FOOTBALL LEADERS

(Statistics through Thursday)

TIMES TOP 10

1. Hunterdon Central (9-0)
2. Notre Dame (9-0)
3. Princeton (7-2)
4. Lawrence (7-2)
5. Montgomery (5-4)
6. West Windsor-Plainsboro South (5-4)
7. Steinert (5-3)
8. Pennington (6-3)
9. West Windsor-Plainsboro North (6-3)
10. Hamilton (4-4)

COLONIAL VALLEY CONFERENCE

Rushing

Player, School	Att	Yds	TD
David Ogbonnaya, Ewing	163	1269	13
Sean Reed, WW-P North	209	1222	13
Ransford Quarrie, Notre Dame	154	1155	16
Ross Scheuerman, Allentown	183	1094	15
Jihad Bryant, Lawrence	176	945	6
Teddy Fully, Trenton	221	935	9
Josh Gordon, Princeton	135	746	5
Trevor Barsamian, Princeton	136	625	9
Keith Sherman, Lawrence	75	624	12
Chris Jones, WW-P South	162	597	7
Andre Simmons, Nottingham	132	576	3
Jamie Williams, Hamilton	70	528	3

Passing

Player, School	Comp	Att	Yds	TD
Mark Newlin, Nottingham	91	177	1282	14
Mike Olentine, Princeton	72	160	1144	7
Kevin Monahan, Hightstown	74	166	1101	7
Anthony Perna, Notre Dame	72	117	1030	9
Ryan Phelan, WW-P North	50	121	912	7
Chris Coyle, Lawrence	62	121	759	9
Sean Eccles, Allentown	46	102	734	4
Chris Evans, WW-P South	42	79	575	4
Steve Arnold, Ewing	42	98	548	6
Ryan DeAngelis, Robbinsville	41	83	443	1

Receiving

Player, School	Rec	Yds	TD
Robert Wiggs, Nottingham	51	862	7
Doug Bryant, Princeton	25	444	3
Ryan Lynady, Notre Dame	26	398	4
Jamil Robinson, Hightstown	23	395	4
Nick Miranda, Princeton	19	359	3
Justin Adams, Notre Dame	20	352	2
Matt Mueller, Allentown	21	340	4
Jack Dennehy, WW-P South	16	303	4
Bernard Darrin, Trenton	13	302	4
Murphy Wallace, Hightstown	13	297	2

Scoring

Player, School	Pts
Ross Scheuerman, Allentown	98
Ransford Quarrie, Notre Dame	98
Sean Reed, WW-P North	90
David Ogbonnaya, Ewing	84
Keith Sherman, Lawrence	72
Teddy Fully, Trenton	68
Mark Newlin, Nottingham	62
Trevor Barsamian, Princeton	62
Anthony Perna, Notre Dame	54
George Solujich, Notre Dame	50

Team Offense

Team (Record)	G	Yds	Avg.
Notre Dame (9-0)	9	2837	315.2
Nottingham (3-6)	9	2699	299.9
Allentown (4-4)	8	2372	296.5
Princeton (7-2)	9	2569	295.4
Hamilton (4-4)	8	2253	281.6
WW-P North (6-3)	9	2529	281.0
Lawrence (7-2)	9	2364	262.7
Hopewell Valley (2-7)	9	1959	244.9
WW-P South (5-4)	9	2160	240.0
Ewing (3-6)	9	2058	228.7
Trenton (2-7)	9	1927	214.1
Steinert (5-3)	8	1639	204.9
Robbinsville (2-6)	8	1626	203.3
Hightstown (1-8)	9	1787	198.6

Team Defense

Team	G	Yds	Avg.
Steinert	8	1508	188.5
Notre Dame	9	1750	194.4
Hamilton	8	1599	199.9
Princeton	9	2146	238.4
WW-P North	9	2181	242.3
Ewing	9	2203	244.8
Trenton	9	2214	246.0
Hopewell Valley	9	2229	247.7
WW-P South	9	2315	257.2
Allentown	8	2236	279.5
Nottingham	9	2516	279.6
Lawrence	9	2532	281.3
Robbinsville	8	2410	301.3
Hightstown	9	2704	338.0

PREP

Rushing

Player, School	Att	Yds	TD
Brendan Morgan, Hun	130	1036	7
Malcolm Perry, Pennington	120	778	10
Dylan Kelly, Princeton Day	118	587	6
Gary Sharp, Peddie	55	417	1
Colin Weingrad, Hun	69	406	6
Evan Rothfeld, Peddie	52	220	2
Anthony Gaffney, Pennington	26	290	2
Halley Gartner, Peddie	30	163	2
Josh Meekins, Princeton Day	40	145	1

