

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Knights, Spartans on rise

By GEORGE O'GORMAN

Staff Writer

**WEST WINDSOR** — For the past five years, the football teams at Steiner and West Windsor-Plainsboro North have watched most of their Colonial Valley Conference rivals head into November with a chance of making it to the NJSIAA's Central Jersey playoffs while they've only had a consolation game to look forward to.

That might change in a few days.

The 5-3 Northern Knights and 4-3 Spartans, two CVC teams who didn't face each other during the regular season, are among four Mercer County teams among the eight power point leaders for next week's playoffs.

Steiner's playoff hopes are a lot better than North's, but it will be until late Saturday before that picture clears up.

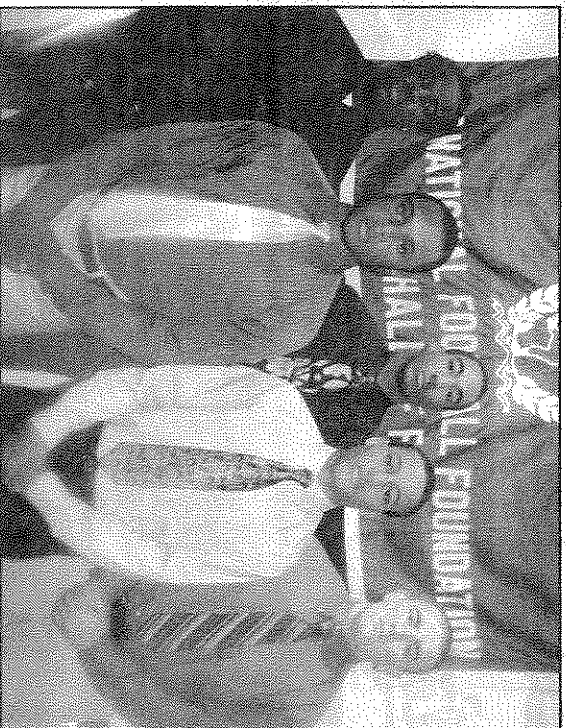
Unbeaten Notre Dame in Non-Public A and 5-3 West Windsor South in Group IV will be back in the postseason for the fifth straight year, but won't learn who or where they'll play their first round game Nov. 13-14.

As expected, playoff positioning was the hot topic at the 12th Man TD Club weekly awards dinner at Mercer Lake Boathouse last night as the CVC teams biggest fans — the cheerleaders — were also honored along with five Players of the Week.

Playoff power points are determined by a team's first eight games. Steiner and Hamilton are the only C.J. III contenders who don't play their eighth game until this weekend.

Hamilton is 4-3 and 12th in the C.J. III field, but since it plays at Notre Dame Friday could make a tremendous jump into the playoff picture since a win could earn Tom Hoglen's Hornets as much as 32 points. That would push Hamilton past Steiner.

The playoffs are uncharted territory for Dan Caruso's Spartans since Steiner hasn't been party of the C.J. playoff scene since Frank Gatto's 2003 squad lost at home to Brick Memorial in a 7-6 thriller. That was also the same year WW-P North last



Trentonian Photo/GEORGE O'GORMAN  
The 12th Man TD Club Players of the Week 8 of the season were (left to right) Ransford Quarrie of Notre Dame (Offensive Back), Jonathan Pulley of Steiner (Defensive Lineman), Donatae Johnson of Pennington School (Special Teams), Juvuan Lee of West Windsor North (Defensive Back) and Zack Orman of Hopewell Valley (Offensive Lineman).

TRENTONIAN RANKINGS

LARGE SCHOOLS

Jon Adams' Northstars, who have lost two in a row to fall out of the playoff hunt, have plenty to play for since a win over the Spartans not only gets them a share of the divisional title for the second year in a row, but also claim the Joe Logue Memorial Trophy as the winner of the Hamilton round-robin series between the three township schools.

"We told the kids today that for the first time in a long time there is pressure on us," said Caruso. "In the past it was always 'we have nothing to lose, so let it all hang out and finish strong!'"

"Nottingham is a big rivalry game for us. Everyone knows we have a shot for the playoffs, but we have to take it one step at a time and focus on Nottingham," said Caruso.

That means shutting down the CVC's top receiver in Robert Wiggs, who has 44 catches and seven touchdowns. "He is amazing and we have our work cut out. There is no other player in the league like him," said Caruso.

