



Dear Ballard Football Families and Friends,

I want to apologize in advance for the long-winded email. If our Varsity playoff scenarios do not interest, you then you do not need to read this email.

I have had quite a few emails about tonight's game and its significance with future games.

Here is the information we know:

Tonight we play Ingraham High School at Memorial Stadium at 5pm. It is a Metro Playoff Game. What this means for us is that it is a must win game if we are to move on to the District Playoffs next week. If we do not win we still will have a week 10 game but it will not be a playoff game.

This year the Metro League gets 7 births to the District Playoff; last year there was 8. The winner of our game gets the #5, #6, or #7 seed from Metro into the District Playoffs.

Two years ago the Metro league realigned and created three tiers. They took the average wins & losses of all of the schools over (I think) a 5 year span and divided them into the three tiers based off of that historical information. Tier 1 was compiled with the top 6 teams. Tier 2 (which we are in) had the next 6 teams, and tier 3 had the remaining Metro schools.

They went to this alignment so all of the schools could have more leveled match ups during the regular season. There is a huge gap between the Tier 1 teams and the Tier 3 teams. The hope from this system is that the Tier 3 teams are able to be more competitive in games and build their programs. Many schools had turnouts dwindle when they were losing badly every week. With the Tier 1 teams the hope is/was that "iron sharpens iron" and our leagues best teams would be more playoff ready by competing against higher quality opponents. The only downside with this system is that Tier 2 teams that are on the rise (like us) don't get to play our leagues best teams unless it is in a non-league match up (our Rainier Beach game this year) so our Tier 2 teams are potentially less prepared for playoff football.

Here is how the seeds are dispersed.

- Tier 1 #1 (this year O'Dea) gets the Metro #1 seed and has a bye this week.
- Tier 1 #2 (this year Eastside Catholic) gets the Metro #2 seed and has a bye this week.
- Tier 1 #3 (this year Garfield) gets the Metro #3 seed and has a bye this week.
- Tier 1 #4 (this year Seattle Prep) gets the Metro #4 seed and has a bye this week.
- Tier 1 #5 (this year Bishop Blanchet) plays Tier 3 #1 (this year Cleveland) the winner gets the Metro #5 or Metro #7 seed.
- Tier 1 #6 (this year Rainier Beach) plays Tier 2 #3 (this year Bainbridge) for the Metro #6 or Metro #7 seed.
- Tier 2 #1 (Us) plays Tier 2 #2 (this year Ingraham) for the Metro #5, #6, or #7 seed.

The reason why the seeds are not straight forward in the 3 games is because a team cannot jump a seed; meaning if an upset occurs the lowest team gets the lowest seed.

Here are the different scenarios for us if we win:

1. If we win and there are no upsets; meaning Blanchet and Rainier Beach win. Then we get the Metro #7 seed and play the Wesco #1 (winner of the Marysville-Pilchuck vs. Snohomish game)
2. If we win and there is one upset; meaning Blanchet or Rainier Beach lose. Then we we get the Metro #6 seed and play the Pierce County League #1 (winner of the Lincoln (Tacoma) vs. Bethel game).
3. If we win and there are two upsets; meaning Blanchet AND Rainier Beach loses. Then we get the Metro #5 seed and play the South Sound Conference #1 (Penninsula).

I hope this wasn't too confusing and hopefully added some clarity. The cool thing is, just like always, the only thing that truly matters is us. We need to take care of business tonight and play to the best of our ability.

Excited for tonight!

Ballard Pride!

Ross Humphries