2005 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW / RANKINGS

1. LESEAN MCCOY

 Bishop McDevitt, Ha
 RB, 5-11, 205 RB, 5-11, 205
 Ranked the No. 1 running back in the country by Super Prep magazine. Nicknamed "Shady," Had a gigantic junior season with 2,827 yards, including one fivegame stretch when he averaged 343 yards. About the only defen 343 yards. About the only defense he couldn't bust was Central Cath olic's, which held him to 39 yards in the PIAA semifinals. Has 5,750 career yards. Runs the 40 in 4.4 career yards. Runs the 40 in 4.4 and bench-presses more than 350 pounds. Has offers from schools everywhere, including Southern California, Tennessee, Miami, Alahama Georgia Virginia and

Auburn, McCov says he has no fa

Audurn. McCoy says he has no ta-vorites, but is considering Pitt and Penn State. He made an unofficial visit to Pitt two weekends ago with a few other McDevitt players. 2. PAT DEVLIN

 Downingtown East
 QB, 6-4, 205 One of the most highly recruit ed quarterbacks in the country ed quarterbacks in the country, Devlin committed to Miami (Fla.) in early July. He turned down offers from over 30 schools to sign with the Hurricanes. "Miami was where fielt like I was most comfortable, plus, it's hard to beat their tradi-tion," he said. Others schools that made his short list were Pitt, Penn. State, Michigan, North Carolina State and Virginia. Devlin, who is also an honor roll student, said he took into consideration Miami's accounting and finance programs when selecting the Hurricanes when selecting the Hurncanes. He set a Pennsylvania record two years ago as a sophomore when he passed for 511 yards in a game. Has 5,251 career yards and game. Has 5,231 career yards and has a chance at the state record of 7,705. Was 147 of 231 for 2,237 yards and 21 TDs as a junior. Good student — 3.8 grade-point

3. ZACH FRAZER

 Mechanicsbu
 QB, 6-4, 216 · Had gigantic jur etting a state record for passing setting a state record for passing yardage in a season. Was 285 of 440 for 3,674 yards and 27 touchdowns. Not very mobile (4.9 40 yard dash), but can certainly 40 yard dash), but can certainly throw it. Made verbal commitment to Notre Dame in April after considering more than 25 offers. He also seriously considered Penn State, Syracuse and Purdue among a host of others. His high school coach, Rich Lichtel, said his ability to read defenses is on par with any quarterback he has seen and should offset the lack of speed. Helped his Mechanicsburg team to the District 3 final as a iu

4. NATE BYHAM

• TE-LB, 6-4, 220 Ranked by scout.com and Super Prep as the No. 1 tight end in the country. And next year he'll be a Pitt player. Byham committed to the Panthers a few weeks ted to the Panthers a few weeks ago. He had dozens of offers from, among others, Southern Caifornia Miami, Tennessee, West Virginia and Iowa. "He's like a man among hove on the field." Franklin coact boys on the held," Frankin coach Dave Smith said. With his athletic ability (4.65 40-yard dash), Byha has been called a young "Jeremy Shockey." Byham is shocked at all the attention he has received "I just never thought I'd be this good," he said. He caught 45 passes last season for 883 yards Also a talented basketball player

E IADED ODDICK

 Lebanon
 OL-DL, 6-5, 300 sses so much ath • Possesses so much atmeti-cism (4.9 40-yard dash) that he plays some tight end in high school at 300 pounds, but will either play defensive end or offensive line in college. It is still up in the a as to which side of the ball he'll play on the college level. "I'd like to play defense," he said. "I think that's where I fit best." Has many scholarship offers, including ones from Penn State, Pitt, Southern California, Miami (Fla.), Oklahoma and Michigan. He would be a majo in-state recruit for either Pitt or Penn State, He made 87 tackles as a junior 19 of those for a loss Also a good basketball player and has the ability to move laterally.

