

Metro Detroit football offers some of the best opening-night playoff games in the state

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Detroit Catholic Central is in the toughest playoff district in the state where all teams are ranked in the Associate Press top 10. - (Jared Purcell | MLive.com)

Selection Sunday provided many can't-miss games as the state football playoffs begin on Friday this week.

Here is an analysis of what to look for in the Metro Detroit area across all eight divisions.

Division 1

Best pre-district matchup: Canton at Plymouth

When these two teams met back in week seven, the result was the most exciting finish in the rivalry as Plymouth scored 10 points in the final 18 seconds to upset Canton 31-30.

It's a shame that one of these teams will be ending its season on Friday night as both of the potential to make deep runs into the playoffs. Plymouth has won the last two meetings between the schools in a rivalry that has been largely dominated by the Canton.

Both teams rely heavily on a rushing attack led by a strong offensive line. Don't be surprised if this one is decided in the final seconds as well.

Other key matchups:

Macomb Dakota at Utica Eisenhower: This is another week seven rematch. Eisenhower is the reigning MAC Red champion and topped Dakota 33-21 in the first meeting this season.

Dearborn Fordson (5-4) at Dearborn (7-2): It's not too much of a surprise that Fordson made the playoffs with just five wins. Fordson dominated its Western Wayne Blue opponents this year – including Dearborn with a 42-13 win back in September.

Northville (8-1) at Detroit Catholic Central (8-1): This matchup is not only interesting because of records, but that both of these teams are practically polar opposites. Northville has an explosive, high-scoring offense filled with playmakers while Catholic Central beats you with a running game that eats away three or four yards at a time in a cloud of dust. The two teams met for the first time ever last year in the district finals with Catholic Central coming away with a 35-10 win.

Possible future showdown to look for: The winner of the Canton at Plymouth game will play the victor of the Northville at Catholic Central game. The winner of that stacked district should get a medal.

Dark horse: Warren De La Salle (7-2): The Pilots got promoted this year to Division 1 for the first time.

"We're optimistic," De La Salle coach Paul Verska said of moving up to Division 1. "We're full of hope. Anytime you make the state playoffs – no matter what division – we're going to be excited."

Still, De La Salle is just one of two teams with more than 6 wins in its region and has a real possibility of making it to at least the state semifinals. De La Salle will open against Roseville (6-4) in a district that includes two more Warren teams in Cousino and Mott.