

LANCASTER-LEBANON LEAGUE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL REVIEW

SUCCESS STORIES

Looking back at this
year's top 10 *LNP*
Games of the Week



BONUS:

A look ahead
at the 2019-20
hoops season

INSIDE

LNP

LANCASTER-LEBANON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Year in Review

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CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Penn Manor QB Luke Braas, right, rolls out of the pocket in the 2019 season opener under pressure from Conestoga Valley's Booper Johnson (1) and Leo Marente (70) on Aug. 23.

WEEK 1 SCORES

GAMES OF AUG. 23

- Hempfield 26, Dallastown 3
- Manheim Township 43, CD East 6
- Red Lion 39, McCaskey 14
- Penn Manor 19, Conestoga Valley 13
- Warwick 61, Ephrata 0
- Cocalico 42, Conrad Weiser 15
- Elizabethtown 17, Donegal 7
- Daniel Boone 20, Garden Spot 14
- Lamp.-Strasburg 50, Spring Grove 6
- Manheim Central 16, Susquehanna Twp. 7
- Lancaster Catholic 39, Camp Hill 25
- Northeastern York 55, Solanco 35
- Columbia 35, Eastern York 28
- Pottstown 14, Octorara 13
- Kennard-Dale 55, Pequea Valley 6
- Wilson 21, Central Dauphin 13
- Cedar Crest 28, Lebanon 6
- Milton Hershey 48, Annville-Cleona 16
- Susquenita 21, Elco 19
- Pine Grove 50, Northern Lebanon 8

About this section

The Lancaster-Lebanon League High School Football Review looks back on the 2019 regular season.

This keepsake special section revisits all 10 LNP Games of the Week. It features the game stories as reported from week to week by LNP's sports staff, with game photos from Chris Knight.

Also, each week's look back includes the featured

game's box score, plus a scoreboard with the results of each L-L team in action that week.

Additionally, because the winter sports season is right around the corner, at the end of this section we're featuring a short preseason look ahead at the prospects for boys and girls basketball in the Lancaster-Lebanon League.

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ON THE COVER: Warwick's Conor Adams runs in for a touchdown after a catch against Manheim Central during the second half at the Warriors' Grosh Field on Sept. 6. Warwick earned a 37-7 victory over the Barons in the Week 3 contest.

Cover photo by Chris Knight.
Cover design by Todd B. Spidle.

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READERS' CHOICE Favorite 2019

WEEK 1: PENN MANOR 19, CONESTOGA VALLEY 13

Comets kicked off on right foot

Turned back Bucks to snag season-opening win for 1st time since '14

JOHN WALK
JWALK@LNPNEWS.COM

Solid clock control in the opening half? Check.

Taking advantage of the opponent's miscues? Check.

Season-opening win for the first time in five seasons? You know it.

With a 19-13 nonleague victory over Conestoga Valley — on the road, no less — Penn Manor got off on the right foot this Aug. 23 as another year of Lancaster County football kicked off.

"It's a big step in the right direction and it's starting to vindicate what we've been preaching," Penn Manor fifth-year coach John Brubaker said.

Brubaker picked up his first season-opening victory as the Comets' skipper as his team matched its previous year's win total right off the bat.

WEEK 1, page 5

Penn Manor 19, Conestoga Valley 13

Penn Manor 0 13 0 6-19
Conestoga Valley 0 7 6 0-13

Scoring

PM—I. Hostetter 11 pass from L. Braas (kick failed)

PM—L. Legenstein 19 pass from L. Braas (A. Gale kick)

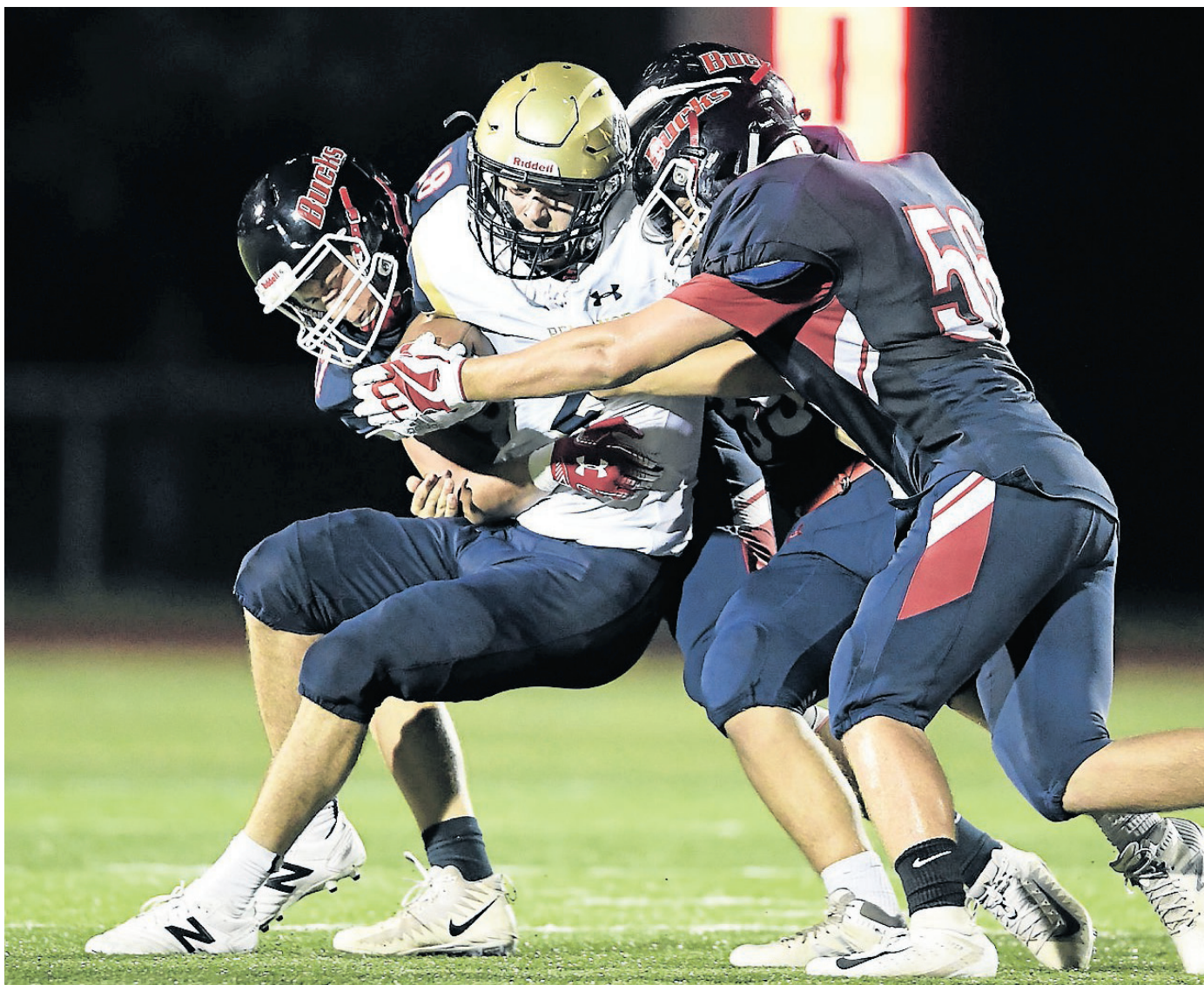
CV—Z. Fisher 70 pass from B. Stoltzfus (N. Heck kick)

PM—J. Gibson 14 run (kick failed)

CV—E. Hernandez 22 pass from B. Stoltzfus (kick blocked)

Statistics

	PM	CV
First downs	17	14
Rushes-Yds.....	32-95	24-98
Passing yards	176	169
Passes	16-28-0	11-20-0
Punts-Avg	4-32.5	3-32
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	4-3
Penalties-Yards	7-55	3-39



Three Conestoga Valley defenders wrap up Penn Manor's Josh Gibson on Aug. 23. Gibson rang up 101 rushing yards in the victory.

CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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WEEK 2 SCORES

GAMES OF AUG. 29

- Cocalico 43, Cedar Cliff 14
- Annville-Cleona 34, Octorara 7

GAMES OF AUG. 30

- Manheim Central 24, Hempfield 14
- Lancaster Catholic 35, Columbia 19
- Lamp.-Strasburg 35, Penn Manor 0
- Warwick 56, Garden Spot 13
- Donegal 56, Pequea Valley 7
- Manheim Township 56, Dallastown 7
- New Oxford 29, Conestoga Valley 13
- Elizabethtown 47, Dover 32
- York 61, McCaskey 0
- Solanco 27, Kennard-Dale 21
- Ephrata 57, Northern Lebanon 18
- Wilson 61, Governor Mifflin 14
- Cedar Crest 42, Hershey 13
- Lebanon 14, Elco 9

Lancaster Catholic 35, Columbia 19
Lancaster Catholic 0 14 14 7-35
Columbia 7 6 6 0-19

Scoring

- C—D. Diaz-Ellis 20 pass from M. McCleary (P. Acosta kick)
- LC—J. Harley 47 punt return (D. Mueller kick)
- C—D. Diaz-Ellis 6 run (kick failed)
- LC—A. Cruz 3 run (D. Mueller kick)
- LC—A. Cruz 49 run (D. Mueller kick)
- C—P. Acosta 1 pass from M. McCleary (pass failed)
- LC—G. Sullivan 20 run (D. Mueller kick)
- LC—J. Harley 21 run (D. Mueller kick)

Statistics

	LC	Col
First downs	11	14
Rushes-Yds	33-135	21-3
Passing yards	68	211
Passes	4-9-0	19-41-0
Punts-Avg	4-35.5	5-32
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	4-50	4-20

WEEK 2: LANCASTER CATHOLIC 35, COLUMBIA 19

Young Crusaders rose



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lancaster Catholic's Jeff Harley (5) celebrates with teammate JJ Keck after scoring on a punt return against Columbia during a Lancaster-Lebanon League Section Three football game Aug. 30. Harley scored twice in the contest as the Crusaders earned a 35-19 win.

