

Malvern loses key tackle, but not game

John Heavens left the game with a knee injury. But Malvern won, 19-8.

By Rich Scherr
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

BALTIMORE — When key tackle John Heavens left Saturday's football game against Loyola with an injured knee, it could have spelled disaster for No. 4-ranked Malvern Prep.

The Friars' Brooks McDonald, however, had other ideas.

Using the injury as inspiration, McDonald led the inspired offensive line to one of its most dominant performances this season, creating gaping holes all afternoon en route to a 19-8 victory over the host Dons. Led by halfback Derrick Downs, who rushed 14 times for 85 yards, the Friars racked up 277 yards on the ground and 300 yards overall.

"Losing Heavens was a big loss, but people really stepped up," said McDonald. "It put the fire back into us."

Heavens, an all-state pick last season, came out of the game late in the first quarter with an apparently serious injury to his right knee.

Said Downs: "We didn't mean to use that as an emotional thing — it shouldn't be — but everyone really picked it up."

Downs, Joe Nangle (13 carries, 65 yards) and Toby Booker (13, 76) ran behind good blocking all afternoon, with quarterback Dong Borgerson (8, 51) adding a pair of second-quarter scores off sneaks from the 1-yard line.

The Friars (4-0) made it 19-0 late in the second quarter after Borgerson (4 for 6, 113 yards passing) hit tight end Dave O'Brien with a 9-yard touchdown pass to the far corner of the end zone.

Although Loyola (6-3) cut the lead to 19-8 just seconds before halftime on a 45-yard pass play from Brant Hall to Art Price and a two-point conversion, the Dons would pull no closer.

"They physically overpowered us," said Loyola coach Joe Bruze, whose team was held to 113 yards of offense. "They have a big offensive line and three very good backs, but to be honest with you, we didn't play as well as we're capable of playing."

Malvern players said they began the day thinking about last year's meeting — a 29-15 Loyola victory — in which the Dons drove the length of the field on their final possession to score the winning touchdown.

But once Heavens went down, their thoughts quickly shifted.

"He's a big player for us, but the kids filled in and did a nice job," said Malvern coach Gamp Pellegrini. "They just said, 'Let's get one for John.'"

Malvern Prep	0	9	0	0	—	19
Loyola	0	0	0	0	—	8

M. Borgerson	1 run (kick failed)
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M. O'Brien	9 pass from Borgerson (McFadden kick)
L. Price	45 pass from Hall (Price pass from Hall)

1995 MP 19 Loyola 8 article and boxscore

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