

Inter-Ac Football Preview

Malvern Prep in driver's seat for title

by Ted Sillary

Daily News Sports Writer

Coach Gaspare "Gamp" Pellegrini does not protest the fact Malvern Prep is regarded by many as a clinch to capture the Inter-Ac League football championship.

Then again...
"Can you put that in writing for me?" he asked. "Can you get Penn Charter to lay down?"

No and no, but that likely will not be necessary.

In his 29th season total and 18th at Malvern, Pellegrini has a team that could become his best. And that's saying a mouthful, considering he won one title at St. Joseph's Prep and has led to Malvern (nine outright, one shared) while becoming No. 3 all-time in city-league wins (169-118-8) behind Frankford's Al Angelo (184-98-5) and St. John Neumann's Paul Bartolomeo (173-123-12).

"I don't like to talk about that kind of thing," Pellegrini said, "but it wouldn't be fair for me to say that I don't think we can be a great team. It could be as good as we've had. But whether the kids will read their press clippings and go to sleep, I can't say."

The Friars have an awesome rushing attack. Speedster Derrick Downs last season produced 1,043 yards and 14 touchdowns. Toby Booker who's even faster and has scored close to 1,200 on the Scholastic Assessment Test, according to Pellegrini, contributed 599 and four. Also returning are fullback Joe Nangle and three primary linemen: John Heavens, Steve Galonski and junior Martin Miller.

"Derrick is able to cut back and start again without missing a step," Pellegrini said. "God gives that ability to only a few. Toby, he can do it from anywhere. If he gets into the secondary, you start thinking about the extra point."

With Bill Gallagher having switched to basketball, Penn Charter is being coached by alumnus Brian McCloskey.

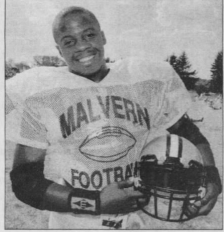
Aside from being a first-team Daily News All-City quarterback in 1981, McCloskey steered the Quakers to the '92 championship when Gallagher took a sabbatical.

When told that Malvern was being dubbed as the overwhelming favorite, McCloskey said, pleasantly, "Very good. That's the way we like it... They have all their running backs returning and some good linemen, so they have to be the big favorite. We'll give them a good run, though. Our skill people are pretty good, too."

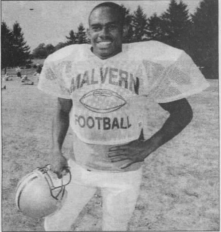
Receiver/safety Steve Ley is receiving Big East inquiries and lineman Pierce Austin and quarterback Larry Storm should prove interesting to at least Division II recruiters. Lineman Angelo Vicol, back Pat Larkin and receiver/linebacker Brendan Moore are top-notch juniors.

Roger White, an assistant for six seasons to former coach Jim Auch, has been promoted at Episcopal Academy.

"The best thing we have going for us," he said, "is an intense,



STEVEN M. FRANK/DAILY NEWS
Derrick Downs scored 14 touchdowns in '94



STEVEN M. FRANK/DAILY NEWS
Toby Booker is quick on his feet and in class

enthusiastic, intelligent group of kids that wants to win."

On the flip side, lineman Anthony Carliello is the only senior with anything close to extensive experience. At least juniors like quarterback Brian Person and backs Matt Butler and Rich Steigerwalt are not exactly no-players.

While coach Bill Cumm took a sabbatical last season, Germantown Academy went 6-6 and was

outscored, 342-40.

"I guess the situation is very similar to what we faced when I look over eight years ago," Cumm said, referring to the Patriots' winless league records in 1988, '89 and '90. "The difference is, this group of seniors has a better work ethic than my first team did, and you win with seniors."

Fraser Steve Reed and tackle Andy Mersky, who double as line-backers, are the acknowledged

leaders.

"We have skill," Cumm said. "It's a matter of coming together."

Ron Algoe, Havertown School's new coach (and a former player for Pellegrini), is excited about the offensive abilities of quarterback Jim David, bruising runner Mike Viola and receiver Mark Lewis.

Unfortunately...
"We lost everybody on the

line," Algoe said. "Nobody's back. What that means is, we'll do what the line does."

THUMBNAILED

EPISCOPAL ACADEMY
Coach — Steve White, 19th year (1986-1995)
Ed. — Bishop, 10th (1986-1995)
Last Year — 3-2, third 4-6 overall
Defense — 5-2

Key Performers
Head Coach: 12-1, 1-1
Mike Williams, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Dan Wagner, QB, 10-1, 1-1
John Carliello, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Matt Butler, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Brian Person, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Dan Wagner, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Mike Williams, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Jeff Lewis, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Jim David, QB, 10-1, 1-1

GERMANTOWN ACADEMY

Coach — Bill Cumm, 18th year (1987-1995)
Ed. — Germantown, 10th (1987-1995)
Last Year — 6-6, tied 0-6
Defense — multiple

Key Performers
Steve Reed, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1

HAVERTOWN SCHOOL

Coach — Ron Algoe, 18th year (1986-1995)
Ed. — Havertown, 10th (1986-1995)
Last Year — 3-2, tied 0-6
Defense — multiple

Key Performers
Mark Lewis, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Mike Viola, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Jim David, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Mike Williams, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Dan Wagner, RB, 10-1, 1-1
John Carliello, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Matt Butler, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Brian Person, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Dan Wagner, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Mike Williams, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Jeff Lewis, RB, 10-1, 1-1
Jim David, RB, 10-1, 1-1

MALVERN PREP

Coach — Gaspare "Gamp" Pellegrini, 18th year (1967-1995)
Ed. — Thomas, 10th (1967-1995)
Last Year — 10-1
Last Year — 4-5, tied 7-3-1
Defense — 4-4

Key Performers
Derrick Downs, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Toby Booker, QB, 10-1, 1-1
John Heavens, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Galonski, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Martin Miller, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Joe Nangle, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Dan Wagner, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Mike Williams, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Dan Wagner, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Mike Williams, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Dan Wagner, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Mike Williams, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Dan Wagner, QB, 10-1, 1-1

PENN CHARTER

Coach — Brian McCloskey, 18th year (1987-1995)
Ed. — Penn Charter, 10th (1987-1995)
Last Year — 3-1, second 4-4
Defense — multiple

Key Performers
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1
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Steve Reed, QB, 10-1, 1-1

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