



Canton running back Marcus Sanders (Photo: Bryan Mitchell, special to Detroit News)

Kensington Conference: South Division

Predicted order of finish

(Consensus of coaches)

2014 record in parentheses

- 1.** Canton (9-3, 5-0), **2.** Livonia Churchill (8-3, 4-1), **3.** Plymouth (7-3, 3-2),
4. Westland John Glenn (6-4, 2-3), **5.** Livonia Franklin (2-7, 1-4),
6. Wayne Memorial (2-7, 0-5).

Top four players

1. Canton linebacker Jalen Cochran (6-4, 235) has the size and speed to chase down ball carriers. He had 53 tackles and seven pass breakups and should increase his three sacks of a year ago. He has been offered by Iowa and several MAC schools.
2. Plymouth tackle Michael Jordan (6-6, 305), an Ohio State commit, is an outstanding blocker and pass protector for the Wildcats. "He's a great character kid who is becoming more of a vocal leader," coach Mike Sawchuk said.
3. Plymouth running back Cam Stella (6-0, 175) used his 4.5 speed last season to rush for more than 1,100 yards, averaging 6.1 yards, to help the Wildcats earn their ninth state playoff appearance in the last 10 years.

4. Canton free safety Jared Stephens (6-0, 195) is a heavy hitter who is being recruited by MAC schools to play linebacker. He has 4.6 speed and also could be playing some quarterback for Tim Baechler's offense.

Top four story lines

1. Canton probably won't be able to average the 47.5 points it did the last four games last season, including three postseason games, but it will have the ability to put 30 on the board on a given night, returning a 2,000-yard rusher in junior Marcus Sanders and offensive tackle Devin Obrec.

Linebacker Jalen Cochran and safety Jared Stephens will lead the defense.

2. Plymouth returned to the state playoffs last year after missing the postseason the previous year. Look for the Wildcats to play a 10th game again ... and maybe more. Plymouth returns its entire offensive line, led by Ohio State-bound tackle Michael Jordan, who will block for 1,100-yard back Cam Stella.

3. Churchill had four games decided on the final play last year when the Chargers finished 8-3, including a playoff win. It will be tough for coach Bill DeFillippo's Chargers to have a repeat performance after returning just six starters, just two on offense.

4. The South Division welcomes two new head coaches, Steve Waller at John Glenn and Donald Anderson at Wayne Memorial. Waller is familiar with John Glenn, playing for Chuck Gordon, then coaching the last 15 years. Anderson replaces Tim Finnerty, who helped Wayne end its 46-game losing streak last year.