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Turned away game Tide to open Section 3 play

JEFF REINHART
JREINHART@LNPNEWS.COM

It wasn't always pretty. But a win is a win is a win.

And Lancaster Catholic gladly accepted it.

Jeff Harley returned a punt for a touchdown, Alex Cruz broke off a pair of TD runs and Gavin Sullivan, who spent a good part of the evening run-

ning for his life from his quarterback spot, added a late score, helping Catholic fend off Columbia 35-19 in a Lancaster-Lebanon League Section Three opener Aug. 30 in Columbia.

"Columbia is a very good team," Sullivan said. "They fought really hard and they came out with a lot of heart, and we came out flat. But we were able to settle

WEEK 2, page 5

Week 1

Continued from 3

The Comets opening-night performance wasn't a total surprise, though, given that they entered the 2019 campaign with eight starters back on both sides of the ball.

Among them? Bruising senior running back Josh Gibson, who gathered 86 of his 101 rushing yards in the first half, often brought down by multiple tacklers after he busted through holes opened up by junior linemen Peyton Suydam, Austin Miller, Nick Baker and Benjamen Weaver and sophomore Pedro Gomez.

"This is the first time for me where I've went 1-0 at Penn Manor," Gibson

said. "This is amazing."

The Buckskins' second drive of the game appeared promising until they fumbled the ball away deep in Penn Manor territory. The Comets proceeded to go down the field with a 12-play, 81-yard scoring drive capped by junior quarterback Luke Braas (16 for 28, 176 yards, 2 TDs) connecting with senior wideout Logan Legenstein in the front, right corner of the end zone for a 19-yard strike.

CV answered on the next play from scrimmage when senior QB Bradley Stoltzfus (11 for 20, 169 passing yards, 2 TDs, 48 rushing yards) found junior wideout Zach Fisher wide open down the right sideline for a 70-yard TD bomb to tie the score 7-7.

This is where this year's version of the Comets grew from last year's version,

according to Gibson.

"Last year, we would be doing well and then the other team would have a big play and we'd be flat the rest of the game," Gibson said. "This year, the atmosphere is totally different. We bounced right back and went down and scored again."

Penn Manor's next drive was kept alive when a Comets punt was muffed by the Buckskins and recovered by Penn Manor around midfield. Ten plays later, Gibson skirted around the left side and found paydirt on a 19-yard rushing TD to put the Comets back up 13-7.

After fumbling away its kickoff return to open the second half, the Buckskins made good on their next possession with a 15-play, 86-yard drive finished off by a Stoltzfus 22-yard TD pass to senior

speedster Eddie Hernandez to even the score at 13-13 in the third quarter.

A Buckskins penalty on the ensuing kickoff set up the Penn Manor offense around midfield, and nine plays later the Comets went back up for good on a 11-yard TD throw from Braas to junior wideout Isaac Hostetter with 10:34 remaining.

"We lost it on the special teams tonight and that was the difference of the game," veteran CV coach Gerad Novak said.

CV's final drive stalled around midfield with 1:59 left.

"We still have a long season ahead," Brubaker said. "Next week we have L-S, which is a fantastic team. So that'll be a big challenge again. But these guys have some fight in them and love playing the game. It makes it fun to coach."

Week 2

Continued from 4

into the game and do what we do and we executed plays. Then we got rolling."

The Crimson Tide, fresh off a win over Eastern York and a 1-0 start for the first time since 2013, grabbed a 7-0 lead on Matt McCleary's 20-yard TD flip to Demetrius Diaz-Ellis with 8:33 to go in the first quarter. Columbia also dropped Sullivan four times for losses in the first half.

Columbia grabbed a 13-7 lead when Diaz-Ellis scooted 6 yards for a TD run midway through the second quarter. But Catholic, now 2-0, scored four of the game's next five touchdowns, and the Crusaders won going away.

"I told our guys, 'Hey, this is the team that was picked to win the section,'" Columbia coach Bud Kyle said. "I'm not a fan of moral victories at all, but at the end of the day, I don't see many teams beating Catholic this year. We got the short end of the stick tonight, but overall, I thought we really hung tough. Adversity hit us, and now we'll see how we respond from this."

Columbia sacked Sullivan six times and had Catholic teetering a couple of times in the first half. But a red zone fumble was a stinger for the Tide, and Harley's electrifying punt return TD sparked the Crusaders and put them

right back in the game.

Later, Harley added a 21-yard TD dash to cap the scoring with 7:59 to play. Catholic also had an 83-yard TD pass called back in the first quarter on a penalty.

Ahead 14-13 at the break after Cruz's 3-yard TD run with 4:40 to go in the first half, Catholic picked up speed behind some inspired offensive line play. Cruz took advantage, bolting 49 yards for a TD with 10:23 to go in the third, giving Catholic a 21-13 edge.

Columbia immediately punched back, converting a fourth-and-goal play when McCleary lobbed a 1-yard TD pass to Phillip Acosta to make it 21-19. But McCleary's 2-point pass was broken up, and the Tide failed to tie it.

Sullivan's 20-yard keeper right up the gut with 1:06 to go gave Catholic a 28-19 edge, and Harley's TD romp later in the fourth iced the game for the Crusaders, who had to rally past Camp Hill last Friday for a 39-25 season-opening victory.

"There wasn't a person in our locker room — coaches or players — who didn't think this wasn't going to be a fistfight," Catholic coach Todd Mealy said. "We're still trying to find ourselves. I'm concerned about our mental approach. Our youth outweighs our experience. So the priority we have to make now is keeping our guys rounded."

Harley ended up with 64 rushing

yards on 12 carries and Cruz had 62 yards on seven totes as Catholic had 203 total yards. Meanwhile, McCleary went 19 for 41 through the air for 211

yards for Columbia, which was held to minus-3 rushing yards, as the Crusaders' defense came up big in the trenches.

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WEEK 3 SCORES

GAMES OF SEPT. 6

- Warwick 37, Manheim Central 7
- Manheim Twp. 10, Central Dauphin 7
- Donegal 28, Columbia 21
- Central York 30, Hempfield 28
- Ephrata 58, Annville-Cleona 26
- Lancaster Catholic 28, Elco 7
- Cocalico 26, Governor Mifflin 14
- Solanco 21, New Oxford 10
- Cedar Crest 17, York 14
- Lebanon 45, Pequea Valley 0
- Dallastown 23, Penn Manor 20
- Spring Grove 42, Conestoga Val. 39
- Conrad Weiser 30, Elizabethtown 9
- Palmyra 34, Garden Spot 20
- Octorara 35, Northern Lebanon 0
- Wilson 42, Spring-Ford 23

GAMES OF SEPT. 7

- Lampeter-Strasburg 49, West York 6
- Reading 37, McCaskey 13

Warwick 37, Manheim Central 7

Manheim Central	0	7	0	0-7
Warwick	6	13	8	10-37

Scoring

W—C. Schmitz 11 pass from J. McCracken
(T. Haines kick)

W—J. Gerhart 70 pass from J. McCracken
(pass failed)

MC—W. Herder 10 pass from E. Simon (N.
Reed kick)

W—J. McCracken 1 run (T. Haines kick)

W—C. Adams 76 pass from J. McCracken
(J. Gerhart pass from McCracken)

W—C. Miller 15 run (T. Haines kick)

W—FG, Haines 34

Statistics

	MC	War
First downs	10	18
Rushes-Yds	30-34	31-146
Passing yards	126	293
Passes	11-18-2	14-25-1
Punts-Avg	5-48	2-34.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	3-20	5-50

WEEK 3: WARWICK 37, MANHEIM CENTRAL 7

Winning with panache



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Warwick quarterback Joey McCracken runs in for a touchdown against Manheim Central during the Warriors' 37-7 victory Sept. 6.

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Warriors topped Barons for 1st time since '83

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Warwick got a clutch interception from senior Conor Adams late in the first half of its Sept. 6 nonleague cross-over game against visiting Manheim Central.

Nine plays later, the Warwick offense completed its march down the

field with a touchdown just before halftime.

A year before, Manheim Central had done the same to Warwick, and the Barons eventually posted a comeback in that game.

But this time around, Warwick had all the momentum going into halftime and

WEEK 3, page 7

Week 3

Continued from 6

kept the Barons from rising back up in the second half en route to a monumental 37-7 victory over the 2018 District Three Class 5A champion Barons.

It was the first time since 1983 that Warwick (3-0) had beaten Manheim Central (2-1). And it snapped the Barons' 27-game regular season unbeaten streak.

"Last year we let (Manheim Central) put up a big score before halftime," Warwick junior lineman Nolan Rucci recalled. "That was a big thing this year. We knew we had to deal with that. It (the TD late in the first half) was a good swing of momentum to get that scoreboard back up."

The 6-foot, 8-inch Rucci was a key cog in an offensive line also made up of seniors Jeremiah High, Hayden Benner and Hunter Diebler and junior Owen Campbell, along with junior tight end Thatcher Miller.

That unit kept junior QB Joey McCracken (14 of 25, 293 passing yards, three TDs) clean most of the night while opening holes for junior workhorse back Colton Miller (28 attempts, 128 rushing yards, one TD).

