

# Elite teams can look to playoffs — next week!

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For all teams, the regular season in high school football ends this weekend. For a select group, another is about to begin — the playoff season.

Farmington Harrison, Detroit Catholic Central and Westland John Glenn are accustomed to playing in November, but it will be a new experience for Redford

## GRID PICKS

Union.

Harrison has qualified in Class A, and RU seems certain to do likewise. Redford St. Agatha, CC and Glenn are very much in the picture but must win their final games to avoid the number-crunching, 11th-hour anxiety that comes with being on the bubble.

Clarenceville is the only other area team with a chance, but the Trojans are still a darkhorse in Class CC even if they finish 7-2.

In the prediction contest, Livonia-Westland Sports Editor Brad Emons is poised to win the title for the first time since 1995.

Emons was perfect last week (14-0) and moved ahead of Dan O'Meara, who was a not-so-hot 13-1. Consequently, Emons holds a one-game lead entering the

season finale, 90-26 to 89-27.

That might not seem like a big lead, but it's probably insurmountable since there doesn't appear to be many, if any, toss-up games on the schedule. Every one has what could be considered an obvious favorite.

But there are some upset possibilities, and it could be an interesting final round. Here's the lineup of games and the picks:

### THURSDAY GAME

St. Agatha vs. East Catholic, 7 p.m. at RU's Kraft Field: Fullback Dan Boulter had a big day (203 yards and two touchdowns) as the Eagles (6-2) defeated St. Alphonsus of the Catholic League D-Section, 25-14. They'll be going the other way and playing up a rank this week against the Tri-Sectional's East Catholic. The Chiefs (1-7) won their first game Saturday over wireless Benedictine, 14-6. **PICKS:** The Eagles go into the playoffs on a winning note.

### FRIDAY GAMES

(all times 7:30 p.m. unless noted)

Borgess vs. Det. N'weston, 3:30 p.m. at Garden City Jr. High: Bishop Borgess (5-3) is guaranteed a winning season after beating Allen Park Cabini, 38-19. The Spartans can better last year's 5-4 record with one more win, but they face a bigger, Class AA school in Northwestern (2-6), which lost to Detroit Pershing, 28-6. **PICKS:** The Colts can't be corralled.

Wayne at John Glenn, 7: Despite losing to Harrison Glenn (7-1) should be motivated for this game. If they can rebound this week, the Rockets should make the playoffs with an eighth win. But this is one of those big intra-district rivalries, and the Zebras (4-4) can pull the upset if the Rockets aren't ready. **PICKS:** The real John Glenn is back in

orbit and so are the Rockets.

Taylor Kennedy at RU, 7: The Panthers (8-0) are headed for an undefeated regular season, barring a major upset in this game. RU crushed Melvindale to win the Mega-Blue championship outright and appears to be a cinch to make the playoffs. The Eagles (1-7) were thrashed by another unbeaten team last week, Mega-White champion Trenton, 40-10. **PICKS:** It's a perfect season for the Panthers.

Churchill at Stevenson: It's been a long time since Churchill beat cross-town rival Stevenson, though last year's game was close. The Spartans won, 21-14. Stevenson (4-4) had to come from behind and score with 2 1/2 minutes left to erase a 19-18 deficit and beat Canton, 26-19. Churchill (2-6) had a close call, too, but wasn't so fortunate, losing 12-10 to Walled Lake Central. **PICKS:** The Spartans finish above .500.

Trenton at Franklin: The Patriots (1-7) got their first victory last week, but ending the season with a two-game win streak is a tall order. That will require a big upset over Trenton (8-0), ranked No. 4 in Class BB. But Franklin did just that two years ago when Trenton also was unbeaten through eight games, 24-15. The Patriots were 6-3 that year, however. **PICKS:** The Trojans avoid the upset this time.

Thurston at Garden City: The Eagles (5-3) lost a shootout with Ypsilanti last week but can finish with a fine record by winning the season finale. Thurston beat Garden City last year, 42-7. The Cougars (1-7) are coming off a one-sided loss to playoff-hopeful Allen Park. **PICKS:** The Eagles improve upon last year's 5-4 record.

Canton vs. Salem at CEP: The underdog has a history of pulling the upset in this backyard rivalry. The favorite isn't so clear cut this year, but Salem (4-4) does have a better record than Canton (2-6). As for past games, there was 1988 when Canton beat Salem for the first time, 21-14. The Chiefs finished 3-6, the Rocks 6-3. In 1993, Salem rallied

from a 22-7 halftime deficit to win 23-22. Jay Perko scored with 1:37 remaining in the game, and Rob Shepley ran for the crucial two-point conversion. That started a string of five straight Salem victories, including a 10-7 win last year. Canton's last victory was a 21-0 decision in 1992. **PICKS:** The Rocks extend their winning streak.

### SATURDAY GAMES

(all times 1 p.m. unless noted)

Clarenceville at Uggitt: The Trojans (6-2, 5-2) are having their best season in years but need another win to keep alive their outside playoff hopes in Class CC. Clarenceville's tailback Walter Ragland will try to outduel Nick Matland, who has gained more than 1,000 yards for the Knights (5-3, 4-3). The Trojans also should keep an eye on Uggitt's Ward Howatt, who scored three touchdowns Saturday against Lutheran Westland. **PICKS:** Emons likes the visitors in this one, but O'Meara goes with the home team.

