

## Shore Regional debuts in high school football Top 10

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Shore Regional has done almost everything right this season.

It has scored at least 31 points in eight of its 10 games and recorded eight of its nine wins by at least 17 points.

The Blue Devils' impressive season-long resume has finally landed them a place in the Asbury Park Press Top 10.

Shore, which has recorded its most wins since it went 9-2 in 1997, enters the rankings at No. 10 after its impressive 31-7 win over rival Keyport on Friday night in an NJSIAA Central Group I semifinal.

The Blue Devils replace Wall, which was defeated, 20-13, by Freehold on Saturday in a Central III semifinal. It is the first time in several seasons Shore has been ranked.

Shore has a chance to make its season memorable the next two weeks. On Thursday, it can clinch the outright Class B Central championship with a win at Point Beach.

It would be the Blue Devils' first outright division title since 1996, when they won Class C South. Shore has already clinched a share of the title, its first division championship since it shared Class C North with Keyport in 1998.

The weekend of Dec. 3, Shore will try to win its first sectional title since 1997 when it meets Dunellen (9-1) in the Central I championship.

Other movement in the rankings this week saw Freehold move up a spot to No. 5, trading places with Manalapan, as a result of its win over Wall and Manalapan's loss to Sayreville in an NJSIAA Central IV semifinal.

Also, Rumson-Fair Haven, which has won six consecutive games, moves up to No. 9 after its 36-0 rout over Carteret in a Central Group II semifinal.

**1. LACEY 11-0.** Last week: No. 1. Senior quarterback Craig Cicardo ran for two TDs and threw for another, and Jared Molzon kicked field goals of 44 and 33 yards as the Lions defeated Winslow Township, 34-14, in a South III semifinal. Cicardo accounted for 142 yards of total offense. He had 96 rushing and went 6-for-8 for 46 yards passing. Jake Dabal added a 17-yard TD run and finished with 84 yards rushing and Zach Torrell and Matt Uveges each had interceptions. The Lions have two weeks to prepare for a sectional championship. Next game: Dec. 4 vs. Delsea (10-1) in the South III championship game.

**2. MATAWAN 10-0.** Last week: No. 2. The brilliant playmaking ability of senior quarterback Jared Allison enabled the Huskies to survive their toughest test of the season and record a 26-14 win over Manasquan in a Central II semifinal, extending the Shore Conference's longest active winning streak to 18. Allison scored twice in the fourth quarter as Matawan broke away from a 14-14 tie. He put the Huskies ahead for good with a 25-yard TD run. Then, after Matawan's defense held the Warriors on downs at the Matawan 8, Allison ripped off a 92-yard TD run to put the game away. He also had an 84-yard punt return in the first quarter. Senior running back McArthur Underwood had a 4-yard TD run in the second quarter. Matawan can clinch the Class A Central

championship outright with a win this week. Then, it will defend its Central II title against Rumson-Fair Haven. Next game: Saturday vs. St. John Vianney (4-5).

**3. MIDDLETOWN SOUTH 8-2.** Last week: No.3. Andrew Suarez ran for 162 yards and two TDs on 16 carries as the Eagles beat Hamilton West, 21-13, in a Central III semifinal. Suarez opened the scoring with a 7-yard run in the first quarter and found the end zone from 11 yards out to push Middletown South's lead to 14-6 in the third quarter. The Eagles had 339 yards rushing as a team and held Hamilton West to 184 yards. Middletown South lost two fumbles in the game, which has been an issue for the team most of the season. After a Thanksgiving Day game against their crosstown rival, the Eagles will play in a sectional final for the third straight year. Next game: Thursday at Middletown North (2-7).

**4. BRICK MEMORIAL 9-2.** Last week: No. 4. The offense came through with a big game, and Brick Memorial's defense continued its dominance in a 37-0 rout of North Brunswick in a Central IV semifinal. Quarterback Mike DiGuilmi ran for 83 yards and and three TDs and also threw a TD pass to Dylan Walsh. Anthony Miller added 112 yards and a TD. The five touchdowns produced by the offense were the most for the Mustangs since a 35-0 win against Toms River South on Oct. 8, a stretch of six games. The defense, which earned its fourth shutout, held North Brunswick to 116 total yards. The Central IV final is a rematch of the 2008 title game, won by Brick Memorial, 24-0. Next game: Dec. 3 or 4 vs. Sayreville (10-1) most likely at Rutgers Stadium in the Central IV championship game.

