

FOOTBALL: APP preseason's top ten rankings

12:54 PM, Sep. 8, 2011

1. RED BANK CATHOLIC 8-2

Last year: No. 3. The Caseys are ranked No. 1 in the Asbury Park Press Top 10 for the first time in recent memory. Their defense could be the best in the Shore. Tackles Joe Coscarelli, an Asbury Park Press All-Shore first team selection last year and Josh Klecko, the son of former Jets All-Pro defensive lineman Joe Klecko, will be extremely tough for opposing offensive lines to move. The Caseys' offensive line should be one of the Shore's best. **First game:** Friday at Southern (5-5).

2. NEPTUNE 6-4

Last year: Not ranked. The potential is there for the Scarlet Fliers to regain their glory from the 1990's, provided everything can mesh together. Neptune received two important additions in the off-season. First, Mark Ciccotelli, who coached Freehold to NJSIAA Central Group III championships two of the last three seasons and rebuilt the Colonials' program from the ground up over the last seven seasons, became their head coach after Don Sofilkanich resigned after one season to become the head coach at Bishop Ahr in Edison. Second, standout linebacker/running back Jazzmar Clax transferred to Neptune from Freehold. Other standouts like senior running back/linebacker Ikie Calderon and senior quarterback/defensive back Jaheen Woods also return. **First game:** Friday at Bishop Ahr (5-5).

3. WALL 7-4

Last year: Not ranked. It is time for the Crimson Knights' senior class, which has been highly touted since they were sophomores, to take the next step and bring the program back to a championship level. It would appear Wall is primed to have one of the best offenses in the Shore, led by senior quarterback Steve Cluley, who is in his third season as a starter. The Crimson Knights also return their entire offensive line from last year. **First game:** Saturday at No. 8 Lacey (12-0).

4. RUMSON-FAIR HAVEN 9-3

Last year: No. 4. The Bulldogs, who stunned then No. 1 ranked Matawan last year in the NJSIAA Central Group II championship, return nine starters on defense, including tackles Jack Eisenstadt and Mike Alonso and end Jake Clapp. Middle linebacker Travis Clark, who replaces All-Shore first-team selection Michael Huttner, is another player coach Shane Fallon thinks highly of. Junior Danny Roberto, the brother of former Rumson quarterback Michael Roberto, takes over at quarterback. **First game:** Friday vs. Barnegat (6-5).

5. MIDDLETOWN SOUTH 9-3

Last year: No. 6. The Eagles, who have won nine sectional titles but gone four straight years without one and lost in the sectional final the last three seasons, lost numerous skill position players from last season. However, senior Howie Brey, who started several games last season when then starter Scott Meeker broke his fibula in the third game of the season, has a cannon of an arm. Senior Matt LaMattina has excellent hands and could be a receiver to watch. Linebacker/running back Joe Simone could have a major impact on both sides of the ball.

First game: Friday at Ocean (3-7).

6. MATAWAN 11-1

Last year: No. 5. The Huskies lost numerous key players to graduation, including quarterback/defensive back Jared Allison and running back/defensive back McArthur Underwood. However, they still appear to be talented in the skill positions with sophomore quarterback Kashaun Barnes and senior running back Cassius Williams. Talented athlete Larry Alston will be another key player. **First game:** Saturday at Freehold (10-2).

7. MANASQUAN 9-2

Last year: No. 9. Jay Price, an assistant coach the last 16 seasons and a former Manasquan player takes over as the Warriors' head coach. Pete Cahill, who succeeded the late, legendary Vic Kubu as head coach in the summer of 2007, resigned and accepted a position as a vice principal at Manasquan. With most of the coaching staff, which has been there for years, still intact, do not expect Manasquan to miss a beat. Senior Tyler Saito will be in his second season as the starting quarterback. Senior linebacker/running back Kodie McNamara is in his third season as a starter on defense and could be the Warriors' best all-around player. **First game:** Friday at Point Boro (5-5).

8. LACEY 12-0

Last year: No. 1. The Lions lost 21 players to graduation, including quarterback Craig Cicardo Jr. They also lost offensive coordinator Craig Cicardo Sr., who took a job as an assistant coach at The College of New Jersey. Just four players who saw extensive playing time last year return. However, still expect the Lions to be a force to be reckoned with. The strength of the team figures to be the offensive line, led by center Lex Knapp, an Asbury Park Press All-Shore first team selection last season, and tackle Tyrell Smith, a Division I-A recruit.

First game: Saturday vs. No. 3 Wall (7-4).

9. BRICK MEMORIAL 9-3

Last year: No. 7. The Mustangs, who had one of the Shore's best defenses last season, will begin life after tackle Will Wowkanyyn, the Asbury Park Press Defensive Player of the Year last season. However, coach Walt Currie has said his team will play a physical brand of football. Seniors Jared Eccles and Ray Contrucci, both linebackers/running backs, will have major impacts on both sides of the ball. Junior Ryan Cieplinski takes over as the quarterback of the Mustangs' triple option offense. **First game:** Friday at Brick (4-6).

10. TOMS RIVER NORTH 7-3

Last year: Not ranked. The Mariners, who barely missed the NJSIAA South Group IV playoffs last season, have to replace the graduated Demetri Davis, who was a standout running quarterback and safety. Senior Scott

Buxbaum will be the starting quarterback. He will have a talented, but young receiving corps, led by sophomore Kyle Carrington, to throw to. Senior tight end/defensive end Jesse Tate, a transfer from Toms River South, appears primed to have a monster season. **First game:** Saturday vs. Howell (6-4).