Meanwhile, the Warriors' 3-4 defense kept Manheim Central QB Evan Simon (11 for 28, 126 passing yards, one TD, 10 rushing attempts for 54 yards) scrambling and stifled the Barons' rushing game. Simon was sacked numerous times, and the rest of the Manheim Central backfield produced 6 rushing yards on 10 carries. Manheim Central was also without starting linebacker Clay Bedi, who spent the game in a walking boot recovering from a right ankle injury he'd suffered a week earlier.

"We don't have a run game. We don't have a pass game. We're not a very good team right now," Manheim Central coach Dave Hahn said. "We're just going to keep working. ... We've got kids. Some of the kids are young and it shows. We're just like everybody else."

"Everybody expects us to win by 50. We're not there yet. We'll get back there. It might not be this year but we'll get back there."

Warwick went 59 yards on eight



Warwick's Nolan Rucci acknowledges the student section at the start of the fourth quarter against visiting Manheim Central during the Warriors' 37-7 victory Sept. 6.

CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

plays in its opening drive, getting an 11-yard scoring throw from McCracken to Caleb Schmitz on fourth down to go up 6-0.

Later, on the first play of a new drive to start the second quarter, McCracken found Justin Gerhart wide open over the middle for an untouched 70-yard scoring throw to push the War-

riors' lead to 12-0.

Manheim Central (2-1) followed with a 10-play, 65-yard drive that was capped when Simon found Wes Herder in the back corner of the end zone for a 10-yard passing TD to cut the deficit to 12-7.

After the Adams interception, McCracken later scored on a 1-yard keep-

er with 27 seconds left in the first half to push the Warriors' advantage to 19-7 going into the break.

On its third play of the third drive of the second half, Warwick's McCracken connected with Adams for a 76-yard scoring strike that pushed the lead to 27-7 after a successful 2-point conversion.

Congrats Barons!



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WEEK 4 SCORES

GAMES OF SEPT. 13

- Wilson 49, Manheim Central 14
- Warwick 55, Hempfield 7
- Cedar Crest 49, McCaskey 20
- Manheim Township 65, Penn Manor 7
- Cocalico 49, Elizabethtown 12
- Solanco 42, Garden Spot 0
- Lancaster Catholic 43, Ephrata 14
- Lampeter-Strasburg 49, Conestoga Valley 14
- Donegal 35, Lebanon 24
- Columbia 43, Pequea Valley 6
- Elco 14, Octorara 6
- Annville-Cleona 49, Northern Lebanon 20

Lancaster Catholic 43, Ephrata 14

Ephrata.....	14	0	0	0-14
Lancaster Catholic.....	10	7	19	7-43

Scoring

- LC—D. Atkinson 15 interception return (D. Mueller kick)
- E—M. Wratto 6 run (K. Mast kick)
- LC—FG, Mueller 32
- E—M. Wratto 1 run (K. Mast kick)
- LC—A. Cruz 3 run (D. Mueller kick)
- LC—A. Miklos 9 pass from G. Sullivan (kick failed)
- LC—A. Nicklaus fumble recovery in the end zone (pass failed)
- LC—J. Harley 32 run (D. Mueller kick)
- LC—H. Gartley 17 interception return (D. Mueller kick)

Statistics

	Eph	LC
First downs	11	24
Rushes-Yds.....	30-110	45-325
Passing yards	93	86
Passes	5-15-2	7-9-0
Punts-Avg	2-34	0-0
Fumbles-Lost.....	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	1-15	2-10

WEEK 4: LANCASTER CATHOLIC 43, EPHRATA 14

Chugging right along



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lancaster Catholic's Gavin Sullivan, right, knocks a pass away from Ephrata's Tucker Parmer during the Crusaders' 43-14 win Sept. 13.

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Crusaders recovered to motor past Mounts

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Devin Atkinson is not a wide receiver by trade.

So when the football ended up in the Lancaster Catholic defensive end's hands early in the game Sept. 13, he wasn't exactly sure what to do with it.

"When I first caught it, I was like,

"What am I supposed to do with this?" Atkinson said, chuckling. "But then I started running."

All the way to the end zone.

Atkinson's 15-yard interception return for a touchdown set the tone, and Lancaster Catholic played splendidly in a 43-14 Lancaster-Lebanon League

WEEK 4, page 9

Week 4

Continued from 8

Section Three victory over visiting Ephrata.

It was the Crusaders' 14th straight regular-season victory, and Catholic (3-0 L-L, 4-0 overall) remained in a first-place tie with Donegal, which held off Lebanon in the night's other Section Three first-place showdown.

"Everyone wanted this game," Atkinson said. "We all knew what was on the line. And we knew we had to play our best to beat that team."

Ephrata (2-1, 2-2) had a 14-7 first-quarter lead that night, compliments of a pair of short TD runs by Miracle Wratto. But Catholic answered with a 32-yard field goal by Daniel Mueller, and the Crusaders were on their way.

Catholic got a fumble recovery TD from Andrew Nicklaus, Atkinson's pick six and then a second interception return for a score, when Henry Gartley capped the scoring with 11:17 to go with a 17-yard pick six.

The Crusaders had two penalties for 10 yards, they didn't punt, and Catholic held Ephrata to 110 rushing yards — a week after the Mounts singed An-nville-Cleona for 648 total yards and 58 points.

"I thought we matched up well with them," Catholic coach Todd Mealy said. "So I thank our coaching staff for working well together and putting together a great game plan, and getting the kids to play well together. And I tip my cap to our players. We had a tough week with some injuries."

Catholic was back at full strength against Ephrata, and the Crusaders used all their weapons. Alex Cruz rushed for 87 yards, and his 3-yard TD



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lancaster Catholic linebacker Devin Atkinson runs in for a touchdown after tipping and intercepting a pass vs. Ephrata on Sept. 13.

run gave Catholic the lead for good, 17-14, with 6:26 to go in the first half.

Jeff Harley rushed for 69 yards and his 32-yard TD bolt on the last play of the third quarter gave the Crusaders a 36-14 cushion. And QB Gavin Sullivan was efficient in the pocket. He completed 7 of 8 passes for 86 yards, including a 9-yard TD flip to Andrew Miklos, and he added 63 yards on the ground, as Catholic churned out 325 rushing

yards and 411 total yards.

"It's taken us a little while to find our identity as a team," Mealy said. "This was certainly a good performance. Now we'll see if it continues."

Wratto had TD runs of 6 yards and 1 yard in the first quarter. His first score was set up by Kyle Raudenbush's 67-yard kickoff return. But after Wratto's 1-yard TD dive, Catholic's defense put on the clamps.

"We started out strong and did some good stuff," Ephrata coach Kris Miller said. "We had some opportunities but we couldn't sustain it long enough. At the end of the day, it's a bump in the road, because I still think we're a good football team. To be where we were two years ago to this point, it's another step in our journey. Unfortunately we didn't get the job done here. But we'll be better because of this game."

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WEEK 5 SCORES

GAMES OF SEPT. 20

- Manheim Township 56, Cocalico 7
- Warwick 49, McCaskey 6
- Wilson 51, Penn Manor 24
- Cedar Crest 34, Hempfield 21
- Manheim Central 54, Elizabethtown 6
- Lamp.-Strasburg 55, Garden Spot 10
- Octorara 44, Pequea Valley 7
- Lebanon 30, Lancaster Catholic 22
- Donegal 31, Ephrata 13
- Annville-Cleona 70, Columbia 43
- Elco 37, Northern Lebanon 7

GAME OF SEPT. 21

- Conestoga Valley 42, Solanco 28

WEEK 5: MANHEIM TOWNSHIP 56, COCALICO 7

Opening up the throttle

Blue Streaks' offense surged to life with 3 TDs in the 2nd quarter

JOHN WALK

JWALK@LNPNEWS.COM

The matchup between a pair of undefeated teams looked like it in the first 12 minutes of a Sept. 20 nonleague game between Manheim Township and Cocalico.

Each team had scored a touchdown and traded a couple punts. But after a slow start, the Blue Streaks exploded for three second-quarter TDs and pushed the scoreboard to a running clock in the final minutes of the third quarter in an eventual 56-7 victory on the road in Denver.

"We came out tonight and they scored and we couldn't hang our heads," Manheim Township running back Jaden Floyd said. "We just started moving the ball and got a push off the line."

Floyd finished with 89 rushing yards on 10 attempts with two rushing scores to go along with 100 receiving yards on two TD receptions.

The win pushed Manheim Township to 5-0 heading into the following week's Lancaster-Lebanon League Section One showdown at undefeated Wilson (5-0).

Meanwhile, Cocalico (4-1) was left to face healing in time for its Week 6 L-L Section Two bout at rival Manheim Central.

The Eagles lost Austin Vang early in the first half Sept. 20, and the fullback was on crutches with his right knee wrapped the rest of the night. Leading rusher and senior quarterback/safety Noah Palm and fourth-leading rusher Ronald Zahm left the action early in the second half and were both seen limping after the game, and Zahm's right knee was wrapped.

The Eagles' vaunted veer offense was instead held to 89 yards on 38 attempts, an average of 2.3 yards a carry. Palm was kept to minus-7 yards on nine attempts.



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"We came out tonight and they scored and we couldn't hang our heads. We just started moving the ball and got a push off the line.

