

## WEEK ONE

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It has been awhile — almost unbearably so — and if you're as pigskin-crazed as The Gazette's sports staff, Sept. 4 is coming not a moment too soon. As such, we have all the attractive Week One subplots ripe for discussion, and what you need to know about several marquee matchups going down on Friday.

#### Seneca Valley at Clarksburg

What a way to kick off the regular season. When Clarksburg opened four years ago, it pulled students from the Germantown school, just five miles away. Now, they are division rivals after the Coyotes' move to the 3A Division, readying for their first-ever meeting.

But that just scratches the surface.

Most attractive is the number of games the two teams combined to lose during the 2008 regular season: Zero. Both lost arguably their deepest senior classes ever, but expect to see some fireworks with exciting Screaming Eagle juniors Dimitri Parker and Bernard Wolley.

On the other side, Clarksburg has a little more back than their counterparts, with one of the top skill-position tandems around in seniors Andrew Veith (29 catches, 565 yards) and Ace Clark and Sam Collins (team-high seven interceptions).

#### Northwest at Whitman

This sets up as a good measuring stick for one team supposed to be great, and another that thinks it can be.

After reaching the playoffs and returning much of its foundation, Northwest is a popular preseason pick to play deep into November. Third-year starting quarterback Jarrhett Butler is back, but the headline act is senior halfback Hassan Dixon (1,026 yards, 14 touchdowns).

On the other side, the Vikings have been building for this year. Junior quarterback Henry Kuhn got his feet wet with four starts a year ago, while senior three-year starters Kevin Cecala (712 rush yards), Larry Kline and Danny Lee make Whitman dangerous enough to shock anybody in 4A.

#### Wootton at Sherwood

Okay, so does anyone really know

## MONTGOMERY-PG FANTASY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

This season, the Montgomery and Prince George's County Gazettes will select teams for a fantasy football challenge. Play-  
ers will be revealed online every Friday morning, and results will be posted each Monday. Visit [www.gazette.net/montsports](http://www.gazette.net/montsports).

what to expect from the Warriors? Few saw their undefeated state-championship season coming a year ago, but even that team had several familiar faces. It's all a mystery this fall; in fact, we're still not sure who will be taking snaps. The one known commodity is a senior line possibly even stronger than a year ago, which returns three starters.

Just as much is uncertain on the other side, where the Patriots must replace the county's top passer and second-leading receiver. But Wootton made its first playoff appearance in 17 years thanks to its spread offense, not just two players, and senior quarterback Alex Kelly and veteran wideout Matt Grimm are ready to fill the void.

#### Blake at Springbrook

Northeast Consortium rivals tussle in a game no longer a division rivalry, but just as interesting. In a wide-open 4A West Region, the Blue Devils are hoping to claim the playoff berth that narrowly evaded them a year ago, and electric senior Mitchell Pollard is one of the premier two-way players in the county.

The Bengals have a workhorse of their own in junior Kwabena Asante, a coveted Division I prospect who rushed for 1,422 yards and eight touchdowns last fall. It remains to be seen who else they can count on in a murderous 3A Division, but several county coaches think Blake will be much-improved.

*This will be the VOLI Sports Montgomery County High School Game of the Week. The broadcast will be shown in its entirety Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. on MCPS Channel 33 (Comcast) or 35 (Verizon), as well as times to be determined on Verizon Fios One.*



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