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NEW-LOOK RIVER HAWKS HOPE TO BEGIN POST-OLSEN ERA WITH HOME VICTORY OVER VIKINGS

VALLEY AT ARMSTRONG



The Armstrong offense will look markedly different the first time the River Hawks have the ball tonight merely because one player will no longer be on the field. Cadin Olsen is now a Penn Quaker and will be gearing up for his Ivy League debut instead of moving the River Hawks up and down the field as he did so many times over the last three high school football seasons. Sophomore Colt Sprankle is the likely heir apparent and will have some big shoes to fill as Olsen graduated this past spring as the most decorated male athlete in school history. Sprankle will have a boatload of weapons on offense as the entire wide receiving corps returns intact led by senior Isaiah Brown and junior Ian Olsen.

WOLVES HIT THE ROAD IN ATTEMPT TO AVENGE LAST SEASON'S BLOWOUT AND BRING COMETS BACK TO EARTH

WEST SHAMOKIN AT PENNS MANOR



Penns Manor had quite a 2022 season and the Comets put a whipping on the Wolves in their meeting by a score of 40-0. While the Comets boasted a strong all-around team, West Shamokin was without quarterback Lou Swartz for the majority of the contest after the all-conference quarterback suffered an ankle injury in the early going. Now a senior, Swartz and Company are licking their chops for another shot at Penns Manor and though they'll have to go on the road, the Wolves will have revenge on their mind tonight.

YELLOWJACKETS HIT THE ROAD FOR NON-CONFERENCE TEST AGAINST LITTLE INDIANS

FREEPORT AT INDIANA



The Yellowjackets advanced further into the postseason than any area team as head coach John Gaillott's senior-laden squad made their way to the WPIAL 3A semifinals before they ran into eventual WPIAL and PIAA champion Belle Vernon. While Freeport lost a lot of starting talent on both sides of the ball, the Yellowjackets will once again have a stout senior group looking to make it back-to-back conference titles. Indiana must know where senior linebacker Colton Otterman is at all times as he has a knack of blowing up offensive plays from almost any angle.

BLUE DEVILS AND VIKINGS SET TO RENEW ONE OF THE BEST RIVALRIES IN THE WPIAL

LEECHBURG AT APOLLO-RIDGE



One of the best rivalry games in the WPIAL and indeed, all of Pennsylvania, gets underway once again tonight as the Leechburg Blue Devils make the very short trip to Owens Field to take on their geographical rival, the Apollo-Ridge Vikings. Last season's game was a thriller with A-R coming out on top, 34-28 thanks to a monster night by now-departed running back Nick Curci. Both teams qualified for the WPIAL playoffs last season, Leechburg finished 7-4 and Apollo-Ridge closed out the year with a 6-5 mark. While plenty of big names from last year's game have now graduated -- including current Pitt linebacker Braylan Lovelace -- rest assured that the players on the field from each squad will be treating every play of this Week Zero contest like it could be their last, that's how deep the emotions run in this rivalry.