



Gregory Williams and the Hornets will be running up against tough West Windsor-South team today (Photo by Donna Brihn)

Hamilton (4-1) at WWP South (6-0), Saturday, 1 p.m.

Hornets vs. Pirates offers Mercer County its Game of the Week

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Oct. 21: Look no further than your Hamilton West football team for the marquee match-up of

the week in Mercer County.

The once-beaten Hornets come off a loss and an extended bye and travels to undefeated West Windsor-Plainsboro South in a game Hamilton would love dearly to have.

West has not played since Thursday, Oct. 6 when it fell at Northern Burlington in overtime. Coach Tom Hoglen said his staff used the off days efficiently.

“Sixteen days is a long time between games,” Hoglen said. “It was time to get back to the basics and improve on things.

“We are healthy and used the time wisely. A bye week after a loss makes for a long two weeks but the players handled it well.”

West Windsor presents Hamilton with its toughest challenge to date. The Pirates are dangerous on both sides of the ball thanks mostly to Brian Schoenauer, Chris Evans and Chris Jones.

Schoenauer is the county’s leading rusher with 882 yards and 12 touchdowns, and all three are part of a ball hawking defense that comes up with interceptions en masse. The Pirates also strong in the trenches as defensive pressure often forces quarterbacks to throw quickly.

“South is a good team who plays sound football,” Hoglen said. “They give you a lot of things to prepare for.”

So it actually helped to have a lot of time to get ready for a lot of things.

“The two weeks off will help,” Hoglen said. “A mobile quarterback (Evans) and a great running back make it tough to prepare for. They will throw on any down and use play action passes very well.”

Hamilton will counter with its patented grind-it-out offense with Bret Stroman serving as leading man with help from Javed James and Ruben Desane. Quarterback Mark Acquaviva has shown the ability to run and also complete a pass when needed.

“They are playing great team defense and we must hold on to the football and eliminate penalties,” Hoglen said. “We’re looking forward to the challenge.”

Trenton (2-4) at Nottingham (3-2), Saturday, 1 p.m.

Nottingham returns to action after a productive bye week

Like Hamilton, the Northstars are coming off a loss and a bye as they prepare to host the alma mater of team photographer Mary “Mom” Malone.

Nottingham’s last game was on Oct. 6 in a loss at WW-P South, and unlike most coaches who don’t like to sit and stew after a setback, Jon “Big Dawg” Adams felt it was a welcome respite.

“It was a good thing,” Adams said. “We have fallen apart against two great teams in the final two minutes of the half (West, WWPS). In each of those games we closed the gap to six points in the last two minutes of the half only to see our opponent score two touchdowns to open a huge gap.

“We have worked on our mistakes which have cost us in both those ball games. We will see how these next three games go from here.”

Although linebacker Kyle James is still out with an injury – “a loss to our defense we still have not overcome,” according to Adams – Nottingham got healthier as tackle Aaron Camacho returned.

“He is an excellent player who is very bright and will make a huge difference in the run game,” Adams said. “We also spent time conditioning, working in the weight room and fixing some mistakes that have been costing us in ball games.”

The Northstars staff was on hand at last week’s Steinert win over Trenton, in which the Spartans held Trenton’s skill people down until the game was well in hand. Quarterback Jabree

Jackson is slick and elusive and sophomore receiver Zayaire Clemens is a deep threat.

“You only hope to contain people,” Adams said. “Stopping players of their ability is tough. Hopefully we can contain their big play abilities. They are certainly the key to their offense.”

Adams also has concerns about two way lineman Richard Levy, who is listed at 6-foot-6, 298 pounds.

“He’s big and quick,” the coach said. “Thankfully we get Aaron back. (OLB Tabree Peppers) is also a problem. He is big and fast. “We have spent a lot of time working on things to combat their size up front.”

WWP North (0-6) at Steinert (4-1), Saturday, 2 p.m.

Spartans hope to avoid a trap and ‘line up’ another win on Homecoming

For the second straight week Steinert will be at a Homecoming, but this one will be its own as the winless Northern Knights come to town.

“This is trap game and there are a lot of distractions with homecoming being this week,” coach Dan Caruso said. “We have been preaching to the team all week that we need to play just as intense as we have in the past because West Windsor will jump up and bite you.

“We were in this same situation in 2004, however, the game was over there and we laid an egg that day and it cost us the playoffs. This is a very similar situation.”

The bottom line is, if Steinert plays its game, it should win.

And a key to the Spartans success this season has been in the trenches, both offensively and defensively. The O-line has allowed just one sack all year and has been “playing well” according to Caruso.

“Shaiful Ali has been excellent so far this season,” the coach said. “He is a smaller guy but he is the strongest kid on our team and uses his ‘squatty’ frame to push people around. Enock Asante has been a rock for us at left tackle. He has not given up a sack all year and is dominating people.

“Our sophomore right tackle, Mike Remboski has done a remarkable job so far and I am very proud of him. It is not easy being thrown in as a sophomore to play right tackle and protect the blind side of a quarterback in a passing offense. I give him a ton of credit and the future is very bright for him.

“Left Guard Anthony Manfredi is, in my opinion, the most improved player on this team. He worked hard in the off-season and preseason to better himself and once he earned his position through hard work he has never looked back. He knows the line schemes like the back of his hand and has done an excellent job for us.”

And then there is the center, who is pretty much the quarterback of the line while snapping to the quarterback behind him.

“Alex Amodie has been great on the shotgun snaps this year,” Caruso said. “It takes a lot of confidence in someone to go to a shotgun-based offense and he’s one of the reasons we were able to do it. His snaps are always on the money and Adam (Riese) is very comfortable with Alex because he has been snapping to him for a long time.”

The defensive line has been a rotation of players with plenty of versatile parts to keep offenses guessing.

“We mix in a ton of guys but the one constant that always remains is our nose guard, Matt Parmigiani,” Caruso said. “He is everything you want a nose guard to be. Strong, quick, and relentless.

“We ask our nose to be a two gap player in our three-four scheme and that is very difficult. Without Matt I doubt we would be able to run this scheme. In my opinion he is one of the best linemen in this county.”