— Jaden Floyd,

Manheim Township RB, shown above being hoisted by teammates after scoring a touchdown

Manheim Township 56, Cocalico 7

Manheim Township 7 21 14 14—56
Cocalico 7 0 0 0—7

Scoring


- MT—J. Floyd 5 run (J. Wright kick)
- C—N. Palm 4 run (A. Weitzel kick)
- MT—J. Engel 33 pass from H. Kirk (J. Wright kick)
- MT—J. Floyd 80 pass from H. Kirk (J. Wright kick)
- MT—N. Carpenter 19 pass from H. Kirk (J. Wright kick)
- MT—J. Floyd 20 pass from H. Kirk (J. Wright kick)
- MT—J. Floyd 49 run (J. Wright kick)
- MT—E. Clark 49 run (M. O'Gorman kick)
- MT—M. Vega 16 run (M. O'Gorman kick)

Statistics

	MT	Coc
First downs	10	6
Rushes-Yds	27-225	38-89
Passing yards	201	11
Passes	9-16-0	2-8-0
Punts-Avg	5-46.4	7-36.86
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-2
Penalties-Yards	11-105	5-50

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WEEK 6: MANHEIM TOWNSHIP 30, WILSON 14

Record night for Streaks' Ivey



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Manheim Township's Anthony Ivey hauls in a pass and runs in for one of his two touchdowns as Wilson's Matt Fry defends Sept. 27. Ivey, a sophomore, set a single-game Lancaster-Lebanon League mark in the Week 6 showdown by rolling up 292 yards on eight catches in a rare victory at West Lawn.

With 8 catches for 292 yards, sophomore made a triumphant return to MT lineup

JEFF REINHART
JREINHART@LNPNEWS.COM

WEST LAWN — Wilson may have gotten the hot start it wanted Sept. 27, but it was Manheim Township that got the all-important faster finish.

And in between, a Lancaster-Lebanon League record fell.

Anthony Ivey caught eight passes for a single-game league-record 292 yards with two touchdown grabs, and the Blue Streaks topped Wilson 30-14 in a Section One showdown game.

"It's awesome," Township QB Harrison Kirk said. "We're not sure any Township team has ever beaten these guys here. So it's amazing that we came here and did this. Now we have to keep working."

WEEK 6, page 12

Manheim Township 30, Wilson 14

Manheim Township ...	14	7	3	6-30
Wilson	7	7	0	0-14

Scoring

W—A. Lockhart 55 run (J. Wagner kick)
 MT—A. Ivey 83 pass from H. Kirk (J. Wright kick)
 MT—M. Stokes 21 pass from H. Kirk (J. Wright kick)
 W—A. Lockhart 1 run (J. Wagner kick)
 MT—A. Ivey 73 pass from H. Kirk (J. Wright kick)
 MT—FG, Wright 32
 MT—FG, Wright 37
 MT—FG, Wright 25

Statistics

	MT	Wil
First downs	15	10
Rushes-Yds	32-64	26-116
Passing yards	387	123
Passes	14-29-0	14-25-1
Punts-Avg	2-44	5-29.2
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	8-38	4-35

WEEK 6 SCORES

GAMES OF SEPT. 27

- Hempfield 27, Lampeter-Strasburg 20
- Manheim Township 30, Wilson 14
- Warwick 34, Cedar Crest 14
- Penn Manor 61, McCaskey 20
- Manheim Central 46, Cocalico 43
- Conestoga Valley 37, Garden Spot 25
- Solanco 28, Elizabethtown 21
- Lancaster Catholic 31, Annville-Cleona 24
- Lebanon 42, Columbia 36 (OT)
- Donegal 28, Octorara 13
- Elco 28, Ephrata 20
- Northern Lebanon 36, Pequea Valley 14

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Week 5

Continued from 10

“How do you regroup? You go back to the fundamentals,” veteran Cocalico coach Dave Gingrich said. “We’re going to go back to the basics. We’re going to work simple schemes offensively and defensively and special teams and try to get healthy in time for (Week 6).”

Cocalico fumbled the ball away on its first possession, setting up Man-

heim Township with an easy four-play, 21-yard drive capped by Floyd’s 5-yard run to the right side to make it 7-0.

The Eagles answered two possessions later, when Palm connected with Zahm on a 15-yard pass to the right side, with another 15 yards tacked on due to a Manheim Township penalty. Two plays later, Zahm busted loose for a 31-yard run down the right side, and Palm followed that with a 4-yard keeper to make it 7-7 at the 1:42 mark of the first quarter.

“We had some sloppy tackling,”

Manheim Township coach Mark Evans said. “Some guys were upset. That’s the makeup of this football team. Just like the Central Dauphin game, when it’s close these guys are like, ‘Let’s go, next play.’”

Manheim Township answered with an 8-play, 75-yard drive finished off by a 33-yard Harrison Kirk TD pass to Jon Engel.

It was the first of four TD throws from Kirk (9 for 16, 201 yards). His longest throw came two possessions later when he found Floyd over the middle, with Floyd wrestling for a re-

ception, stripping a Cocalico defender and rumbling the rest of the way for an 80-yard score.

Cocalico’s second fumble came with under a minute left before halftime that gave Manheim Township the ball on the Eagles’ 19. The next play, Kirk found receiver Nathan Carpenter over the middle for the score and a 28-7 lead heading into the break.

Manheim Township pushed it to a running clock when Floyd busted loose for a 49-yard rushing score down the left side with 2:45 to go in the third quarter.

Week 6

Continued from 11

It was the third time in the teams’ last four meetings that Township defeated Wilson — including the 2017 regular-season victory in Neffsville that snapped the Bulldogs’ 68-game Section One winning streak.

Meanwhile, Wilson (1-1 L-L, 5-1 overall) suffered its first home loss in a Section One game since Sept. 21, 2007, when Warwick posted a 14-12 win at John Gurski Stadium.

Township (3-0, 6-0) remained atop the section standings, tied for first place with Warwick, which remained undefeated with a 34-14 victory over previously unbeaten Cedar Crest the same night.

The wins set up a Township-at-Warwick showdown for first place on Oct. 4.

“It was a big game and it was important game,” Township coach Mark Evans said of the victory over the Bulldogs. “And it was against a really good opponent, where we could find out how good we really are. We thought there were some things we could exploit, and we did. It’s a great win. And now we can focus on Warwick.”

Ivey, a sophomore who missed the first five games this season with a nagging injury, was Township’s hero against Wilson. He made a triumphant season debut against the Bulldogs, hauling in TD catches of 83 yards and 76 yards. He snapped the previous L-L League mark of 260 receiving yards in a game set just last season by Warwick’s Trey Glass — also against Wilson.

Ivey actually snapped the record by



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Manheim Township’s Elijah Fonseca takes a kickoff return 59 yards against Wilson during the first half of a Sept. 27 game.

half-time, when he had 280 yards on seven grabs at the break.

“He’s fast,” Wilson coach Doug Dahms said of Ivey. “We didn’t make

the adjustment. And that’s our fault. (Township) is a great team. Look at all the great athletes they have. And give it to (Kirk), he stuck the ball right in Ivey’s belly.”

Ivey came up short of the PIAA record. Colin Read from DuBois Area had 355 receiving yards in a game in 2015. But Ivey’s 292-yard effort is a league mark.

“He came back tonight and he set an L-L League single-game record, and that’s insane,” said Kirk, who passed for 387 yards and three scores. “That kind of says it all right there. That’s just nuts.”

Wilson bolted to a 7-0 lead, getting a 55-yard TD burst from Avanti Lockhart on just the second play of the game. But Township answered immediately, when Kirk lobbed an 83-yard TD pass to Ivey on the Streaks’ first play from scrimmage.

Later in the first quarter, Kirk zipped a 21-yard TD strike to Mickey Stokes, and Township led 14-7. Lockhart helped Wilson tie it at 14-14 with a 1-yard dive with 7:02 to go in the first half. But the Streaks grabbed a 21-14 lead at the break when Kirk

connected with Ivey for a 76-yard bomb.

All three of Township’s second-half scoring drives were field goals: Jackson Wright hit from 32, 37 and 25 yards, respectively, to help the Streaks ice it.

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WEEK 7: MANHEIM TOWNSHIP 28, WARWICK 7

Streaks ran string to 3 for 3

Township dropped Warriors for perfect run through gauntlet of tough opponents

JOHN WALK

JWALK@LNPNEWS.COM

Up three scores at halftime, Manheim Township returned to Warwick's Grosh Field for the third quarter Oct. 4 to find a new spectator on the sideline.

Penn State coach James Franklin had arrived minutes before the second half got underway.

And although the Blue Streaks were nearly held scoreless the rest of the night, they took care of business in holding off Warwick in a 28-7 Lancaster-Lebanon League Section One victory.

With the win, the Blue Streaks (3-0

L-L, 7-0 overall) took over sole possession of first place in Section One, in front of second-place Warwick (3-1, 6-1) and Wilson (2-1, 6-1). Manheim Township also completed the final chapter of a three-game gauntlet with road victories at Cocalico, Wilson and Warwick, opponents with a combined record of 17-3.

"It's huge," Manheim Township senior linebacker Sam Emge said. "The last three weeks on the road... our goal was to complete the hat trick."

Manheim Township went 80 yards on 15 plays for the opening score, capped by Bryce Casey's 4-yard touch-

down plunge on a drive that had been kept alive with a fourth-down, 14-yard fake punt pass from punter Mickey Stokes to Josh Emge.

"It's something we saw on film," Manheim Township coach Mark Evans said of the fake punt. "It's something we were planning on taking advantage of all week."

Warwick went three-and-out on its first drive. And Manheim Township needed just six plays to go 70 yards on a drive that featured a Harrison Kirk 47-yard run down the sideline and 1-yard Kirk QB keeper to make it 14-0.

WEEK 7, page 16

WEEK 7 SCORES

GAMES OF OCT. 4

- Cedar Crest 37, Penn Manor 10
- Wilson 42, Hempfield 7
- Manheim Township 28, Warwick 7
- Solanco 40, McCaskey 13
- Cocalico 54, Conestoga Valley 41
- Elizabethtown 27, Garden Spot 19
- Manheim Central 33, Lampeter-Strasburg 14
- Ephrata 70, Columbia 22
- Lancaster Catholic 33, Octorara 13
- Elco 31, Donegal 20

GAMES OF OCT. 7

- Annville-Cleona 45, Pequea Valley 0



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Manheim Township's Sam Emge drops Warwick's Colton Miller for a loss during the first half of an L-L Section One football game Oct. 4.

