

Two In Playoffs; Three Others Close

Hillcrest and Rich South are in, while Eisenhower, Reavis and Marian Catholic are just one game away. That's the state playoff picture in south suburbia going into the final week of the regular season.

Hillcrest wrapped up an undisputed SICA East title with its 28-0 victory yesterday at TF North. It put the Hawks in the state playoff for the third straight time. It was also their fourth straight conference championship.

Rich South, meanwhile, gained SICA South honors with its 22-13 triumph at Crete-Monee Friday night. Kankakee Westview could still share the title, but even in that event the Stars would be the playoff representative because of their win in head-to-head play.

Marian needs a win over Joliet Central Saturday to join Hillcrest and Rich South in the Class 4A starting field. The Spartans lead the Illini-8 with a 7-0 mark, but Joliet Central and Joliet Catholic are just one notch behind 6-1.

Thus, a Central win would throw the league into a tie. Joliet Catholic could then make it a three-way split with a victory over Lockport. If it ended that way, Central or Catholic would be eligible for at-large consideration.

In Class 5A, Reavis has to beat Sandburg at

Orland Park Friday night and Eisenhower has to take care of Bloom at Blue Island Saturday to nail down undisputed titles and playoff berths.

A Sandburg win would put SICA West in a tie and a Bremen victory over Oak Lawn would make it a three-way split. Reavis would still be in the driver's seat then, but it's a two-way deadlock Sandburg could go as a head-to-head victor.

If Eisenhower falters in its SICA North finale, Homewood-Flossmoor (by beating Bloom Trail) and Thornridge (by beating Thornton) could gain shares of the top spot.

In head-to-head play, Eisenhower beat Thornridge, Thornridge beat H-F and H-F beat Eisenhower. If it winds up a three-way tie, Thornridge would be the representative according to the SICA tie-breaker formula.

Providence still has a chance to gain a Class 3A berth but trails Aurora Central by one game in the Private League race. Walther Lutheran, tied with Providence in the standings, will try to scramble it up when it closes against Aurora Saturday.

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