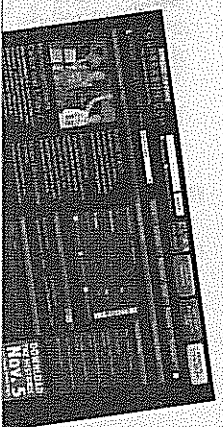


HOW TO CONTACT US

To report scores, call (312) 321-2247.
High School fax number: (312) 321-0122.



ON THE WEB

Head to yourseason.com for the latest news, features, blogs and commentary on the area high school scene.

SUN-TIMES SPOTLIGHT BY TAYLOR BELL

FAMOUS HULBERT

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH | PROVISO WEST

Your team is 4-0 and off to the best start in the school's 50-year history. How do you explain it?
Hard work is starting to pay big dividends in the win-loss column, countless hours, countless sacrifices. I took a \$25,000 pay cut to come here. But it's the only place I wanted to be head coach. It was the opportunity of a lifetime that I couldn't pass up. People said I was crazy to come here. They said we couldn't win because of the conference and lack of support. We proved them wrong.

You have one of the best players in the nation in receiver Kyle Prater. But it takes more than one player to qualify for the state playoffs. Who else are you counting on?
Quarterback Malik Thurman is a dual threat. Cornerback Darryl Johnson and wide receiver Julius Shelby are Division I prospects. Also running back Julius Johnson and linebacker Khari Washington.

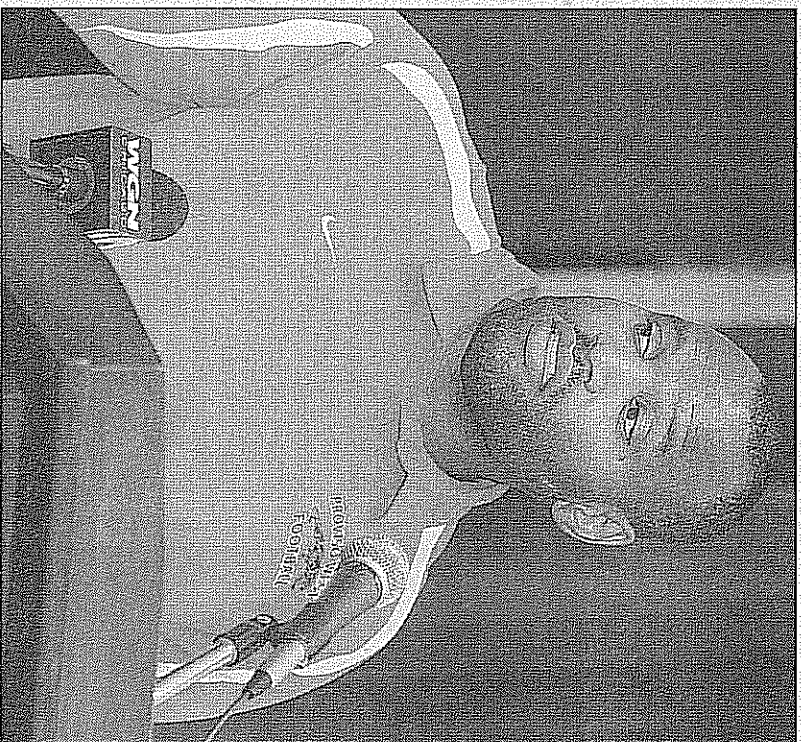
How good is Prater? He will have a chance if he goes to the right school (Illinois, Oklahoma or USC) to be the No. 1 player in the NFL draft. He has size, speed, dedication, desire and discipline. He is the greatest receiver this state has ever produced. He reminds me of Randy Moss with a better attitude.
What is the key to beating

Glenbard West on Saturday? It is the biggest game in school history. We have to play mistake-free. We played against the best teams in 7-on-7 in the summer. We beat East St. Louis. We know we can play with anyone. We just have to execute.

What is the key to turning Proviso West into a consistent winner?
Locking the gates. We have to keep Catholic schools out of our backyard. (St. Rita's) Jahwon Alkin should be here. So should (Nazareth's) LaSteven McKinney. Imagine our team right now with those two kids.

How would you change the recruiting process for the better? Allow college coaches to make more visits. It is one thing to talk on the phone but another to look at each other eye-to-eye. Kids should have more time to get to know the recruiters.

What is the toughest aspect of coaching? At Proviso West, it's off-the-field stuff. The most challenging part is trying to make football a priority in the lives of players, parents and some assistant coaches. I want my players to be winners on and off the field. I coach to change their lives. I have to be more than a football coach. I must be a father, uncle, big brother, mentor and counselor.
If you could pick the brains of four



Famous Hulbert says the key to turning Proviso West into a consistent winner is keeping Catholic schools out of its backyard. | PIONEER PRESS

Coaching gurus, who would they bet? (Grambling's) Eddie Robinson, (East St. Louis') Bob Shannon, (Evanston's) Murney Lazier and Vince Lombardi.

What is the best advice you have received? Dan Disch, the defensive coordinator at Illinois, told me: "In times of crisis, think players, not

Super 25

1 MAINE SOUTH (4-0)
At Niles West tonight

2 ST. RITA (4-0)
At Bishop McNamara tonight

3 GLENBARD WEST (4-0)
Hosts Proviso West on Saturday

4 LINCOLN-WAY EAST (4-0)
At Homewood-Flossmoor tonight

5 WW SOUTH (3-1)
At Naperville North tonight

6 PROSPECT (4-0)
At Buffalo Grove tonight

7 FRENCH (4-0)
At Barrington tonight

8 WARREN (4-0)
At Lake Forest tonight

9 PROVIDENCE (3-1)
At St. Laurence tonight

10 JOLIET CATHOLIC (3-1)
Hosts St. Patrick tonight

11 HINSDALE CENT. (2-2)
At Hinsdale South tonight

12 JYOLA (2-1)
22 STEVENSON (4-0)
Hosts Lake Zurich tonight

23 CRYSTAL LAKE 5. (4-0)
At Dundee-Crown tonight

24 LOCKPORT (3-1)
Hosts Thornton tonight

25 PROVISO WEST (4-0)
At Glenbard West on Saturday

COM 55