Raiders showed great heart in their frantic come from behind overtime victory over Plymouth Whitmarsh last Friday. They now host a well balanced squad from Hatboro-Horsham. They will need a healthy dose of Green Mystique to stay undefeated and they will find one more week of magic.

Prediction: Ridley 27 Hatboro-Horsham 24

West Chester East has faced several tough games this year. Pennsbury may well be the toughest.

Prediction: Pennsbury 31 West Chester East 28

Here is the rest of my fearless forecast:

Prediction: Abington 21 Souderton 17

Prediction: North Penn 35 Downingtown West 14

Prediction: Frankford 31 Washington 21

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