**5. FREEHOLD 8-2.** Last week: No. 6. Sterry Codrington's 61-yard TD run with 7:04 remaining broke a tie and gave the Colonials a 20-13 win over Wall in a Central III semifinal. Codrington had 150 yards on 22 carries. Senior safety Derrick Bender gave Freehold a 13-7 lead by returning an 27 yards for a TD late in the third quarter and Jazzmar Clax had a 12-yard TD run in the first quarter. The defense held Wall, which had been averaging 43.5 points a game the last seven games, to 28 yards rushing and 116 total yards. It is the second time in three years the Colonials have advanced to the sectional final. They defeated Middletown South, their opponent in the sectional final, in the 2008 Central III championship. Next game: Wednesday at Freehold Township (2-7).

**6. MANALAPAN 7-3.** Last week: No. 5. Josh Firkser was held under 100 yards rushing for the first time this season, and Rutgers recruit Mike Bimonte threw three costly interceptions as the Braves lost to Sayreville, 32-20, in a Central IV semifinal. Manalapan led, 7-2, and was poised to take a two-touchdown lead, but Delon Stephenson intercepted Bimonte at the goal line and went 99 yards for a TD. Sayreville led the rest of the way. Manalapan will clinch the Class A North title outright with a win on Thanksgiving. It would be their first outright division title since 1996. Firkser needs 161 yards to reach 2,000 yards on the season. Next game: Thursday at Marlboro (4-5). 7.

**RED BANK CATHOLIC 7-2.** Last week: No. 7. The Caseys did not play this week after they were eliminated from the Non-Public IV playoffs with a 65-34 loss to powerhouse Bergen Catholic on Nov. 13. Andrew Casten ran for 232 yards and three TDs in that game and has 1,360 yards and 21 rushing TDs on the season. Red Bank Catholic's had two weeks to prepare for rival Rumson-Fair Haven and has won seven straight in the series by an average score of 32.6-5.7. Next game: Thursday at No. 9 Rumson-Fair Haven (8-2).

**8. MANASQUAN 8-2.** Last week: No. 8. The Warriors, who have a Shore Conference-record 11 sectional championships, gave No. 2 and defending Central II champion Matawan all it could handle in a 26-14 defeat in a Central II semifinal. Senior tailback Tariq Turner scored two TDs and ran for 181 yards. His first one came on a 58-yard run when he lined up in the "Wildcat" formation. His second came on a 15-yard run that capped an 88-yard drive that lasted 7:06 to open the third quarter. Manasquan had a chance to take the lead in the fourth quarter, but was stopped on downs at the Matawan 8. The Warriors now must refocus on a short week to play their arch rival. A win will give Manasquan the Class C Central championship outright. Next game: Thursday vs. Wall (7-3).

**9. RUMSON-FAIR HAVEN 8-2.** Last week: No. 10. The Bulldogs dominated Carteret, totaling 346 yards of offense and 24 first downs in a 36-0 victory in a Central II semifinal. Quarterback Mike Villapiano ran for 119 yards on 19 attempts and completed 16 passes for 161 yards and two TDs. Ian Moore caught five passes for 55 yards, including a 15-yard first-quarter TD that opened the scoring, and Michael Guzman and Connor Riley each had rushing TDs. Rumson's defense limited Carteret to 101 yards, only 20 on the ground, and had two interceptions. Following a rivalry game, the Bulldogs will play in the Central II championship for the second time in four seasons. Next game: Thursday vs. No. 7 Red Bank Catholic (7-2).

**10. SHORE 9-1.** Last week: Not ranked. The Blue Devils make their season debut in the rankings after beating Keyport, 31-7, in a Central I semifinal. Mark Coleman ran for 91 yards and two TDs, Pat Maggio added 81 yards rushing and Shore dominated the game on special teams. Evan Ruane blocked a punt for a TD, and Shane Carroll returned a punt 61 yards for a score. Carroll also kicked a 30-yard field goal and four extra points. The Blue Devils, who have won six consecutive games since a 7-6 loss to Manasquan on Oct. 8, held 1,200-yard rusher Jordan Edmonds to 35 yards on 12 carries. Shore can clinch the Class B Central title outright on Thanksgiving before facing Dunellen in the Central I final with an opportunity to win the program's first sectional title since 1997. Next game: Thursday at Point Beach (2-7).

**Dropped out: Wall**