

Jeff Reinhart's www.llleaguesports.com preview

Millersburg @ Columbia – Really like Columbia's tradition-rich history of making the postseason and even winning a district crown back in 1995. But this Millersburg outfit is really sizzling here lately. Throw the 5-5 record out the window; the Indians won the district crown in 2009 and went back to the finals last year, so they've tasted this the last two years in a row. And option-whiz QB Josh Howard could be a handful for a Tide team that will likely have 20 – give or take – kids in uniform. Sensing some points in this one, and have a hunch the road team will have more at the end of the night.

Indians stem Tide, 36-26.

returns from a concussion. Star wideout Mike Burke IV missed two games with a severe ankle sprain but still ranked second in the L-L with 61 receptions.

The Indians are allowing points at a clip of 25 per game. The strength is in their linebacker corps, where Dawson Schlegel (six sacks) and Lamereaux lead the squad with 92 and 72 stops, respectively.

Howard (61 tackles) is a force at safety, while Cole Boyer (54 tackles) is the Tribe's top corner and the likely candidate to match up with Burke IV.

Burke III believes the blitz-oriented Indians will seek to stop the Tide's aerial game at its source.

"They'll bring pressure, try to get to Seth," he said. "They come after you."

Harrisburg Patriot-News Preview

THE INDIANS: Hoping to reach its third straight District 3-A championship game (including a victory in 2009), Millersburg will again be riding the skilled shoulders of QB/S Josh Howard (6), who's accumulated 831 rushing yards, 582 passing yards and 20 TDs out of the Navy spread option. Quick RB/LB Travis Lamereaux (20) (724 yards, 6 TDs) can handle the rock, while DE Dawson Schlegel (72) joins the aforementioned duo in leading the defense.

THE CRIMSON TIDE: Columbia hasn't won since Week 7, but its top playmaker, Villanova-bound WR Mike Burke IV (4) returned from an ankle injury two weeks ago. Burke, son of head coach Mike Burke III, leads the squad with 61 catches for 721 yards and 10 scores. QB Seth Lefever (12) has rushed for 729 yards and thrown for 1,241 more, totaling 18 TDs. Seeking first 3-A crown since 1995.

MORROW SAYS: Because he'll have the ball in his hands more often, we like Howard and Millersburg (-6) in this battle of playmakers.

Lancaster Intelligencer Journal/New Era's preview

Millersburg (5-5, No. 3) at Columbia (5-5, No. 2): Injuries left the Crimson Tide's defense struggling in stretch-run losses to Lancaster Catholic, Pequea Valley and Donegal. Still, it's a unit that boasts playmakers.

Outside 'backer Bryan Flory tied for second in the L-L with 110 tackles and for third in Section Three with four sacks. Seth Lefever's three picks ranked fifth in the section.

Columbia is also getting key players back, namely FB/LB Nate Warner, safety Tyler Harrison and TE/OLB Will Kreiser.

"This is the healthiest we've been since Week Five," coach Mike Burke III stated.

Dual-threat QB Josh Howard leads the Tribe in rushing with 831 yards and 14 TDs. Backfield mate Travis Lamereaux has chipped in 724 yards and six scores.

The Tide is cut from the same cloth. Lefever has thrown for 1,241 yards and rushed for a team-best 729. Andrew Combs (77-404, 5.2, 8 TDs)