

5 to watch: The postseason is here and opens with monster match between Canton and CC

Incredibly, the postseason is upon us.

It seems like it got here faster than a Roderick Heard jet sweep.

But here we are.

After a fun nine-week regular season, the Michigan High School Athletic Association invited 256 teams to its annual playoff party. The field includes 213 teams which qualified by the automatic six-win total and 43 other fortunate invitees with five victories.

A total of 16 Hometown Life football teams representing four different divisions are in the hunt for a coveted state trophy.

The HTL field includes four Division 1 teams; six Division 2 teams; three Division 3 teams; and three in Division 4.

Following are five HTL games to watch as pre-district action begins this week:

5 to watch

(all games at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26, unless noted; records followed by MHSAA playoff points)

DIVISION 1

Canton (6-3, 73.222) at Catholic Central (6-3, 82.921): A monster match-up right off the bat between the HTL's No. 3 (Canton) and No. 4 (Catholic Central) teams. These highly-regarded squads met last year in the Division 1 regional, with the Shamrocks prevailing by one point (27-26). The Shamrocks are coming off a disappointing setback in the [Catholic League Prep Bowl](#) to defending Division 2 state champion Warren De La Salle. The Chiefs' three losses this year were to playoff teams which had a combined 22-5 overall record. Catholic Central has never lost to Canton in six meetings. This should be another classic.

Picks: *Emons (CC), Budner (Canton), Smith (Canton).*