

# Scouting Week 3 of Illinois Prep Football

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## Scouting the area's top games

(Records in parentheses)

### **T.F. North (1-1, 0-0 SSC Blue) at Hillcrest (0-2, 0-0)**

**When:** 6:45 p.m. today

**The breakdown:** The Meteors broke an eight-game losing streak with a 34-22 win over Thornridge. It would be a big confidence booster for the Meteors to start 2-1 after going 1-8 last year. Hillcrest has lost 28 of its last 29 games with the win coming at T.F. North last year. -- Mike Nieto

### **Bloom Township (1-1, 0-0 SAC) at Kankakee (1-1, 0-0)**

**When:** 7 p.m. today

**The breakdown:** The Blazing Trojans were skunked by themselves as much as Lincoln-Way West last week, stopped by a quartet of turnovers. For the Southland Conference opener, coach Tony Palombi looks for a return to Week 1 form against Kankakee, but quarterback Kendall McGinnis has to hold onto the football first, then get it into the hands of Justus Brantley, who scored three touchdowns in the opener against Thornwood. The Trojans will have to stop speedster Kevion Helem, who scored on a 95-yard kickoff return last week, and running back Dyrran Christon. – Tim Cronin

### **T.F. South (1-1, 0-0 SSC Blue) at Oak Forest (1-1, 0-0)**

**When:** 7 p.m. today

**The breakdown:** The Rebels posted their first shutout last week since 2011 when they blanked Urban Prep Charter/Englewood. Raphael Canty and Jariel Brooks lead a tough defense. Oak Forest lost 21-14 to Brooks College Prep. Both shared the South Suburban Blue title last year with Lemont. Oak Forest beat T.F. South 28-20 in the final regular-season game. Oak Forest is led by Matt Barry's rushing attack and quarterback Nick Iulia is a threat on the ground or the air. -- Mike Nieto

### **Bishop McNamara (2-0) vs. No. 1 Mount Carmel (2-0)**

**When:** 7:30 p.m. today

**Where:** Gately Stadium

**The breakdown:** Mount Carmel has allowed eight meaningless points in two games while scoring 89 points. McNamara has beaten Hales Franciscan and Lake Forest Academy while allowing 45 points. Sophomore Fightin' Irish back Jonathan Ward ran for 165 yards against Hales in the opener. If he does that against the Caravan's sturdy defense, it'll be the upset of the season. McNamara will have to find an answer for two-way threat Christian Searles, who has three touchdown receptions and a interception return TD in the first two games. – Tim Cronin

### **Carmel Catholic (0-2, 0-0 ESCC) at Marian Catholic (2-0, 0-0)**

**When:** 7:30 p.m. today

**The breakdown:** Don't let Carmel's record fool you -- it lost to Lincoln-Way East and Glenbard North. This is the East Suburban Catholic Conference opener and the third straight home game for the Spartans. The Corsairs running back Darius Crump will test the defense. Linebacker R.C. Cox, son of former Bears Ron Cox, is one of team's top defensive players. The Corsairs have won 11 of the last 12 meetings and hold a 14-10 overall series edge. The Spartans last victory came in Mundelein with a 20-17 overtime win in 2009. -- Mike Nieto

### **Joliet West (2-0, 0-0 SWSC Blue) at No. 3 Homewood-Flossmoor (2-0, 0-0)**

**When:** 7:30 p.m. today

**The breakdown:** The Vikings are a young team with plenty of sophomores and tonight will be a good game in the SouthWest Suburban Blue opener for both schools. Quarterback Anthony DiNardo threw for 175 yards and three touchdowns in a 35-6 win over King. Ronald Banner caught two of the those TD passes. -- Mike Nieto

## **Simeon (0-2) at No. 2 Crete-Monee (2-0)**

**When:** 7:30 p.m. today

**The breakdown:** Winless Simeon comes in, but Warriors coach John Konecki won't let his team look ahead to Benet. Offensively, Frank Douglas has stepped in at quarterback and receivers Rapahel Vallot, Benton, Slayton and Elijah Douglas can light it up. Running backs DeShaun Smith and Rashard Harris can pick up real estate, too. Simeon quarterback Tion Watkins and running back Dion Earls are the Wolverine's two best offensive players. -- Mike Nieto

## **Thornwood (1-1, 0-0 SWSC Red) at Thornton (1-1, 0-0)**

**When:** 7:30 p.m. today

**The breakdown:** An in-district game opens the SouthWest Suburban Red slate for the Thunderbirds and Wildcats. Thornwood hopes to repeat its performance against Rich South (194 rushing yards, 20 unanswered points to end the game). Thornton's Cavion Clanton was held to 27 yards last week compared to the 167 he piled up against Morgan Park in the opener. -- Tim Cronin