6. JEREMIHA HUNTER

Harrisburg
 RB-LB, 6-2, 220

 Hunter played last season Manheim Central, but transfer to Harrisburg in the offseason. Hunter is a stalwart on both sides of the ball, but likely will play line-backer and not running back in college. There are over 30 school that have made scholarship offers. including heavy hitters such as Penn State, Michigan, Tennessee. Florida, Ohio State and Georgia. Made 143 tackles as a junior and also rushed for over 1,000 yards. His arm was broken in the PIAA mifinals and was not able to play in the title game, a loss against Thomas Jefferson. He said there are no lingering effects from the arm injun

7. DORIN DICKERSON

West Allegheny WR-RB, 6-2, 210 . One of the best all-around wers in Western Pennsylvar ayers in Western Pennsylvania. ' ink he has to be one of the best hiletes in the state," West Aliegh eny coach Bob Palko said. Dicker-son runs a 4.5 40-yard dash. Will son runs a 4.5 40-yard dash. W play running back, receiver and even some at quarterback this season. Also will play defensive back. Made verbal commitment to Pitt, turning down offers from to Pitt, turning down offers from Penn State, Michigan, Florida, Ten-nessee and LSU, among others. Was Post Gazettle Fabulous 22 as junior, rushing for 1,036 yards on 1.41 carries. But was recruited by Pitt to play receiver. Best friend is C.J. Davis, a freshman lineman at

R JASON PINKSTON

Baldwin
OL-DL, 6-5, 290

 "I remember our first scrimmage last year," Baldwin coach
 Mike Silianoff was saving, "Liust Mile Sitanoff was saying, "I just saw him making plays everywher and said to myself, 'This kid is going to be a big-time player,' " One of the most heavily recruited linemen in the state. Committed Inemen in the state. Committed to Pitt in July, turning down offers from Penn State, Michigan, Ohio State, Oklahoma and Florida, among others. Pinkston led Baldwin in tackles as a junior

9. DARRIN WALLS

Woodland Hills
RB-CB, 6-1, 175

· A starter since his sophomore e a starter since his sopromore year at Woodland Hills. Now most scouting services rank him among the top-10 defensive backs in the ntry. Has excellent quickness (4.4 40-yard dash). Also will be a (4.4 40-yard dash), Also will be a big part of Woodland Hills' offers this season. Recruited by college across the country. Michigan, Notre Dame and Florida are his top three, but Pitt has come on lately. His other top four schools are Penn State, West Virginia. State, West Virginia, California and Michigan All have offered

10 TOM MCEOWEN

 Neshaminy
 DL, 6-4, 276
 A Penn State recruit, Mc wen also had offers from Flo ida, Georgia and Boston College among a wide array of others. His father said Penn State assistant Tom Bradley was the difference aker in the recruiting process maker in the recruiting process. Can play in the middle and defen sive end, but Penn State likes hir mostly as an edge-rusher. Has a 32-inch vertical jump and has broad jumped more than 9 feet Possesses good strength, squa ting 550 pounds and benching 345. McEowen anchored both lines that helped his team read the PIAA Class AAAA champion ship game last season before be ing beaten by Central Catholic.

11. JEREMY RICKER op McDevitt, Harrisburg

• OB. 6-2, 205 Committed to Maryland, live ESPNEWS in early July. Chose the Terrapins over scholarship of

fers from California, Oregon and Michigan State. Threw for over 1,800 yerds and 17 touchdowns in his junior season. Has a 31-inch vertical leap. Ricker is not a pocket passer, but much better when roll ing out and throwing on the rur Once a wiry kid, he has worked hard to put on weight, adding 15 pounds in a five-month span after pounds in a five-month span after his junior season. "I think that was a really big deal," he said. "I needed to get bigger and stronger if I was going to get hit as much as I do." One of his teammates, of fensive lineman Tucker Baumbach.



Bishop McDevitt's LeSean McCov tops this year's list.



also committed to Maryland

12. JOHN MADDOX

 West Catholic, Philadelphia
 WR-DB, 6-4, 175
 Many consider him the best layer in the Philadelphia area this season. Can play offense o play safety in college, because I has the ability to deliver a crush ing hit and cover a receiver. He as over a dozen offers, including Penn State, Michigan State, Note Dame, Michigan and Ohio State. Also plays receiver and was a first team all-Catholic league selection on both sides of the ball last year Made 65 tackles as a junior and also pulled in eight touchdown

13. AARON BERRY Bishop McDev
 DB, 5-10, 175 vitt, Harrisburg

 Runs a 4,4 40-yard dash Berry has tremendous ball skills is a great leaper and has shown the ability to cover some of the pre mier receivers in Pennsylvania. He said he has more than two-dozer said ne nas more tran two-dozen scholarship offers, with Florida, Vir ginia, Michigan State, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Purdue as his favor ites. Pitt might be making a surge. He visited Pitt two weeks

along with a couple of teammates.

