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Germantown Academy's Blair Talmadge steams around end for a gain against Malvern Prep

Malvern steams past GA, 25-7, in march toward 7th league title

By Don McKee
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The streak is safe for another year. With all due respect to Penn Charter, Malvern Prep has most likely clinched the Inter-Academic League championship for yet another season.

It's only October. The World Series isn't even over, for heaven's sake, but the Interac race sure is. Malvern stomped Germantown Academy, 25-7, in the league opener. That all but assures Malvern (5-0) of its seventh straight Interac title, since the rest of the league seems weaker than GA, which also came in 4-0.

The last time Malvern Prep even lost a league game, let alone lost the title, was 1973, when GA won both. But if Malvern's hard-charging running backs and physical line are any indication, a win over Penn Charter in Germantown this Friday will lock up the championship.

"We looked at this as the title

game," said defensive back Barkley Sample, who intercepted two passes and recovered a fumble, "because if we lost to them, no one else would beat them."

GA lost more than the football game. The Patriots lost 6-foot, 4-inch quarterback Walt Norley, probably for the season, with a broken left collarbone. The only consolation for the senior, who is a college prospect, is that he throws righthanded.

"When they lost Norley, they lost a lot of heart," said Malvern coach Camp Pellegrini. "The only solace I can take from that is that we were leading, 13-0, at the time, and I think we would have won regardless."

Right on, Gamp. By then it was obvious GA was hoping to run on Malvern, as it had successfully run on Norristown last week, but Malvern's line had closed down the Patriot offense.

Halfback David Orr broke through the middle for the first Malvern

touchdown, passed 39 yards to Joe Norton to set up the second, and ran 23 yards for the third after Sample's second interception.

"Orr's as good a back as you'll ever see," said Pellegrini. "He'll hit you when he has to and, at times he'll look at somebody and just put a move on them."

After the win was safely tucked away, Malvern's players invited Christine and Jim Fitzpatrick into the locker room and gave them the game ball. Their son, Kevin, would have been a Malvern captain this fall, but he was killed in a boating accident in August.

It undoubtedly will turn out to be the ball from the championship game.

GA	0	0	0	7	-7
Malvern Prep	0	13	6	4	-25
MP—Orr 14 run (Burke kick)					
MP—Burke 1 run (kick failed)					
MP—Orr 23 run (kick failed)					
GA—McEwen 4 run (France kick)					
MP—McEwen 25 pass from Burke (kick failed)					

1980 MP 25 GA 7 article and boxscore

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