Manheim Township 28, Warwick 7

Manheim Township ...	14	7	0	7-28
Warwick	0	0	7	0-7

Scoring

- MT—B. Casey 5 run (J. Wright kick)
- MT—H. Kirk 1 run (J. Wright kick)
- MT—N. Carpenter 13 pass from H. Kirk (J. Wright kick)
- W—C. Miller 4 run (T. Haines kick)
- MT—J. Floyd 5 run (J. Wright kick)

Statistics

	MT	W
First downs	11	10
Rushes-Yds	36-221	28-88
Passing yards	128	113
Passes	15-19-0	12-34-0
Punts-Avg	4-36.25	3-35
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	7-75	3-15

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WEEK 8: WILSON 14, WARWICK 7

Down to the wire at Wilson

WEEK 8 SCORES

GAMES OF OCT. 11

- Manheim Township 62, Cedar Crest 0
- Wilson 14, Warwick 7
- Hempfield 46, McCaskey 0
- Cocalico 54, Garden Spot 13
- Manheim Central 56, Conestoga Valley 27
- Lampeter-Strasburg 41, Solanco 14
- Annville-Cleona 45, Donegal 35
- Columbia 52, Octorara 49
- Elco 48, Pequea Valley 0
- Ephrata 24, Lebanon 22
- Lancaster Catholic 63, Northern Lebanon 0
- Penn Manor 37, Elizabethtown 6

Wilson 14, Warwick 7

Warwick	0	0	7	0-7
Wilson	7	7	0	0-14

Scoring

- Wil—B. Gibble 13 pass from K. Brown (J. Wagner kick)
- Wil—G. Lenart 64 run (J. Wagner kick)
- War—C. Schmitz 28 pass from J. McCracken (T. Haines kick)

Statistics

	War	Wil
First downs	14	14
Rushes-Yds	33-102	36-248
Passing yards	126	60
Passes	13-26-0	8-16-2
Punts-Avg	5-40.8	3-39.67
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	8-71	7-60



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wilson quarterback Kaleb Brown takes off running against Warwick during the second half of an L-L Section One football game at John Gurski Stadium in West Lawn on Oct. 11.

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Koper's late stop iced Warriors as time ran out

JEFF REINHART
 JREINHART@LNPNEWS.COM

WEST LAWN — Anthony Koper was in the zone. And with the game hanging in the balance, he didn't miss.

With Warwick facing third-and-goal at Wilson's 2-yard line with time running out, Koper shot the gap and stuffed Warriors back Colton Miller.

Out of timeouts, Warwick couldn't get back to the line of scrimmage in time for a last-gasp play, and Wilson held on for a riveting 14-7 victory over the Warriors in a Lancaster-Lebanon League Section One showdown Oct. 4. "He's a big back, and it looked like they were going to try and get him the

WEEK 8, page 16



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Week 7

Continued from 13

The Warriors put together a solid 13-play, 66-yard drive that stalled at the Manheim Township 18-yard line, and Township went back down the field with a seven-play, 82-yard drive capped by Kirk's 13-yard TD pass to Nathan Carpenter to push the advantage to 21-0 at the 6:30 mark of the third quarter.

A week earlier, Kirk had gone up top to sophomore wide receiver Anthony Ivey in the win at Wilson. Two days later Ivey picked up a scholarship offer from Penn State, which might have prompted Franklin's visit that night.

And although Warwick kept a lid on Ivey, Kirk finished with 114 passing yards, 61 rushing yards and two total TDs, while senior running back Jaden Floyd churned out 138 rushing yards on 28 attempts, with one TD in the final minute.



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Warwick's Connor Adams tries to get past Manheim Township's Trenton Jones during the teams' L-L Section One meeting Oct. 4.

Warwick opened the second half with a 15-play, 67-yard drive but

sputtered at the Streaks' 4-yard line. But after a Manheim Town-

ship fumble, Warwick capitalized five plays later with a 4-yard TD run from Colton Miller (19 carries, 41 yards) to cut the deficit to 21-7.

Manheim Township, the league's best defense, held Warwick, the league's top offense, to 201 total yards, as Warwick QB Joey McCracken had a season-low 97 passing yards.

Warwick had two more chances to draw closer but fumbled the ball away at midfield near the end of the third quarter and again turned the ball over on downs at Manheim Township's 25-yard line midway through the fourth quarter.

Franklin remained on the sidelines almost the entirety of the second half. That came after Franklin had made a visit to Manheim Township High School earlier in the day.

"It was cool," Evans said of Franklin's presence. "I've known James for a long time since he was at East Stroudsburg and Maryland and Kansas State. It's cool to show him off to people in the building."

Week 8

Continued from 14

ball there," Koper said of his game-saving stick against Miller.

"I just shot the gap and I was able to get him. I was in the zone. I was ready for it. I was reading my keys, and I saw him get the ball, and I tackled him.

"And then," Koper added, "we all went crazy."

Wilson (3-1 L-L, 7-1 overall) survived, and remained a game behind Manheim Township (4-0, 8-0) in the section chase. Warwick (3-2, 6-2) suffered its

second loss in a row, and the Warriors dipped another game back in the race.

"You have to make big plays to win big games," Wilson coach Doug Dahms said. "We didn't do that against Manheim Township. We did tonight."

None bigger than Koper's stick.

"Best play in my whole career," Koper said. "We weren't selling out on the run there. We had our linebackers back there ready for anything. We just had to see what happened. We read the play and we made the stop."

Warwick had one last shot to tie the game or even take the lead with a 2-point conversion when Caleb Schmitz picked off Wilson QB Kaleb

Brown on fourth down with 4:48 to play. The Warriors quickly drove inside Wilson territory and had a first-and-goal.

On first and goal from the 1, Wilson's Jady Jones busted through the line and stopped Miller, knocking him back to the 2. After Warwick QB Joey McCracken spiked the ball to stop the clock, Miller took a handoff and tried to scoot off right tackle, but Koper, from his linebacker spot, came flying through the gap and stuffed Miller for a loss.

The clock hit zeroes before Warwick could set up for one last play. It was pandemonium on the field.

It turned out to be a milestone victory for Dahms, who earned his 152nd career coaching victory — now No. 1 in program history, snapping a tie with John Gurski, for whom Wilson's stadium is named.

"We've been fortunate to have some good assistant coaches, some good kids and some good teams," Dahms said. "And this has been very important to our community."

Wilson's defense kept Warwick's high-powered offense relatively in check. The Warriors had 228 yards — about 200 less than their per-game average — and never really got their air attack cranking, as Wilson came out showing five defensive backs.

Warwick's defense had a pair of interceptions, but Wilson still managed 308 total yards.

The Bulldogs built a 14-0 lead at the half. Brown hit Brady Gible with a 13-yard TD strike with 6:04 to go in the first quarter, and Mason Lenart scooted 46 yards for a score with 10:34 to go in the first half.

But in the end, after Warwick rallied, it was Koper's play that saved the day for the Bulldogs.

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WEEK 9: LANCASTER CATHOLIC 32, DONEGAL 0

This Harley ran like a charm

Crusaders senior rushed for 209 yards, scored 3 TDs in section-clinching victory

JOHN WALK
JWALK@LNPNEWS.COM

Lancaster Catholic's offense rode a particularly speedy Harley to a share of the Lancaster-Lebanon League Section Three crown Oct. 18.

Senior speedster Jeffrey Harley finished with 209 rushing yards, the defense was stifling, and the Crusaders rang up a 32-0 homecoming defeat of visiting Donegal to clinch a section title for the second straight year.

Lancaster Catholic (7-1 league, 8-1 overall) looked to wrap up that title outright with a victory over winless Pequea Valley in the following week's regular season finale.

"It's a heartwarming feeling," Harley said of the section crown.

Harley had 183 rushing yards and two rushing scores by halftime. He also added a 56-yard kickoff return for a score. As a team, Lancaster Catholic gathered 328 rushing yards on 40 attempts.

"I have to give a shout out to all of my big men up front," Harley said. "I'm not the tallest guy in the world, but they make it easy for me to get through a block."

On the other side of the ball, Lancaster Catholic entered the night with the league's second-best rush defense, which again showed up in keeping Donegal's run-heavy Wing-T attack to 83 rushing yards.

WEEK 9, page 20



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lancaster Catholic's Jeffrey Harley runs in for a touchdown against Donegal during an L-L Section Three game on Oct. 18.

WEEK 9 SCORES

GAMES OF OCT. 18

- Wilson 35, Cedar Crest 7
- Hempfield 30, Penn Manor 12
- Manheim Township 71, McCaskey 0
- Cocalico 46, Solanco 15
- Lampeter-Strasburg 40, Elizabethtown 13
- Manheim Central 63, Garden Spot 13
- Elco 35, Annville-Cleona 17
- Columbia 62, Northern Lebanon 14
- Lancaster Catholic 32, Donegal 0
- Ephrata 56, Pequea Valley 0
- Lebanon 40, Octorara 20
- Warwick 30, Conestoga Valley 6

Lancaster Catholic 32, Donegal 0

Donegal 0 0 0 0—0
Lancaster Catholic 13 10 0 9—32

Scoring

LC—J. Harley 31 run (D. Mueller kick)
LC—J. Harley 5 run (kick blocked)
LC—FG, Mueller 32
LC—A. Cruz 3 run (D. Mueller kick)
LC—Safety
LC—J. Harley 56 kickoff return (D. Mueller kick)

Statistics

	Don	LC
First downs	9	13
Rushes-Yds	32-83	40-328
Passing yards	31	32
Passes	4-11-1	2-9-1
Punts-Avg	7-36.29	5-38.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	3-30	9-90

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WEEK 10: COCALICO 41, LAMPETER-STRASBURG 13

Heart of the Eagles

With 4 TDs on offense and 1 on defense, Palm authors stellar all-around game

JEFF REINHART

JREINHART@LNPNEWS.COM

Just when you thought you'd seen Noah Palm do everything on a football field, the Cocalico senior stand-out went out Oct. 25 and delivered yet another jaw-dropping performance.

