

## Oct 6 Football Previews: Week 5



*While Bret Stroman (16) and the Hornets will be trying to remain on their undefeated run, Jimir Jenkins (23) and Nottingham are hoping to drag WWP-South out of the ranks of the unbeaten (Photo by Donna Brihn).*

**Nottingham (3-1) at WW-P South (4-0); Thursday, 3 p.m.**

### **Adams has no doubt there will be no letdown by Pirates after big win**

**By Rich Fisher**

**Fish4Scores.com**

**Oct. 5:** Football coaches are the best, because they always think the worst.

Had it been Nottingham that took a thrilling one-point victory over Notre Dame last week, rest assured coach Jon Adams and his staff would be concerned that their team might suffer a letdown in Thursday's game with West Windsor-Plainsboro South.

But it was the Pirates who came up with a 10-9 victory over the Irish last Friday night, leaving them as one of the few undefeated teams in Mercer County. More than likely, WWPS coach Todd Smith is wondering if his team will let down.

But Adams has no such concerns.

"Coach Smith will have them ready, I assure you," Adams said with a laugh.

And Nottingham better be ready as well, as the Pirates come in unbeaten and scored 10 unanswered points against ND to pull out a thrilling victory. If the Pirates have an advantage, it is that they played on Friday, giving them an extra day's rest on this short week.

But this promises to be an interesting game if Nottingham can overcome itself at certain times. The Northstars are coming off a win over Lawrence in which Esayah Obado threw three touchdowns, but Adams says they should be scoring more.

He hopes they can get some lengthy drives Thursday in order to keep the Pirates offense off the field.

"We need to eliminate mistakes that have killed drives in the first few games," noted the Big Dawg. "We need to keep (running back/defensive back Brian Schoenauer) and (quarterback/defensive back) Chris Evans on the sidelines as long as possible. . .well, since they go both ways, keep them on defense as much as possible.

"We're getting a couple key guys back this week, especially (receiver) Luke Westerberg, so we are hopeful we can move the ball."

As for the defense, Adams said "We need to make sure we are communicating against their formations and we have to tackle (Schoenauer) and (Chris Jones). And we do not want (Evans) to get loose. He hurt us last year. We just want to contain him."

With a 3-1 record, Nottingham is right in the hunt for the playoffs, and a win against Group IV WWPS could mean plenty of power points.

"This is big as we're not only facing one of best teams in Western Jersey Football League, and maybe in all of Central Jersey, but we need it for playoff seeding," Adams said. "We want to play better than we did against West (in their only loss). We let West dictate tempo, that can't happen against West Windsor South."

**Hamilton (4-0) at Northern Burlington (2-1); Thursday, 7 p.m.**

### **Hamilton will see a mirror image during its trip to Columbus**

The last time Hamilton left Mercer County for a football game, it nearly upset Middletown South in last year's CJ III playoffs.

The trip won't be quite as far tonight, and the task won't be quite as daunting, but Northern Burlington County still presents a formidable challenge for the unbeaten Hornets.

In fact, they are similar to the Hornets in that they like to grind it out with a powerful running game.

"NBC and us are a lot alike," coach Tom Hoglen said. "They are big and physical up front with a great tailback (Tosin Adeyemo) who breaks tackles. We will need to tackle as a team and score on offense when we have the opportunities, and we have to eliminate turnovers."

Hamilton is coming off a 47-0 thumping of West Windsor-Plainsboro North in which it scored on its first seven possessions. Hoglen and his staff were pleased at how the Hornets took care of business against a winless team.

"The coaching staff was happy with the way that the team came out on Homecoming," the coach said. "The one issue that we did not like was the number of penalties we had.

"But we are excited about going 7-for-7 in the passing game and that the defense recorded a shutout."

The Greyhounds are coming off a bruising, 24-14 win over Pemberton, in which Adeyemo amassed 172 yards and two touchdowns on 26 carries.

"Tosin Adeyemo has great feet and can wear a team down as the game goes on," Hoglen

said. "He is a physical runner who can break it at any time."

Hamilton has its own version of Adeyemo in Bret Stroman, who can get the tough inside yards and explode to the outside. As Adams noted, Hamilton's passing game is slowly making its presence felt as well. That could be necessary in order to keep NBC's defense honest.

"They have three very good linebackers who fly to the ball and a defensive line that plays the run well," Hoglen said.

This is another huge game for playoff seeding.

"I just pointed out the importance to our team of what a win would mean for both teams," Hoglen said.

## **Steinert has a welcome bye**

Steinert is fortunate to have a by this week, in more ways than one.

First off, the Spartans are off on the short week of preparation, meaning it doesn't have to worry about coming back with banged up players on just four days of rest.

More importantly, with all the controversy surrounding the team due to last Friday's arrests, it would have been tough for the players to focus on much this week, so the timing could not have been better.