

Eastern Region High School Football Top Ten 'Dream Matchups'

BY MATTHEW HATFIELD

- 10. Indian River vs. Bethel - Tough scheduling breaks and power ratings have kept these two out of the playoffs as of late, but don't let that fool you. Each contain some skilled athletes and would likely play a game down to the wire head-to-head.**
- 9. Ocean Lakes vs. Heritage - Looking for a couple of playoff sleepers? We may our matchup as the Dolphins and Hurricanes both could sneak up on some people this coming season.**
- 8. Kellam vs. Kecoughtan - The Warriors have run that single wing offense in the past and go up against a Kellam Knights team that loves to pound it out on the ground in their Wing-T attack.**
- 7. Landstown vs. Granby - Dave Hudak left Granby for Landstown then returned to Granby. Now he'll get to see what it's like to face Landstown, albeit without Percy Harvin, Damon McDaniel and the plethora of stars out there for the Eagles.**
- 6. Booker T. Washington vs. Great Bridge - It'll be hard to find a better quarterback matchup than James Vann vs. Casey Turner, unless Tyrod Taylor and Dexter Merritt really met in the Hampton/Oscar Smith dream matchup.**
- 5. Maury vs. Western Branch - Contrasting styles meet as Branch will try to milk the clock for all its worth against an air it out Maury team which no longer has Kam Chancellor, but has two talented prospects in James Butts and Dyrri McCain.**
- 4. Kempsville vs. Hickory - Jeff Beard, returning a bevy of seniors, against the team he once led to the playoffs, a Kempsville team that has just missed out on it the last two years ready to make it in '06.**
- 3. Salem vs. Lake Taylor - Last year's two surprise teams with state title aspirations go head-to-head. Both have excellent lines and very solid backfields.**
- 2. Phoebus vs. Deep Creek - Traditional powers finally meet. An intriguing coaching matchup with Bill Dee vs. David Cox, two of the region's most successful on the sideline.**
- 1. Hampton vs. Oscar Smith - Taylor vs. Merritt is fun... but what about the coaching clash between Morgan and Smith? These two might be State Champions when it's all said and done.**