

Wide Open Run for New Top Dogs

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By Joe Stokes

The 2006 High School Football season enters its fourth week with perennial powers St. Joseph Prep, North Penn, Cardinal O'Hara, Neshaminy and Strath Haven all suffering early season defeats. Last week found St. Joe's Prep and O'Hara traveling to Ohio for the *McDonald's USA Challenge*. Both teams were defeated by nationally rated Colerain and Hilliard Davidson High Schools. Strath Haven, Neshaminy and North Penn all rebounded with hard fought victories.

Last week's predictions left this writer with an improved 4-1 record (7-3) on the season. The only game not going as predicted was fourth ranked Pennsbury (Ed Thomas's Southeastern Pa rankings) defeat of Glen Mills on Friday night. The Bulls defense was unable to slow Falcons running back **Jason Fagan** who scored two touchdowns and rushed for 193 yards in a 28-6 Pennsbury rout.

Upper Darby, Interboro, Ridley and Strath Haven all posted well played victories and are all in good position to continue their winning ways this week.

The games to watch this week starts with some Thursday night specials. Conestoga will travel to Ridley to face the top ranked Green Raiders in the *Delaware County Times Super 7*. Ridley has relied on the pass game led by quarterback **Al Humes** in its first three victories. Two late TDs saved Ridley from defeat to a stubborn Penncrest defense last Friday and that second half surge may just be the ticket to this week's victory over Conestoga.

Prediction: Ridley 28 Conestoga 7

Cardinal O'Hara returns to Pennsylvania for a game against Catholic League rival Father Judge on Friday night. Count on O'Hara to take out their early season frustration on Judge with a big victory

Prediction: O'Hara 42 Father Judge 0

Springfield (Delco) plays their first home night game in the schools history on Thursday night. However Central League rival Marple Newtown will rain on the Cougar parade:

Marple Newtown 14 Springfield 10

Here is the rest of my fearless forecast:

Pennridge 24 Bonner 10

Interboro 28 Simon Gratz 17