Passing

Player, School	Comp	Att	Yds	TD
Keith Dearden, Pennington	83	157	1439	17
Brendan Dudeck, Hun	65	133	706	4
Rhett Bender, Peddie	44	109	587	2
Davon Reed, Princeton Day	9	20	128	0
Dan Reynolds, Princeton Day	11	47	121	3

Receiving

Player, School	Rec	Yds	TD
Harold Spears, Pennington	41	764	9
Dontae Johnson, Pennington	27	433	7
Hakeem Valles, Peddie	24	356	3
Dave Dudeck, Hun	22	328	2
Anthony Gaffney, Pennington	26	290	2
Chris Alston, Hun	14	150	1
Isaac Gittens, Peddie	13	147	0

Scoring

Player, School	Pts
Harold Spears, Pennington	68
Malcolm Perry, Pennington	60
Dontae Johnson, Pennington	58

KEVIN MALONEY'S FOOTBALL PREDICTIONS

TONIGHT

NJSIAA Group IV Non-Public

Bergen Catholic at Notre Dame, 7 p.m.

Live on WHWH 1350 AM

Bergen Catholic (7-2), the No. 7 seed, will be making its 33rd appearance in the state playoffs, tied for most in state history with Pope John. The Crusaders' two losses on the season came to national power Don Bosco Prep (28-20) and state power St. Peter's Prep (26-23), teams that are a combined 14-2. Doug Rigg (56 carries, 410 yards, 4 TDs) leads a four-pronged attack out of the backfield that includes quarterback Mike Halligan (60 carries, 306 yards, 4 TDs) and Karl Bostick (35 carries, 249 yards, 6 TDs). Halligan has completed 101 of 146 passes (69 percent) for 1,293 yards and 20 TDs. Halligan's top two receiving threats are Tanner McEvoy (27 receptions, 311 yards, 9 TDs) and Cameron Dickerson (27 catches, 431 yards, 6 TDs). Linebacker Brendan McGovern and defensive back John Maughan lead the Crusaders with 66 and 54 tackles, respectively.

Notre Dame (9-0), the No. 2 seed, is back in the postseason for the 11th consecutive season and second straight season at the friendly, home confines of Monsignor Walter E. Nolan Field. The Irish, appearing in the playoffs for a CVC-record 26th time, finished the regular season undefeated for the first time since 2004 — the last time they won a postseason game, 19-13 in double-overtime at home against Camden Catholic. Behind the CVC's top-ranked offense (31.4 ppg., 315.2 ypg.) and most suffocating defense (10.1 ppg.; 194.4 ypg. is second only to Steinert), the Irish have what it takes to get past the Crusaders, ranked No. 6 in the state. Behind standout tailback Ransford Quarrie and dual-threat quarterback Anthony Perna, Notre Dame has averaged almost three times more rushing attempts per game (35.1) than pass attempts (13). Notre Dame has not played from behind once all season, so it will be interesting to see how the Irish respond if they fall into an early hole.

While it won't quite be a "Shock the World" upset, Notre Dame pulls off the 24-21 upset.

NJSIAA Group IV Central

WW-P South at E. Brunswick, 7 p.m.

Thanks to a late-season surge, WW-P South (5-4) is back in the postseason for the fifth straight season under head coach Todd Smith. The Pirates are coming off a 31-17 loss to Princeton in which they allowed 14 fourth-quarter points. WW-P South has not started games well this season, getting outscored by a combined total of 89-70 in the first half, but has played much better in the third and fourth quarters, outscoring opponents 111-47. It is the first road playoff game for WW-P South since it lost to Howell, 46-13, in the NJSIAA Group IV Central final at Rutgers on Nov. 30, 2007. The Pirates are allowing 168 ypg. on the ground, which could be a bit problematic considering the Bears' Veer offense is averaging 198.1 rushing yards. WW-P South, which has turned the football over just twice and committed three penalties for 26 yards over the last two games, will need another clean football game to pull out the victory.

East Brunswick (5-3), the No. 4 seed, has lost three times, but all three have come to playoff teams (Piscataway, Sayreville and Brick Memorial) and only one of those games was decided by more than three points. Mauro Tucci, a 5-foot-9, 190-pound fire hydrant who doubles as the Bears' quarterback, averages more than 159 ypg. (75.8 rushing, 83.9 passing) and has accounted for 13 total TDs in leading the offense. Mike Weber (70 carries, 401 yards, 5 TDs) and Jared Lynch (59 carries, 363 yards, 2 TDs) split the carries in the backfield when Tucci (131 carries) does not keep the football in the option-read offense. Tim O'Sullivan (17 catches, 316 yards, 4 TDs) is the leading receiver and Weber and Nick Gudzak are the team's leading tacklers.

