

5 Big Games Highlight Tonight's Schoolboy Football Schedule

By LYNN HAYACH

Slatington was a consensus choice of the Lehigh Valley League coaches prior to the season to walk off with the league crown. If the Bulldogs of Coach Jack Cassebaum are indeed of title caliber, they will have to prove it tonight in their league opener.

The Bulldogs, after a topsyturvy two-game exhibition schedule, launch their quest of the LVL championship at home at 8 o'clock against Lehighton — the team picked by the coaches as having the best shot at wrecking Slatington's championship dream.

This game is one of five top

attractions on a 13-game scholastic football card tonight in The Morning Call Area. In the other important encounters:

●Allen, minus its ace tailback and without a triumph in its first two games, travels to meet Neshaminy, which is coming off a 22-point defeat at the hands of Easton;

●Easton, which finally kicked its offense into high gear against Neshaminy, comes to ASD Stadium for a bout with Dieruff, sporting a four-game win streak during which time the Huskies have been pressed only once;

●Bethlehem Catholic, which seems to come up with the

right play at the precise moment and has extended its two-season unbeaten skein to 13 games as a result, collides with Freedom, a surprise winner against Allen and the only team to extend Dieruff;

●Parkland, which made a hard-as-nails defense look routine against Slatington because it had to use it so often, entertains Central Catholic, a team that pushed Easton near the breaking point before bowing, then trampled Northwestern in its last outing.

The remainder of the schedule finds East Stroudsburg, which lost to Pen Argyl 7-0 in the final 40 seconds Saturday,

visiting Bangor, a 13-7 winner over Catasauqua, and winless Palmerton travelling to meet winless Stroudsburg.

Also, Brick Township visits Phillipsburg; Salisbury travels to meet Pleasant Valley; Tamaqua goes to Mahanoy Area; Jim Thorpe visits Pocono Mountain; Northwestern is at Cardinal Brennan, and North Penn is at Penridge.

Slatington kicked off its season by scoring 64 points against East Stroudsburg in a game that looked more like a track meet than a football encounter, then ran up against Parkland which had enough defense that

night for three teams. The Bulldogs dropped a 6-2 decision.

Lehighton's three games prior to tonight's have been almost as confusing. The Indians pulled a minor surprise in their opener, beating a Pen Argyl team that has the credentials to go all the way in the Lehigh-Northampton League. They then blanked Stroudsburg in their first LVL game, but last week dropped a 20-0 decision to a Nazareth team which has under a half dozen lettermen back from last year.

Allen has seen its prospects for a fine year go from good to bad to worse in the space of a number of weeks. Crippled by

the loss of ace quarterback, Kim McQuilken, in preseason, the Canaries lost a number of defensive starters through injuries against Freedom, then lost their hard-charging running back, Darryl Tollinche, with a broken ankle against Pennsylvania.

The Neshaminy team Coach Fritz Halfacre's forces tackle tonight showed against Easton last week that it could score—quickly as well as often — in addition to being able to move the ball.

Bethlehem Catholic, with an apparent knack for playing close games, continues to roll along after an unbeaten year

last season. The Golden Hawks have yet to lose in 13 straight games, but were tied by Hazleton 14-14 two weeks ago. They have beaten Pius X 7-6 and Liberty 7-0.

Freedom, which dropped its opener to a North Penn team that is beginning to look more and more like a real contender in the Bux-Mont League, has looked nothing but better since. The Patriots, after their stunning triumph over Allen gave Dieruff all it could take Saturday night before bowing.

Parkland, after a disjointed victory over Emmaus in its opener, has begun to put things

together and will provide a stiff test for Central Catholic. The Vikings have managed to stay close to two bigger opponents — Dieruff and Easton — before losing, then took out their anxieties against a hapless Northwestern team Saturday.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Easton vs. Dieruff at ASD Stadium (7:45 p.m.)
Allen at Neshaminy (8 p.m.)
Bethlehem Catholic vs. Freedom at ASD Stadium (7:30 p.m.)
Lehighton at Slatington (8 p.m.)
Central Catholic at Parkland (8 p.m.)
East Stroudsburg at Bangor (8 p.m.)
Palmerton at Stroudsburg (8 p.m.)
Brick Township at Phillipsburg (8 p.m.)
Salisbury at Pleasant Valley (8 p.m.)
Tamaqua at Mahanoy Area (8 p.m.)
Jim Thorpe at Pocono Mountain (8 p.m.)
North Penn at Penridge (8 p.m.)
Northwestern at Cardinal Brennan (8 p.m.)