

# HIGH SCHOOL GAME PREVIEWS

## Martinsburg at Hampshire

ROMNEY — Hampshire has walked this path before — sort of.

When it came time for the Trojans to talk, Martinsburg zipped their lips.

Ranked No. 1 in Class AAA when the first West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission computer rankings came out last year, the Trojans faced the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs promptly heaped a 52-7 thrashing on Hampshire, and the Trojans, for all practical purposes, went silent.

Now Hampshire's ranked 18th — two places from a playoff position — when it hosts the Bulldogs at Rannells Field tonight.

Meanwhile, the undefeated Bulldogs are well on their way to another playoff berth as they enter the game ranked fifth.

While each game is important, there are more playoff implications at stake for Hampshire, which, should the Trojans defeat Martinsburg, could gain a substantial number of bonus points down the line.

"I think our kids are excited about winning, getting a little more confidence, which is good," Hampshire coach Darren Grace said. "We know week in, week out, we got a ballgame to play.

"Everyone's tough. We got teams on our schedule that make the playoffs in West Virginia and Maryland. It would be a great win, if we can get a win."

To spring an upset, both coaches realize ball-control will be a critical part of the Trojans' game plan.

"We have to eliminate mistakes and try to move the ball to keep their offense off the field," Grace said.

The Trojans survived five fumbles, two lost, as they squeaked out a 14-11 win over James Wood, Va., last week.

"They have the ability to have long drives and keep the ball away from you and chew up time on the clock," Martinsburg coach David Walker said. "We're concerned about that."

On the other hand, Robert E. Lee held the football for some seven minutes on the opening drive last week against the Bulldogs and came away empty. Martinsburg, which has been outstanding against the run this year, turned right around and scored lickety-split.

The Bulldogs may not have quarterback Dustin

Peters available as a result of that game, however. He hurt his knee while sacking the quarterback on defense, and Walker listed him as questionable.

If Peters can't play, Cameron Shelton, considered part of a two-quarterback platoon system at the season's beginning, will.

"He's capable of doing the same stuff Dustin has done," Walker said. "The thing we've said all along about our quarterback situation is Dustin is our starter and we were going to use Cameron in different situations. Dustin played really well the last couple of weeks and we didn't want to take him out."

"This will be a good opportunity for Cameron. The more reps he gets, the better off he will be."

Who: Martinsburg Bulldogs at Hampshire Trojans

Location: Rannells Field, Romney

Last meeting: Martinsburg 52, Hampshire 7

Last week: Martinsburg defeated Robert E. Lee 27-20; Hampshire defeated James Wood, Va., 14-11

Records: Martinsburg (3-0); Hampshire (2-1)

Coaches: Martinsburg — David Walker; Hampshire — Darren Grace

Players to watch: Martinsburg — Quarterback/linebacker Dustin Peters; running back/defensive back Josh Twyman; wide receiver/linebacker Jacquin Moore; nose tackle Bryce Hobbs; tight end/defensive end Jesse Jean; Hampshire — quarterback Dusty Frye; wide receiver/safety Cameron Lee; tailback/defensive back Kevin Lee; fullback George Nicholson; fullback Isaac Corbin.

Base formations: Martinsburg — offense, spread; defense, stack; Hampshire — offense, wing-T; defense 4-4

Walker: "They've got some good football players. Their kids are tough and physical. We just have to go up there and play well and make sure they don't keep the ball away from us and make some big plays ourselves."

Grace: "They're a very good football team. It'll be a tough ballgame. We got to be clicking on all cylinders and have to play an exceptional ballgame."

Rick Kozlowski

## Broad Run at Jefferson

SHENANDOAH JUNCTION — The Jefferson offense has been plenty powerful this year, averaging nearly 30 points per game in going 3-0.

Broad Run (0-2) will try to stop the Cougars' attack with just one returning defensive starter from last year.

"They have incredible athletic ability," Spartans coach Ken Belchik said. "They have great speed and size."

The Cougars are coming off a thrilling comeback victory against Park View, Va., during which Jefferson trailed 28-6 before rallying for a 37-34 win. The Spartans, on the other hand, are coming off a 20-7 loss to Manassas, Va., in which it fumbled the ball seven times, lost four and threw two interceptions.

"We can't win when we make those kind of mistakes," Belchik said. "For the most part, I think we're been playing pretty well, but then we make a mistake or two."

"I think a lot of that has to do with inexperience."

Jefferson quarterback Patrick Burns has plenty of experience, guiding the Cougars to a Class AAA quarterfinal appearance in 2004. Though he's certainly progressed as time has gone on, he threw like he never has before against Park View last week.

Though Burns completed just 10 of 21 passes, those completions went for 251 yards and four touchdowns.

"I'm sure that did a lot for his confidence," Jefferson coach Richard Mills said.

Carr said he's particularly concerned with the speedy Josh Brown. Brown has caught just four passes the past two weeks, but three of them have gone for touchdowns. His four receptions went for a total of 176 yards. In the Cougars' opening game, Brown returned kickoffs and

punts for touchdowns and also had a receiving touchdown.

"We need to stop their big plays," Belchik said. "They like to throw the ball to Brown, and we need to stop that deep passing game as well as limit their running."

Mills said Broad Run, led by running back Nelson Thayier, likes to do a number of things.

"They run split backs with twin receivers, and they use a lot of motion," Mills said. "They run a lot of jet sweeps, and they have a small back who's elusive."

Who: Broad Run Spartans at Jefferson Cougars

Location: Cougar Stadium

Last meeting: Broad Run 22, Jefferson 12 (1983)

Last week: Broad Run lost to Manassas Park, Va., 20-7; Jefferson defeated Park View, Va., 37-34

Records: Spartans (0-2); Cougars (3-0)

Coaches: Broad Run — Ken Belchik;

Jefferson — Richard Mills

Players to watch: Broad Run — running back Nelson Thayier, linebacker Austin Lafollette; Jefferson — Quarterback Patrick Burns, wide receiver Josh Brown, tailback Ryland Newman, wide receiver Brendan McLaughlin, linebacker Jordan Diehl, linebacker Jonathan Hash, punter Tom Teyssier

Base formations — Broad Run — offense, wing-T, defense, 40; Jefferson — offense, I-formation; defense, 4-3

Belchik: "We need to pull it together (and limit mistakes). If we do that, we should be all right."

Mills: "We've got to be more alert on special teams and be more focused."

Robert Niedzwiecki

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