Lutheran Wald. at Harper Woods: The prospects for a victory in 1998 don't look too promising for the Warriors (0-8, 0-7), who face the second-place team in the Metro Conference in their last game. The only team to defeat Harper Woods (7-1, 6-1) was Lutheran North. **PICKS:** The Pioneers produce another win.

Lakeland at Farmington: The Falcons (5-3), who received a forfeit victory after it was learned Navi used an ineligible player in the first game, can finish with their best record since 1994 with one more win. That seems likely to happen since Farmington has never lost to Lakeland (1-7). Farmington kicker Stephen Wayne could be very busy Saturday.

He's a member of the soccer team, which could be playing for a regional title at Southgate Anderson at 11 a.m. If that's the case, he's not likely to make it back in time for the opening kickoff, but he should be available if the Falcons need him again. They did last week when he kicked three field goals, including the game-winner with 2:54 remaining, to beat Northville, 23-20. **PICKS:** It won't be as close as last week. The Falcons have a little easier time.

Howell at N. Farmington: The Highlanders (5-3) were one of the preseason favorites in the Kensington Valley Conference and are having a good year despite not winning the title. North knocked off Howell, 16-10, last year to finish 6-3, but the Highlanders could do the same this year. Joe Carpenter had a big game (283 yards rushing and four touchdowns) in Howell's 33-7 win over Ann Arbor Huron last week. **PICKS:** The Highlanders take the high road to victory.

Country Day at Harrison: A win over the Yellow Jackets has served as a springboard into the playoffs for the Hawks (8-0) the last two years. The newly-crowned Western Lakes champs hope to do it again as they prepare to defend their Class A crown. Harrison won last year, 29-6. The Hawks can't be looking ahead to the post-season, however. Country Day (4-4) always has talent and the potential to win, which it did Saturday, 45-0 over Montpelier (Ohio). **PICKS:** Harrison goes 9-0 for the ninth time in school history.

Redford CC vs. D.L. St. Mary's, 7 p.m. at the Pontiac Silverdome: The Shamrocks (7-0) have been eager for a rematch with the Eagles (7-1). Coach Tom Mach undoubtedly will remind them of their 24-20 loss to St. Mary's last year, which cost CC the Central-West division championship and a chance to defend its Catholic League title. The Shamrocks haven't lost since then while winning their last 14 games. St. Mary's moved to the Central-East this year, so this year's game will be for the league championship (if CC needs any added motivation). The Eagles had a big game Saturday, beating Brother Rice in their showdown for the division title, 34-13.

**PICKS:** O'Meara takes a chance and picks St. Mary's. Emons predicts a CC win.

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## FOOTBALL

### MHSAA COMPUTER RANKINGS

#### CLASS AA REGION 2

1. Lake Orion (7-1) 97.750
2. Brighton (7-1) 95.054
3. Romeo (7-1) 93.625
4. Westland John Glenn (7-1) 93.876
5. Monroe (7-1) 91.750
6. Clarkston (6-2) 86.500
7. Walled Lake Western (7-1) 83.875
8. Temperance Bedford (6-2) 72.375
9. Ann Arbor Pioneer (5-3) 67.107
10. South Lyon (5-3) 66.304

#### CLASS AA REGION 3

1. Redford Catholic Central (7-0) 100.714
2. Troy (7-1) 92.750
3. Detroit Cass Tech (7-1) 90.143
4. Detroit Henry Ford (7-1) 86.750
5. Dearborn Fordson (7-1) 81.750
6. Birmingham Brother Rice (6-2) 77.714
7. Detroit Mumford (5-3) 72.064
8. Detroit Redford (5-3) 65.000

#### CLASS A REGION 3

1. Farmington Harrison (8-0) 112.000
2. Dearborn (7-1) 92.750
3. Redford Union (8-0) 93.000
4. Allen Park (7-1) 85.875
5. Saline (7-1) 85.750
6. Hartland (6-2) 82.911
7. Fenton (6-2) 82.125
8. Waterford Wixom (6-2) 75.375
9. Ypsilanti (5-3) 64.625
10. Farmington (4-4) 67.714

#### CLASS CC REGION 4

1. Capac (8-0) 74.143
2. Montrose (7-1) 68.750
3. Almont (7-1) 59.018
4. Goodrich (7-1) 57.750
5. Riverview Gabriel Richard (7-1) 57.375
6. Pigeon Lever (6-2) 54.375
7. Ingham (5-2) 53.875
8. Clarenceville (6-2) 52.500
9. Clinton (5-3) 53.714
10. East Jackson (5-3) 44.625

#### CLASS D REGION 4

1. Redford St. Agatha (8-2) 41.151
2. Detroit Holy Redeemer (5-3) 38.786
3. Peck (5-3) 33.375
4. Center Line St. Clement (4-4) 33.000