14. JOSH NEUBERT

 DL, 6-4, 248
 Neubert is hoping to be the lext in the long line of successful. Boston College linemen, as he made a commitment to the Eagles Some schools looked at Neubert as a linebacker, but Boston College has indicated he'll play a weak-side rias indicated ne ii piay a weak-soo rush end. "I was really interested in Boston College because on the defensive line is where I wanted to play. I didn't want to be a line-backer." He also considered Stanford, Virginia, North Carolina and Wake Forest. "I just loved the staff and location with BC. Those were the biggest things," Neubert said. "The campus being near the city is what I wanted." Extremely inte ligent student-athlete, who said the academics were as big, if not bigger, than football in his decision

Has 3.8 grade-point average and 1,300 SAT.

15. WESLEY LYONS Woodland Hills
 WR, 6-6, 205

 His size gives him a big advantage over most high school defensive backs. It will be interesting to see how many receptions he has

this season because Woodland Hills' quarterbacks are inexperi-enced. Miami and Oklahoma are two of his favorite schools and both have offered as well as Ohio State and Minnesota. His brother Devon, is a receiver at Ohio State

16 AARON SMITH

 Gateway
 WR-QB-DB 6-0, 180
 Smith plays quarterback at
Gateway, but is being recruited to
play receiver by Division I schools. He will announce his decision Aug. 27. He will choose between Pitt and Maryland, with Pitt as the most likely choice. Penn State, Tennessee Virginia and Michigan Tennessee, Virginia and Michigan State are among the other schools that have offered. He threw for more than 1,000 yards and rushed for more than 400 last season.

17. MARK HERZLICH

 Conestoga
 LB, 6-4, 245 · A big linebacker who projects inside. Herzlich chose Virginia in June largely because the Cavaliers June largely because the Cavallet coaching staff wants to keep him at linebacker, Herzlich also had Boston College on his short list. Herzlich had 10 scholarship offers overall. Has worked hard in the weight room in the past year and benches 385 pounds while also showing quickness.

18 OPER WERSTER

• Woodland Hills • FB-LB, 6-2, 230 Leading tackler for Woodland Leading tackler for Woodland Hills as a junior. Hard hitter who moves fairly well sideline to side-line. "He's just one of those kids who is a playmaker," Woodland Hills coach George Novak said, Committed to Pitt earlier this summer. Recruited to play linebacke West Virginia, Connecticut, Virgi and Temple also offered. Had a rother, Jahmal, who played at Maryland

19. JEFF MINEMYER

Bishop Carroll, Ebensburg
 TE-DL 6-7, 250

· A versatile player who could A versatile player who could play a number of positions in the future. "Some schools are saying I could play defensive end and some think I could be an offensive tackle if I put on more weight," Mine-meyer said. "I'd like to play tight meyer said. "I'd like to play tight end." Caught only six passes in run-oriented offense last season. Michigan State, Illinois, Louisville, West Vinzinia. Georgia Tech and Duke have offered, among others. West Virginia is his top choice. Excellent student with 4.0 gradepoint average

20 TYLER TRACH

DE, 6-3, 240

 An extremely cerebral player who is also a great technician who is also a great technician, Tkach made a commitment to Pitt in late June. Excellent student with 4.5 grade-point average. Son of Northern Lehigh coach Jim Tkach. Has frame to put on weight in col lege. Also had scholarship offers from North Carolina, North Carol State, Georgia Tech and Virginia. "Coach [Dave] Wannstedt made a big, big impact on me," Tkach said. 21. JASON KATES