The electrifying University of New Hampshire recruit accounted for five touchdowns — four on quarterback keepers, plus an incredible, game-changing pick six — and the Eagles locked up a solo second-place finish in the Lancaster-Lebanon League Section Two race with a 41-13 win over Lampeter-Strasburg in Denver.

Palm had TD keepers of 6, 3, 1 and 3 yards, and his 73-yard interception return for a score — when he bobbed and weaved and made a mad dash through several would-be tacklers — broke the game open in the third quarter.

"He's amazing," said Cocalico's Ronald Zahm, who rushed for 111 yards on nine carries. "He's one heck of an athlete. He's one of a kind. There's nobody in the L-L like him. He's a monster. He's relentless."

Palm's five touchdowns give him 103 total career touchdowns for Cocalico. His pick six was his fourth career defensive score, and he now has 72 rushing touchdowns.

WEEK 10, page 20



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cocalico quarterback Noah Palm runs for a touchdown against Lampeter-Strasburg in a Week 10 L-L Section Two game Oct. 25.

WEEK 10 SCORES

GAMES OF OCT. 25

- Manheim Township 49, Hempfield 0
- Wilson 49, McCaskey 26
- Warwick 52, Penn Manor 29
- Cocalico 41, Lampeter-Strasburg 13
- Elizabethtown 17, Conestoga Valley 10
- Manheim Central 49, Solanco 20
- Annville-Cleona 31, Lebanon 30
- Elco 28, Columbia 24
- Donegal 69, Northern Lebanon 0
- Ephrata 35, Octorara 14
- Lancaster Catholic 52, Pequea Valley 7
- Cedar Crest 42, Garden Spot 14

Cocalico 41, Lampeter-Strasburg 13

Lampeter-Strasburg 6 7 0 0—13

Cocalico 14 7 14 6—41

Scoring

C—N. Palm 6 run (A. Mellinger kick)
L—S—A. Knapp 43 pass from C. Nolt (kick blocked)

C—N. Palm 3 run (A. Mellinger kick)

L—S—I. Herr 3 run (A. Reidenbaugh kick)

C—N. Palm 1 run (A. Mellinger kick)

C—T. Griffin 24 pass from C. Nash (A. Mellinger kick)

C—N. Palm 73 interception return (A. Mellinger kick)

C—N. Palm 3 run (kick failed)

Statistics

	L-S	Coc
First downs	11	19
Rushes-Yds	28-122	56-378
Passing yards	151	60
Passes	7-15-1	3-3-0
Punts-Avg	3-23	1-40
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-60	9-90

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2019 LNP L-L League football standings, statistics

Section One						
Team	League			Overall		
	W	L	PF PA	W	L	PF PA
Manheim Township.....	6	0	305 28	10	0	470 55
Wilson	5	1	205 101	9	1	378 125
Warwick.....	4	2	204 98	8	2	388 124
Cedar Crest.....	3	3	141 182	7	3	270 229
Hempfield.....	2	4	111 192	4	6	206 269
Penn Manor.....	1	5	143 255	3	7	219 332
McCaskey.....	0	6	72 325	0	10	112 502

Section Two						
Team	League			Overall		
	W	L	PF PA	W	L	PF PA
Manheim Central.....	6	0	301 123	8	2	362 230
Cocalico.....	5	1	287 140	7	2	405 239
Lampeter-Strasburg.....	4	2	111 125	7	3	366 164
Solanco.....	2	4	147 199	5	5	270 298
Elizabethtown.....	2	4	96 200	4	6	175 306
Conestoga Valley.....	2	4	173 229	2	8	242 349
Garden Spot.....	0	7	80 278	0	10	141 430

Section Three						
Team	League			Overall		
	W	L	PF PA	W	L	PF PA
Lancaster Catholic.....	8	1	346 114	9	1	378 139
Elco.....	7	2	237 136	7	3	256 157
Annnville-Cleona.....	6	3	341 259	6	4	357 307
Donegal.....	6	3	302 186	6	4	309 203
Ephrata.....	6	3	347 204	6	4	347 265
Lebanon.....	6	3	334 237	6	4	294 217
Columbia.....	3	6	322 342	4	6	357 370
Octorara.....	2	7	201 243	2	8	214 257
Northern Lebanon.....	1	8	107 328	1	9	115 477
Pequea Valley.....	0	9	27 389	0	10	47 480

Following is LNP Media Group's 2019 final statistical report after ten weeks for Lancaster-Lebanon League football teams. It is compiled by Kevin Byrne with statistics provided by the teams. Players are ranked according to yardage for rushers, receptions for receivers and the NFL rating system for quarterbacks.

A plus/minus (+/-) turnover stat is found with each team's defensive stats.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Section One				
Player, School	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Tyler Cruz, Cedar Crest.....	218	1249	5.73	19
Colton Miller, Warwick.....	181	934	5.16	23
Tanner Hess, Hempfield.....	137	920	6.72	13
Jaden Floyd, Manheim Township.....	121	818	6.76	10
Avanti Lockhart, Wilson.....	121	771	6.37	15
Mason Lenart, Wilson.....	45	635	14.11	4
Kaleb Brown, Wilson.....	89	601	6.75	3
Isaiah Stoltzfus, Penn Manor.....	97	419	4.32	7
Josh Gibson, Penn Manor.....	72	396	5.5	5
Anthony Droeger, Hempfield.....	65	383	5.89	2

Section Two				
Player, School	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Nick Yannutz, Solanco.....	215	1487	6.92	14
Noah Palm, Cocalico.....	125	1075	8.6	24
Bryan McKim, Lampeter-Strasburg.....	125	971	7.77	14
Grady Unger, Solanco.....	142	770	5.42	11
John Dykie, Garden Spot.....	160	735	4.59	5
Evan Simon, Manheim Central.....	163	705	4.33	12
Bradley Stoltzfus, Conestoga Valley.....	149	686	4.6	4
Jesse Martin, Garden Spot.....	108	561	5.19	5
Ronald Zahm, Cocalico.....	48	545	11.35	4
Steven Flinton, Cocalico.....	60	514	8.57	6

Section Three				
Player, School	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Braden Bohannon, Elco.....	236	1480	6.27	18
Trevor Porche, Annnville-Cleona.....	228	1405	6.16	14
Jeffrey Harley, Lancaster Catholic.....	122	1102	9.03	17
Joe Fox, Donegal.....	150	1020	6.8	11
Jansen Schempp, Octorara.....	110	822	7.47	7
Jeremy Bours, Annnville-Cleona.....	128	685	5.35	17
Garrett Blake, Donegal.....	110	680	6.18	7
Alex Cruz, Lancaster Catholic.....	77	653	8.48	8
Caden Keefer, Ephrata.....	126	568	4.51	8
Erik Williams, Elco.....	73	530	7.26	4

PASSING									
Section One									
Player, School	Com	Att	Int	Yds	TD	Rtg.			
Joey McCracken, Warwick.....	136	214	2	2338	24	134.1			
Harrison Kirk, Manheim Township.....	118	189	2	1949	19	126.2			
Kaleb Brown, Wilson.....	85	138	5	1133	19	112.1			
Chris Danz, Cedar Crest.....	88	175	6	1526	14	92.7			
Shaliam Montalvo, McCaskey.....	17	33	5	255	4	77.2			
Luke Braas, Penn Manor.....	104	214	10	1230	15	70.4			
Colin Peters, Hempfield.....	47	81	6	586	4	66.2			
Tanner Hess, Hempfield.....	19	47	3	252	3	52.8			
Matthew Remash, McCaskey.....	35	108	8	415	2	20.4			
Jayon Burnside, McCaskey.....	15	39	6	158	0	11.4			

Section Two									
Player, School	Com	Att	Int	Yds	TD	Rtg.			
Noah Palm, Cocalico.....	40	61	2	855	8	134.7			
Bradley Stoltzfus, Conestoga Valley.....	167	240	4	2077	22	119.7			
Conner Nolt, Lampeter-Strasburg.....	68	135	3	1371	15	114.2			
Evan Simon, Manheim Central.....	130	226	6	2191	20	108.8			
Patrick Gilhool, Elizabethtown.....	100	187	6	1298	9	78.2			
Josh Rudy, Elizabethtown.....	17	39	1	302	1	68.5			
Jesse Martin, Garden Spot.....	81	181	8	1088	9	62.6			
Grady Unger, Solanco.....	9	32	2	175	2	44.7			

Section Three									
Player, School	Com	Att	Int	Yds	TD	Rtg.			
Caden Keefer, Ephrata.....	110	156	7	1578	18	122.8			
Trent Weaver, Donegal.....	62	98	5	894	12	111.1			
Braden Bohannon, Elco.....	29	53	2	451	6	105.1			
Gavin Sullivan, Lancaster Catholic.....	52	93	2	900	7	105.1			
Matt McCleary, Columbia.....	170	306	12	2580	32	102.0			
Isaiah Rodriguez, Lebanon.....	158	269	8	1953	14	86.2			
Jansen Schempp, Octorara.....	47	99	2	779	5	82.8			
Ethan Borcky, Northern Lebanon.....	121	219	12	1796	11	76.2			
Jeremy Bours, Annnville-Cleona.....	35	88	6	819	8	75.9			
Nick Mattingly, Octorara.....	13	30	2	117	0	26.7			
Nate Fisher, Pequea Valley.....	21	77	5	266	2	23.1			
Collin Bailey, Pequea Valley.....	25	68	10	245	0	8.1			