That means another big test for Steiner's defense, which had one of its standouts honored last night. Jonathan Pulley was the Defensive Lineman of the Week after he had 12 tackles, three for losses, in a narrow setback to WW-P South.

"Everyone was disappointed with that loss, but now they are all focused on Nottingham," said Pulley.

1. Neshaminy (8-1)
  2. Pennsbury (8-1)
  3. Notre Dame (8-0)
  4. Hunterdon Central (8-0)
  5. Council Rock North (6-3)
  6. Council Rock South (7-2)
  7. Seneca (5-2)
  8. Moorestown (5-3)
  9. Burlington Twp. (6-2)
  10. Pennington (4-3)
  11. Cornwall-Egan (5-4)
  12. Lawrence (6-2)
  13. West Windsor South (5-3)
  14. Steiner (4-3)
  15. Princeton (6-2)
  16. Hamilton (4-3)
  17. West Windsor No. (5-3)
  18. Ranococas Valley (2-5)
  19. Holy Cross (3-4)
  20. Bensalem (2-7)
  21. No. Burlington (2-6)
  22. Turman (2-7)
  23. Nottingham (3-5)
  24. Trenton (1-7)
  25. Avenetown (3-4)
  26. Hopewell Valley (2-6)
  27. Highstown (1-7)
- SMALL SCHOOLS
1. Cinnaminson (5-2)
  2. Windingford (4-3)
  3. Palmyra (5-2)
  4. Florence (4-3)
  5. Bristol (2-5)
  6. Delran (2-5)
  7. Burlington City (4-3)
  8. Wading Shade (3-5)
  9. Bordentown (1-6)
  10. Robbinston (2-5)
  11. Morrisville (5-4)
  13. New Egypt (1-6)
  14. Riverside (0-7)
  15. South Hunterdon (1-6)

Steiner currently trails 5-2 Neptune 95-93 in power points, so a win over 3-5 Nottingham could vault it past the Flyers and WW-P North which is at 99.

"We knew coming into the season we could have a chance to make the playoffs, but felt we would have to beat either Notre Dame, Princeton or South," said North coach Chris Casamento, whose team has already wrapped up the CVC Patriot Division crown.

WW-P North plays at Robbinville, a team its current senior class has never beaten.

CVC STATISTICS

(Through Games of Nov. 1)

RUSHING LEADERS

Player, School	Runs	Yards	TDS	Avg.
David Ogbornaya, Ewing	141	1096	13	7.7
Sean Head, WW-P North	141	1025	13	5.6
Ransford Quarrie, Notre Dame	140	1009	14	6.9
John Bryant, Lawrence	138	880	15	6.4
Ted Filly, Trenton	138	806	15	5.8
Josh Gordon, Princeton	138	806	15	4.4
Chris Jones, WW-P South	122	796	5	6.5
Ted Filly, Trenton	122	796	5	6.5
Chris Jones, WW-P South	115	624	6	4.3
Ted Filly, Trenton	115	624	6	4.3
Jamie Williams, Hamilton	104	580	4	4.4
Andre Simmons, Nottingham	104	580	4	4.4
Trevor Barsamian, Princeton	104	514	7	4.9
X-Drew Semple, Hopewell Valley	114	485	4	4.2
Keith Sherman, Lawrence	53	459	8	8.6
Dan Darrago, Steiner	54	459	8	8.6
Anthony Palma, WW-P South	65	376	4	7.0
Andrew Goetts, Steiner	85	342	4	4.0
Kyle Williams, Hamilton	86	336	3	3.9
Andy Vital, Nottingham	74	324	2	4.5
Len Bellezza, WW-P North	42	282	1	6.5
Mark Montgolfio, Highstown	43	241	1	5.5
Mark Montgolfio, Highstown	33	211	1	6.4

PASSING LEADERS

Player, School	Passing	Yards	TDS	Pct
Mark Newlin, Nottingham	83-161-7	1231	14	51.5
Anthony Palma, Notre Dame	66-110-4	954	9	60.0
Mike Oleniak, Princeton	59-139-10	880	4	42.4
Kevin Norman, Highstown	58-139-7	856	6	51.7
Chris Doyle, WW-P South	54-92-5	738	9	51.8
X-Sean Eccles, Avenetown	40-89-5	617	5	44.9
Steven Arnold, Ewing	35-73-4	536	6	47.9
Jake DeAngelis, Hamilton	32-77-6	523	5	43.5
Zack Donarute, WW-P South	21-45-2	324	4	41.8
X-Drew Semple, Hopewell Valley	27-62-6	365	3	43.5
Kyle Johnson, Trenton	22-44-5	324	2	50.0
Adam Reese, Steiner	34-80-3	306	2	42.5
Ryan DeAngelis, Robbinstonville	13-34-3	209	0	28.2
Yvesi Badiu, Trenton	5-21-0	137	1	25.0
Davante Auber, Trenton	5-21-0	110	1	25.0