It is nearly impossible to teach an effective way to stop the Veer in four days, Bears 35-20.

Montgomery at Howell, 7 p.m.

After opening the season with a 5-1 mark behind a four-game winning streak, Montgomery (5-4), the No. 7 seed, enters tonight's contest having lost three straight. The Cougars' defense is allowing an average of 36 ppg. in those contests after allowing 14.5 during the winning streak. Montgomery fell to Howell, 49-20, in the first playoff game in school history in 2007.

Howell (7-1), the No. 2 seed, responded from its lone loss of the season two weeks ago, 21-12 to Sayreville, with a 37-19 drubbing of Southern last weekend. The Rebels have what can barely be described as a running game (79.1 ypg.) but compensate for that with a high-powered passing attack led by quarterback Jimmy Ryan, who has thrown for 18 TDs and more than 2,230 yards on the season.

Hard to contain Howell's aerial attack, Rebels 28-14.

NJSIAA Group III Central

Steinert at Ocean Township, 7 p.m.

Live on wbcb1490.com

Steinert (5-3) earned the No. 6 seed and the first showing in the state tournament since 2003 by winning five of its last six games, including a 34-7 thrashing over rival Nottingham to ensure itself of a postseason berth. The Spartans' defense leads the CVC in yards allowed per game at 188.5 and has yielded a total of just 19 points in their last four victories. Senior tailback Judens Goimbert is coming off of the best game of his career, rushing for 158 yards and three touchdowns on 20 carries. Four-year starter and all-purpose threat Dan Danaso continues to find ways to be productive once the ball is in his hands, as he's turned 86 touches into 692 yards from scrimmage and four TDs. Steinert is seeking the first playoff victory in school history.

Ocean Township (6-2) righted the ship and secured the No. 3 seed by snapping a two-game losing streak with a resounding 36-0 victory over Red Bank Regional last Friday. In their six victories, the Spartans' defense has allowed less than one touchdown per game (with two shutouts), while the offense has scored more than 26 ppg.

Ocean rolls in the battle of the Spartans, 28-6.

Princeton at Monroe, 7 p.m.

Princeton (7-2) looks for a much better showing than it turned in during its last trip to the playoffs in 2007, when it was rolled by Long Branch, 38-3. The seventh-seeded Little Tigers' two losses came to playoff teams Notre Dame and Steinert. Senior tailback Josh Gordon (135 carries, 746 yards, 5 TDs) should be back in the starting lineup after suffering a high-ankle sprain early in the Notre Dame loss. Trevor Barsamian has performed well in Gordon's absence, rushing for 251 yards and three TDs on 45 carries, but even he readily admits that the offense is more dynamic with the speedy Gordon complementing his bruising running style. Quarterback Mike Olentine threw for a career-high 263 yards in last week's victory over WW-P South but needs to be cognizant of turning the football over (12 interceptions compared to 7 TDs on the season).

Monroe (7-1), which is making just the third postseason appearance in school history, enters tonight's meeting having won six straight, with an average margin of victory of 26.5 points. Linebackers Chris Geist, Chris Gregor and defensive back Marc Tyson have each recorded more than 50 tackles on the season. The Falcons can throw the football when they need to but rely mostly on the legs of tailback Blake Bascom. The 6-foot, 176-pound Bascom has rushed for 1,125 yards and 14 TDs on 172 carries.

A better showing from Princeton, but Monroe prevails 27-17.

WW-P North at Middletown S., 7 p.m.

WW-P North (6-3) earned the No. 8 seed and its first playoff berth since 2004 — and only the second postseason berth in school history - by tying the school's previous season high with six victories. The Knights are going to need a lot to fall in their favor to pull of what would go down as one of the biggest upsets — if not the biggest — in CVC playoff history. Primarily, the Knights will need to rely on the running of Sean Reed, the second-leading rusher in the CVC with 1,222 yards and 13 TDs. Second, WW-P North can't afford to turn over the football, as it did 30 times (16 fumbles, 14 interceptions) during the regular season. It certainly would not hurt the Knights' chances if they could throw the ball effectively through the air as they did early in the season.

Middletown South (8-0), the No. 1 seed, enters tonight's meeting with the Knights with one of the glossies résumés in state playoff history. The Eagles, making their 21st playoff appearance, boast a 35-11 all-time record, have reached the finals 16 times and hoisted the championship on nine separate occasions. Middletown South is certainly on a mission to get back to the finals, where it was edged by Freehold Borough, 21-14, last year. The Eagles have allowed just 17 points over the last four weeks and 33 points on the season. No CVC team has ever won a postseason game at the infamous "Swamp".

A crushing end to a very good season for WW-P North, Middletown South 35-6.