RECEIVING

Section One				
Player, School	Rec.	Yds	Avg.	TD
Conor Adams, Warwick.....	48	846	17.63	8
Caleb Schmitz, Warwick.....	42	767	18.26	11
Cole Miller, Cedar Crest.....	39	689	17.67	7
Josh Gibson, Penn Manor.....	30	331	11.03	6
Brett Benjamin, Manheim Township.....	29	388	13.38	3
Isaiah Thomas, McCaskey.....	28	385	13.75	3
Kyle Murr, Penn Manor.....	26	446	17.15	8
Jadin Jimenez, Hempfield.....	27	390	14.4	3
Troy Corson, Wilson.....	24	266	11.08	4
Justin Gerhart, Warwick.....	21	340	16.19	3

Section Two				
Player, School	Rec.	Yds	Avg.	TD
Colby Wagner, Manheim Central.....	64	1285	20.08	11
Zach Fisher, Conestoga Valley.....	48	742	15.46	10
Derek Ullishney, Conestoga Valley.....	48	525	10.94	5
Cole Rice, Elizabethtown.....	46	825	17.93	6
Ethan Good, Garden Spot.....	35	602	17.2	3
Cole Hitz, Elizabethtown.....	34	343	10.09	3
Ben Wagner, Manheim Central.....	33	484	14.67	4
Ronald Zahm, Cocalico.....	22	528	24.0	7
Alex Knapp, Lampeter-Strasburg.....	21	318	15.14	2
John Dykie, Garden Spot.....	20	194	9.7	3

Section Three				
Player, School	Rec.	Yds	Avg.	TD
Alex Rufe, Lebanon.....	68	973	14.31	7
Ryan Redding, Columbia.....	66	1027	15.56	13
Darnell Tucker, Columbia.....	44	630	14.32	7
Nate Leedy-Reidel, Northern Lebanon.....	43	765	17.79	6
Jacob Shoemaker, Donegal.....	33	592	17.94	10
Alex Folmer, Northern Lebanon.....	33	367	11.12	2
Michael Poole, Columbia.....	25	448	17.92	3
Andrew Bowers, Lebanon.....	23	294	12.78	3
Andrew Miklos, Lancaster Catholic.....	23	382	16.61	4
Tucker Parmer, Ephrata.....	21	236	11.24	2
Brock Boyer, Ephrata.....	21	339	16.14	3

SCORING

Section One						
Player, School	TD	Conv/S	FG	XP	T	
Colton Miller, Warwick.....	23	0	0	0	138	
Tyler Cruz, Cedar Crest.....	19	0	0	0	114	
Avanti Lockhart, Wilson.....	18	0	0	0	108	
Jaden Floyd, Manheim Township.....	14	0	0	0	84	
Tanner Hess, Hempfield.....	13	0	0	0	78	
Caleb Schmitz, Warwick.....	13	0	0	0	78	
Jackson Wright, Manheim Township.....	0	0	9	51	77	

Josh Gibson, Penn Manor.....	11	0	0	0	66
Conor Adams, Warwick.....	9	1	0	0	56
Jack Wagner, Wilson.....	0	0	1	48	51

Section Two

Player, School	TD	Conv/S	FG	XP	T
Noah Palm, Cocalico.....	26	1	0	0	140
Colby Wagner, Manheim Central.....	16	1	0	0	98
Ronald Zahm, Cocalico.....	14	3	0	0	90
Nick Yannutz, Solanco.....	14	0	0	0	84
Bryan McKim, Lampeter-Strasburg.....	14	0	0	0	84
Evan Simon, Manheim Central.....	12	0	0	0	72
Grady Unger, Solanco.....	10	2	0	0	64
Zach Fisher, Conestoga Valley.....	10	0	0	0	60
Cole Rice, Elizabethtown.....	9	0	0	0	54
John Dykie, Garden Spot.....	8	0	0	0	48

Section Three

Player, School	TD	Conv/S	FG	XP	T
Jeffrey Harley, Lancaster Catholic.....	20	0	0	0	120
Jeremy Bours, Annnville-Cleona.....	17	1	0	0	104
Braden Bohannon, Elco.....	18	1	0	0	110
Ryan Redding, Columbia.....	13	4	0	0	86
Trevor Porche, Annnville-Cleona.....	14	0	0	0	84
Alex Rufe, Lebanon.....	12	5	0	0	82
Macrae Plummer, Annnville-Cleona.....	0	0	8	43	67
Joe Fox, Donegal.....	12	0	0	0	72
Daniel Mueller, Lancaster Catholic.....	0	0	8	39	63
Jacob Shoemaker, Donegal.....	10	0	0	0	60

TEAM STATISTICS: TOTAL OFFENSE

Section One				
Team	G	Rush	Pass	Yards/G
Manheim Township.....	10	2179	2007	418.6
Wilson.....	10	2739	1272	401.1
Warwick.....	10	1476	2389	386.5
Cedar Crest.....	10	1556	1541	309.7
Hempfield.....	10	1840	889	272.9
Penn Manor.....	10	898	1383	228.1
McCaskey.....	10	389	846	123.5

Week 9

Continued from 17

Also of note was the Lancaster Catholic defense — which had previously struggled in defending the pass — keeping a lid on Donegal 1,000-yard passer Trent Weaver (4 for 10, 32 yards, one interception). He was also sacked five times.

“The defense we put together is designed to defend this kind of offense,” Lancaster Catholic coach Todd Mealy

said. “So we were confident with the defensive effort we’d get tonight. We didn’t think we’d shut them out. We thought we’d keep them to two scores. ... We had done a poor job of defending the pass this year, until recently. We changed some things defensively, both in the personnel and teaching proper techniques.”

With the victory, the Crusaders posted back-to-back shutouts for the first time since 2006.

On the flip side, the Indians (5-3, 5-4) found themselves losers of three in a row for the first time since the

start of the 2017 season.

Harley’s first TD came on Lancaster Catholic’s opening drive, when he found paydirt down the left side on a 31-yard rushing score.

Crusaders linebacker Tony Cruz intercepted Weaver on the Indians’ second play from scrimmage, and Lancaster Catholic needed eight plays to go 50 yards, with Alex Cruz’s 5-yard TD scamper pushing the advantage to 13-0.

Crusaders sophomore kicker Daniel Mueller made it 16-0 with a 32-yard field goal in the second quarter. A few

minutes later, Alex Cruz pushed the lead to 23-0 on a 3-yard rushing score.

After a scoreless third quarter, Weaver fumbled from his 14-yard line, with the ball rolling backward into the end zone, where Indians receiver Jacob Shoemaker batted the ball through the back of the endline for a safety.

On the ensuing kickoff, Harley snagged the ball while on the run at the Lancaster Catholic 44-yard line, broke through some arm tackles and rumbled to the end zone to push the lead to 32-0.

Week 10

Continued from 18

“He’s a wonderful player and he’s a great kid,” said L-S coach John Manion, who has had to game plan for Palm the last four years. “And the thing that makes him so unstoppable in their offense is that he never makes a bad decision. He always does the right thing with the football.”

Against L-S, Palm rushed for 58 yards and he completed both of his pass attempts. And his pick six was a thing of beauty.

“I was just trying to set up my blocks to see what my best option was,” Palm said about his interception return. “Then I just started running and looking for more blockers, and that’s where I ran to. I’m never satisfied with doing good things. I strive to do great things.”

Palm’s pick definitely fell under the great category.

“Straight determination there,” said Zahm, who flanks Palm at the other safety spot, and he threw a couple of downfield blocks and escorted Palm

He’s just a great player. Words can’t be used to describe the desire and the passion that Noah has. He’s very good and he’s very humble.

— Dave Gingrich,
Cocalico coach, on the Eagles’ Noah Palm

into the end zone on the pick six.

“He’s just a great player,” Cocalico coach Dave Gingrich said. “Words can’t be used to describe the desire and the passion that Noah has. He’s very good and he’s very humble. He practices the way he plays. When your best player is your best practice player, good things are going to happen.”

L-S (4-2, 7-3) had a pair of first-half touchdowns, and was within 14-13 early in the second quarter. But Palm gave Cocalico a 21-13 lead at the half with a 1-yard plunge, and the Eagles (5-1, 8-2) pulled away midway through the third quarter on a trick play, when wideout Carson Nash tossed a 24-yard TD strike to Trey Griffin.

But Palm was the star of the show, piloting Cocalico’s offense to a 378-yard rushing night. Meanwhile, the Eagles played a spirited game in the trenches and kept the Pioneers’ high-powered offense relatively in check.

L-S QB Conner Nolt had a 43-yard TD lob to Alex Knapp, and Ian Herr had a 3-yard TD run to slice Cocalico’s lead to 14-13 early in the second quarter. But that’s all the Pioneers mustered.

“I thought our offensive and defen-



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cocalico’s Steven Flinton is drgged down by Lampeter-Strasburg’s Brady Cole during the first half of an L-L Section Two football game Oct. 25.

sive lines played really well,” Gingrich said. “They gashed us for some yards, but to hold a team like L-S to 13 points is impressive.”

“They really banged us up tonight, especially up front,” Manion noted. “They earned this win. That’s a really good football team.”