RECEIVING LEADERS

Player, School	Rec	Yards	TDS	Avg.
Robert Wiggs, Nottingham	44	766	7	17.4
Ryan Lymady, Notre Dame	24	263	3	10.9
Nick Miranda, Princeton	18	292	2	16.2
Doug Bryant, Princeton	17	328	3	19.2
Nick Brackett, Lawrence	17	199	1	11.7
Justin Adams, Notre Dame	16	313	1	19.5
Adam Devigili, Nottingham	16	206	3	12.8
Darryl Griffin, Ewing	15	164	0	10.9
Mark Muller, Avenetown	14	248	2	17.7
Azzaren Coleman, Lawrence	14	203	2	14.5
Drew Keravan, WW-P North	13	125	1	9.6
Keith Sherman, Lawrence	13	109	1	8.3
Drew Keravan, WW-P North	13	109	1	8.3
Nick Montgolfio, Highstown	11	94	0	8.6

SCORING LEADERS

Player, School	TD	PTS.
Ross Scheinerman, Avenetown	14	84
David Ogbornaya, Ewing	13	82
Sean Head, WW-P North	13	82
Ransford Quarrie, Notre Dame	14	84
Mark Newlin, Nottingham	13	82
Mark Montgolfio, Highstown	13	82
George Schulich, Notre Dame	9	54
Trevor Barsamian, Princeton	8	50
Robert Wiggs, Nottingham	8	50
Keith Sherman, Lawrence	8	48
Teddy Filly, Trenton	7	48
Jake D'Angelo, Hamilton	6	40
Josh Gordon, Princeton	6	40
Drew Semple, Hopewell Valley	5	36
Jamie Williams, Hamilton	5	36
Dylan Varian, Princeton	4	30
Blair Vanden, WW-P South	4	30
Jahid Bapat, Lawrence	4	24
Drew Keravan, WW-P North	4	24
Chris Jones, WW-P South	4	24
Todd Perrone, WW-P North	4	24
Kyle Williams, Hamilton	4	24
Len Bellezza, WW-P North	3	18
Andrew Mavin, Nottingham	3	18
Andrew Mavin, Nottingham	3	18

Interception Leaders

Juvuan Lee (WW-P North) 7, Doug Bryant (Princeton) 6, Ryan Barza (WW-P South) 3, Jamal King (Trenton) 3, Todd Perrone (WW-P North) 2, Andy Vital (Nottingham) 2, Jerri Hoffman (Trenton) 2, Daniel Hudson (Lawrence) 2, Jared Rubenstein (WW-P South) 3
---

12TH MAN TD CLUB PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**OFFENSIVE BACK:** Ransford Quarrie, Notre Dame. The senior Irish running back returned to the scene of his first varsity game at running back and had 15 carries for 154 yards and two TDs in 34-14 win for 8-0 ND over Princeton. It put Quarrie over 1,000 yards for the first time with 1,029 for the season.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMAN:** Zack Orman, Hopewell Valley. The Bulldogs right offensive tackle helped HoVal gain 315 yards of total offense in heart-breaking 21-20 loss to Lawrence that was the second one-point loss in a row for the Bulldogs.

**DEFENSIVE BACK:** Juvuan Lee, WW-P North. The CVC interception leader with four going into the weekend, the Knights junior defensive back almost doubled that total as he came up with three, plus two tackles and two pass breakups in 14-6 win over Hamilton that kept WW-P North in the Central Jersey/II playoff chase.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMAN:** Jonathan Pulley, Steiner. Although the red hot Spartans had their 4-game win streak end, the continued to play strong defense, led by Pulley who posted 12 tackles, including three for losses, in a game that saw the Spartans battle playoff-bound WW-P South down to the wire before falling, 20-13.

**SPECIAL TEAMS:** Donatae Johnson, Pennington. The Red Raiders senior 2-sport star who has already committed to play at North Carolina State, had a 99-yard kickoff return for touchdown to help coach Jerry Eures' Raider clinch the Independence League championship with a 45-10 romp over Academy of the New Church that raised Pennington's record to 6-2 with its fifth straight victory.