

# **It's Crunch Week**

**November 21, 2006**

**By Joe Stokes**

The 2006 season is fast approaching a conclusion and in three weeks we will know Pennsylvania's four state champions as well the City and Catholic league winners. But the best weekend of football is upon us as the Thanksgiving Day rivalries face off throughout our area. Although the playoffs have forced the cancellation of many long time turkey bowls many other will go on as scheduled.

Upper Darby faces Haverford, West Catholic travels to Penn Wood and Henderson has its annual showdown with West Chester East on Wednesday night in contests that mean as much or more to their communities than a playoff victory. Once those games are played area fans have several playoff showdowns set for Friday night. It can't get much better than this weekend for high school football fans.

Last week's predictions found this writer going 5-0 for the third straight week (46-9) on the season. I wish I could pick lottery numbers as well as these football contests. Please don't bet your house on this weeks picks because I am do for a big time dump.

The AAAA third ranked Ridley Green Raiders continued their perfect season by shocking Hatboro-Horsham with a 38-14 pounding, after quick start they never looked back and their victory wins them a shot at the red hot North Penn Knights. Although the Green Raiders have beaten all comers the magic just won't overcome the talented Knights.

**Prediction: North Penn 31 Ridley 21**

Pennsbury defeated West Chester East last week as predicted but the margin surprised many. This week they will end Abington's playoff charge.

**Prediction: Pennsbury 38 Abington 24**

Here is the rest of my fearless forecast:

**Prediction: St Joe Prep 41 LaSalle 14**

**Prediction: Upper Moreland 31 Garnet Valley 28**

**Prediction: Upper Darby 24 Haverford 7**

