

Pellicciotta said, “Both of my interceptions came when he (Zelman) was scrambling. So I was sitting back there doing my job and the D-line played lights out for us, forced him out of the pocket.”

Malvern Prep head coach Dave Gueriera reflected on the Friars’ pass rush: “Cameron Brickle is pretty much unblockable on the inside. Then we have Bernard Blakey and Jackson Ford on the edge and Dylan Novak — we have three defensive ends that we shuttle through, and they’re all high-level players and hard to block. Luke O’Hair at defensive tackle pushes the pocket really well. Our pass rush was great, and when you’ve got Jake Bauer in the middle (at middle linebacker) it’s hard to run as well. Our defense was complete from top to bottom.”

O’Hair said, “Ending the season with a shutout, it’s something you can always remember. I think it’s absolutely incredible, because it was everyone all together sealing the deal – getting the points and getting that (Inter-Ac) trophy back where it belongs. It was a full team effort, both defense and offense. This is special and it’s going to stick with me forever.”

This was the third shutout Malvern posted against an Inter-Ac squad this fall.

Gueriera said, “This year, especially in the Inter-Ac, our defense has been dominant. In the eight years that I’ve been here, I don’t remember us having that kind of dominance defensively.”

Springside Chestnut Hill head coach Rick Knox said, “Malvern is a phenomenal team. In terms of the running game, we feel like we did decently today, but we didn’t have as much success in the passing game as I thought we would, and that’s a credit to Malvern’s pass rush.”

Gueriera also praised the Friars’ offense, including an offensive line that had lost many stars to graduation last spring.

“Our offense runs through Andrew Pellicciotta, and Jackson Melconian did a great job of controlling our offense,” said Gueriera. “When the season began, people would ask us how were we going to replace (the graduated stars) on our offensive line, and our (linemen) kind of had a chip on their shoulder, and they worked really hard, and coach Jeff Carroll did a great job with the O-line.”

Melconian said, “Our offensive line did a great job. The whole season, our offensive line played with a chip on their shoulder, they had it in the back of their minds that people were saying we lost (good players to graduation). They knew deep down that we were going to get (the Inter-Ac title) back again this season.”

Gueriera said, “We also have great receivers and running backs – Chris Smith and Zeke Bates had great years. Our special teams were amazing all year. So I feel like these wins were very comprehensive – we never had just one guy doing something, it was a collective group of guys.

“We had the hardest schedule in the state this year according to MaxPreps, and we hit a couple of bumps early in the season when we were getting our sea legs. We got off to a 1-2 start, but