 Bishop McDevitt, Harrisburg
 DL, 6-3, 310
 Runs a 5.1 40-yard dash. Could use some work on late movement. Good against the "I lost almost 15 pounds over the summer and am working to take a little more off," he said. He has almost 30 scholarship offer and said that Notre Dame "reall impresses me." Pitt, Penn State Michigan, Maryland and Virginia Tech also are in the mix. Has tons

22. BRANDON KING Central Bucks West

• FB. 6-3, 250

 A bruising fullback who has run the 40-yard dash in 4.68 seconds. Rushed for more than 700 vards as a junior, Can be a devastating blocker. Oklahoma, Syracuse, Georgia Tech, Minne-sota, Duke and Vanderbilt offer scholarships to this honor-roll student, but he committed to Duke earlier this summer

23. BRENT CARTER Pottsgrove
RB-WR-DB, 6-3, 195

. Could play either running back

or receiver in college. Pretty good quickness, running a 4.55 40-yard dash. Some even believe he could put on weight and become an ath letic linebacker in short he's i est a good athlete and a talented kick returner. Has offers from Boston College, Louisville, North Carolina, Rutgers, West Virginia and Syracuse. He is coached at Pottsgrove former West Virginia player Rick

24. TRAVIS MCRRIDE

 McKeesport
 RB-DB, 6-1, 190
 Mr. Versatility for McKeesport
I think he'll be a running back and I think he has the tools to and I think he has the tools to play running back at a big school," McKeesport coach George Smith being a safety, outlied linebacker or even a corner." A big play artist on offense, McBride last season carried 108 times for 1.117 yords, a 10.3 yard werge. He also scored 19 touchdowns. Has 1,820 yards rushing in two seasons. North Car olina State, Rutgers, West Virginia Iowa, Temple have offered.

25. BRAD KANUCH

• WR-RB-DB, 6-0, 185 An outstanding athlete who shows his athletic ability in track and field. At the PIAA Class AA championships in May, he won championships in May, he won the triple jump (47 feet, 2 inches), won the 200 meter dash (22.33 seconds), finished second in the 100 (10.65) and second in the long jump (21.101/6). It's anybody's long jump (21-10%). It's anybody's guess what position he'll play in college. Penn State, Boston Col-lege, Virginia and Maryland have offered, among others. His uncle is Penn State defensive coordinator Tom Bradle

26. JIM MCKENZIE St. Joseph's Prep, Philadel-

• OLDL 6-436-297 Plays for perennial power in Philadelphia. A versatile lineman whose future is on the offense.

As of mid-summer, he had sever scholarship offers from Rutgers, Syracuse, West Virginia, Colorade Kentucky, New Mexico State and Toledo, But in August, Syracuse won out as McKenzie committed to the Orange. Ranked first in his

27. COLIN NEELY

 Freedom, Bethlehem
 TE-LB, 6-2, 250
 Made a verbal commitment
Michigan State. One of two Pennsylvania athletes to choose the Spartans. The other is South the Spartans. The other is South Park quarterback Connor Dixon. Penn State, Virginia, Syracuse and others were showing interest, but Neely jumped on the Michigan

State offer. He was recruited to play linebacker. Made 60 tackles as a junior. 28. TREY WOMACK

 Mahem Prep
 DB, 6-0, 178
 Can run the 40-yard dash in
4.4 seconds. A good kick returner who also excels in track. Virginia, Virginia Tech and Rutgers have offered but Womack said schools such as Florida, Michigan, Michi-gan State, Oklahoma, Penn State and Tennessee have been on him

recently and he expects a few of

29. ELIJAH FIELDS

• WR-DB, 6-2, 200 In his first year as a starter last season, Fields caught 26 passes for 591 yards (22.7 yards a catch). Is being recruited as an "athlete." Some schools like him as a receiver and some as a de-fensive back. Pitt and West Virgini have offered and are his two favor ites. Ohio, Akron, Toledo, Marshall also have offered. Was leading corer on Duquesne's basket

30. DAN LOHEYDE

• FB.I B. 6.2 220

Was Pitt's first recruit from the class of 2006, committing to the Panthers in March. Pitt was the only school to offer a scholarshin at the time, but Loheyde most likely would have other offers if he waited. Led Gateway in tackles last season. Can run a 4.6 40-yard dash