

## Oct. 1, 2009 Football



*Dennis Symons, Jr. Photography*

The Hamilton High football team run hard in practice on Sept. 29 as it looks toward Saturday's key game with West Windsor-Plainsboro South. (Photo by Dennis Symons Jr./[dennissymons.com](http://dennissymons.com)).

## Township teams look to bounce back

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

**OCT. 1:** The three varsity football teams from Hamilton Township are all coming off losses this week; two still trying to find their first win.

Probably the toughest setback for any of the three to take was the one suffered by **Hamilton**, when the Hornets dropped a 35-25 overtime decision to Lawrence.

The Hornets (1-1) will try and bounce back with a 2 p.m. game at West Windsor-Plainsboro South, which took a 33-28 win last year in a game that sent Hamilton's season in the wrong direction.

"We're in the same boat as last year," coach Tom Hoglen said. "Last year we were 1-1 and we lost and the following week we lost a tough one to Nottingham and that was kind of the turning point in our season.

"Sure, we'll use that as motivation. Our kids aren't stupid. They have things they want to accomplish and they know the importance of how we start our season."

The Hornets actually rallied from a 28-14 deficit to force overtime against undefeated Lawrence. Hoglen feels his team has the veteran savvy to bounce back from the disappointment.

"I think the leadership on our team will enable us to bounce back," he said. "For the first time in my coaching career, I had kids actually come in on Sunday to watch films with us. They wanted to learn from their mistakes and make sure the same things wouldn't happen again.

"Every kid played their heart out on Saturday. It was a great football game. We always have good games with them"

The games with WWPS are usually just as good, and should be again on Saturday as the Hornets try to neutralize Chris Jones. The running back is sixth in the Colonial Valley Conference in rushing with 289 yards, and has scored three touchdowns. Quarterback Zach Donahue has thrown for 305 yards and five TDs.

"They're always well coached," Hoglen said. "They might not have some of the weapons they've had in the past, but their tailback is fast and can break one at anytime.

"I'm looking for a good game. I like the fact that we're playing as a football team. Guys are picking each other up. When one guy makes a mistake, they don't point fingers. They're all in it together."

**Steinert** coach Dan Caruso feels the same way about his team, which is still looking for its first point after losing to Notre Dame on opening day, then dropping an 18-0 decision at Hightstown Friday.

The Spartans will host Hopewell Valley at 11 a.m., and the Bulldogs (1-2) are also struggling after losses to West Windsor-Plainsboro North and Robbinsville.

"It's Homecoming, so that's always a big deal for us," Caruso said. "I think just to get that first win would really be big. We haven't scored a point yet, so it would be a big deal if we can finally get in the endzone and break out of that mold."

The Spartans' offense showed it could move the ball against Hightstown, as Dan Danaso rushed for 67 yards and Judens Goimbert ran for 60. Danaso played some quarterback along with Adam Riese, who is coming back from injury.

"We had over 200 yards in offense so I do think we can do some things offensively," Caruso said. "Judens was doing a good job for us last year until he broke his collarbone. He's back this year and he ran the way he was capable of on Friday."

Saturday's match-up will pit two similar offenses, as Hopewell likes to chew up clock with quarterback Drew Semple and running backs Jeff Castagne and Sam Roskos.

"They're a lot like us," Caruso said. "Neither of us has that breakaway speed to get the big play."

Also in action Saturday is **Nottingham** (0-3), which hosts 1-2 Hightstown at noon. The Northstars opened with heart-breaking losses to Princeton and Lawrence before suffering a 34-14 setback at Notre Dame last Friday.

To say Nottingham's record is deceiving would be an understatement, considering its first three opponents are a combined 9-0.

Andre Simmons has been an able replacement for Kendrick Williams, having rushed for 224 yards and two touchdowns, while Robert Wiggs has grabbed 16 passes for a 16.1 average and two TDs.

Mike Newlin has been an able triggerman, completing 28 of 48 passes for 408 yards and two touchdowns.

Hightstown displayed a strong passing game last week, as Kevin Monahan found Jamil Robinson with a number of big passes.