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New season's field wide open

New-look squads tip off on Dec. 6

The high school basketball season tips off Dec. 6 for most Lancaster-Lebanon League teams, with league play set to begin the following Friday. Here are some storylines to keep an eye on this season.

Top teams

Section One is pretty much wide open, considering every team needs to replace its top two or three stars from last season.

Among Section Two squads, Lebanon has the most returning talent while Elizabethtown brings back a strong nucleus and defending section champ Warwick appears reloaded.

Section Three could be up for the taking. Lampeter-Strasburg, the winner of four straight section crowns, must replace six of its top seven scorers.

Section Four should be entertaining with Elco, Northern Lebanon and Octorara pretty much having everyone back from last season. Plus, Lancaster Catholic is always tough.

In Section Five, Lancaster Mennonite and Lancaster Country Day must reload. That could open the door for a Columbia team with everyone back from last year's league and district playoff team. Keep an eye on an Annville-Cleona squad with four of its top five scorers returning.

Coaching milestones

In his 10th year at Hempfield and 25th season overall as a head coach, Danny Walck has forged a career record of 329-248, meaning he's 21 wins shy of 350.

Lancaster Catholic coach Joe Klazas (282-106), in his 15th year, is 18 wins short of 300.

Octorara coach Gene Lambert (237-



JOHN WALK
L-L BOYS BASKETBALL

209), in his 19th year, needs 13 wins to reach 250.

Matt Johns is entering his fifth season as Manheim Township's boss. Before that he was the Columbia coach for two years. Add those together and he has a 96-62 career record, meaning he needs just four wins to hit the century mark.

Elco has the talent to get to at least 17 wins this season, which would put ninth-year coach Brad Conners (83-105) at 100 career victories.

Scoring milestones

Elijah Terry tallied 804 career points the last three seasons with Lancaster Mennonite. He's finishing off his prep career with McCaskey this season and is a good bet to surpass the 1K mark.

Top returning players

Of last year's top 20 L-L scorers, just six are back this season: Pequea Valley junior guard Devon Colyer

BOYS, page 23



SUZETTE WENGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elijah Terry, right, then playing for Lancaster Mennonite, looks for an open teammate under pressure from York Catholic's Robbie McNamara on Feb. 19, 2018. Terry, who has transferred to McCaskey for his senior season, is looking to pass the 1,000-point plateau.

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Ready for the next chapter



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Donegal's Kiera Baughman puts up a 3-point shot against Elizabethtown during the Elizabethtown Tip-Off Tournament title game Dec. 8, 2018. Baughman has 1,256 points entering this season, and is one of 10 returning first-team all-star selections from last season.

Some heavy hitters may be gone, but L-L has a good bit of talent returning for the brand-new season



JEFF REINHART
L-L GIRLS BASKETBALL

Another Lancaster-Lebanon League girls basketball season is right around the corner, with opening-night non-league games and tip-off tournaments set for Dec. 6, and league crossover matchups on tap for Dec. 13.

The last night of league play is Feb. 4, there is one three-game week budgeted into the schedule, and teams were given the freedom to flex late-week games to Thursday or Friday.

So make sure you keep your favorite team's schedule handy before you head out to a gym near you to watch some hoops.

This will be the second season of the league's five-section format, and the returns were mostly positive last **GIRLS**, page 23

EARLY-BIRD SPECIAL: 5 GIRLS GAMES TO WATCH

DEC. 13

● **Elizabethtown at Cedar Crest:** It's the first night of crossover games for Section One vs. Section Two and Section Three vs. Section Four, and this clash is a showdown of defending section champs. Last season, the Bears won their first Section Two crown since 2004, and the Falcons captured their third Section One title in the last five years. Someone is getting a 1-0 jump here.

DEC. 18

● **Pequea Valley at Lancaster Mennonite:** The Braves and the Blazers duked it out for Section Five supremacy last winter, with Mennonite earning the banner with a 10-0 league run. The winner here gets an early leg up in what should be another rugged section race.

JAN. 7

● **Solanco at Lampeter-Strasburg:** The Golden Mules unseated the Pioneers atop the Section Three chase last season. And while both teams lost some key cogs from those teams, Solanco and L-S both have big expectations in this intriguing race.

JAN. 7

● **Warwick at Ephrata:** Section Two is wide open, and after making strides last season, the Warriors and the Mountaineers — a couple of backyard rivals — both fully expect to run with the lead pack all season. This first meeting should set the tone for the chase.

JAN. 16

● **Cedar Crest at Manheim Township:** The Falcons and the Blue Streaks have been battling it out for top Section One honors for what feels like forever. This season will be no different, making their first meeting important in the proceedings.

JAN. 17

● **Elco at Lancaster Catholic:** These Section Four rivals squared off for L-L League gold and in the District Three Class 4A semifinals last season, and the Crusaders won both meetings, on the way to defending their league and district championships. No Kiki Jefferson this time around — it will be weird not seeing her in a Catholic uniform — but this rivalry should be hotly contested once again.

— Jeff Reinhart



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lancaster Country Day's Ashanti Duncan goes to the bucket against Greenwood on Feb. 28. Duncan enters the upcoming season with 950 career points.

Girls: Turning the page

Continued from 22
winter, when Section Four rivals Lancaster Catholic and Elco duked it out in the league finale.

Lancaster Catholic has dominated the league the last couple of years, but the Crusaders lost some key players off last season's 30-1 squad. Kiki Jefferson, the league's No. 2 all-time leading scorer and back-to-back state Class 4A Player of the Year, has taken her talents to James Madison University. Lancaster Catholic also lost sniper Peyton Jaquis, who ripped 103 3-pointers last winter.

Ten L-L League first-team all-stars are due back, and that includes a pair of 1,000-point senior scorers: Donegal's Kiera Baughman (1,256) and Northern Lebanon's Zara Zerman (1,042). Both of those players recently made their college commitments to PSAC outposts. Baughman is headed to Indiana (Pa.) while Zerman will join older sister — and Vikings 1,000-point scorer — Zoe Zerman at Kutztown.

Who will be the next player in the L-L League to hit 1,000 career points this season? Lancaster Country Day senior enforcer and first-team all-star Ashanti Duncan is sitting on 950 points for the Cougars, who also return double-digit scorers Annabelle Copeland and Kaela

Stankiewicz, and fully expect to be in the Section Five chase.

Other first-team all-stars set to return this winter are Manheim Township's Katie Bushong (876 career points), Penn Manor's Morgan Miller, McCaskey's Malia Taylor, Ephrata's Gabbie Gerola-Hill (640 points), Warwick's Lauren Pyle, Pequea Valley's Abbey Leslie and Lancaster Mennonite's Mariah Wilson (760 points), who is poised to become the league's next Division I recruit.

Cedar Crest, Elizabethtown, Solanco, Lancaster Catholic and Lancaster Mennonite are out to defend their section championships, and when playoff time rolls around, locals Lancaster Catholic (Class 4A), Linden Hall (2A) and Lancaster Country Day (1A) will angle for repeat District Three championships.

Linden Hall, the all-girls school in Lititz, will be sparked by Division I recruits Jumoke Adaramoye (University of San Francisco) and Favour Mbeledoge (Manhattan).

• Sports writer Jeff Reinhart covers L-L girls basketball for LNP. Email him at jreinhart@lnpnews.com, and follow him on Twitter at [@JeffReinhart77](https://twitter.com/JeffReinhart77).

EARLY-BIRD SPECIAL: 5 BOYS GAMES TO WATCH

DEC. 6

• **Manheim Township tip-off tournament:** Features Elizabethtown against Central York and Manheim Township against Hazleton on the opening night. E-town has a strong nucleus back from last year's Lancaster-Lebanon League semifinal squad. Manheim Township is the defending Section One and league tournament champion, and has several new faces. Central York was eliminated by Manheim Township in last year's District Three Class 6A consolation semifinals, a win that sent the Blue Streaks to states. Lots of storyline possibilities coming out of this tourney.

DEC. 11

• **Columbia at Lancaster Catholic:** With everyone back from last year's playoff team, the Tide are expected to contend for the L-L Section Five crown. The Crusaders are the defending L-L Section Four champs with just two starters back from last year's team that reached the District Three Class 4A title game and second round of states.

DEC. 13

• **Manheim Township at Warwick:** How's this for an L-L opener? These two programs squared off in last year's league tournament title game.

JAN. 3

• **Octorara at Elco:** This league clash pits a pair of teams with just about everyone back from last year's playoff teams. Both are expected to contend for the L-L Section Four crown this winter.

JAN. 14

• **Cedar Crest at McCaskey:** L-L Section One foes square off. The Falcons will be looking to avenge last year's regular season loss at McCaskey in which the Red Tornado came back from down 21 points to win at the buzzer.

— John Walk

Boys

Continued from 21

(18.8 points per game, 37 3-pointers last season), McCaskey senior guard Elijah Terry (averaged 19.9 ppg and had 51 treys for Lancaster Mennonite last season), Annville-Cleona senior Andrew Long (15.7 ppg, 38 3-pointers), Warwick junior guard Joey McCracken (12.8 ppg, 39 3-pointers), Elco junior guard Braden Bohannon (12.4 ppg, 40 3-pointers) and Octorara junior forward Naji Hamilton (12.5 ppg).

New coaches

There's only one: Solanco's David Long, who fills the shoes of big brother Scott Long, who stepped down after last season to focus his efforts on being the high school's new principal. David Long had served as Solanco's freshman coach for two years before becoming the Mules' junior varsity head coach and varsity assistant last season.

• Sports writer John Walk covers L-L boys basketball for LNP. Email him at jwalk@lnpnews.com, and follow him on Twitter at [@JWalkLNP](https://twitter.com/JWalkLNP).

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