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**High Schools**

# They are Fam-a-lee

## Plenty to shout about for Malvern, Downs

by **Ted Silary**  
*Daily News Sports Writer*

Everywhere one looked yesterday at Malvern Prep, a Downs was much in evidence. Also everywhere one listened — thanks to one person's perfectly functioning lungs.

Starting at halfback and defensive back for the Friars in a 27-13 victory over visiting Penn Charter, one that undoubtedly will serve as a springboard to an Inter-Ac championship and perhaps a 10-0 season, was Derrick Downs, a 6-foot, 185-pound senior.

Also in uniform were Derrick's brothers, Chris and William "Tony," both of whom are sophomores (but not twins). During each timeout, Brandon Downs, a fifth-grader in Yeadon and the brothers' nephew, trotted out brandishing water bottles.

And then, you had the stands.

Even if one could not see Dee Downs, the brothers' father, one could hear him.

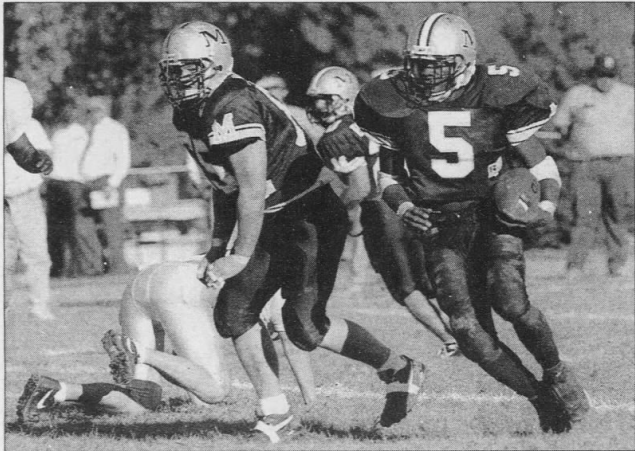
In a booming voice, Dee Downs offered a nonstop stream of advice and encouragement and, occasionally, tips for referees.

"Yeah, that was him," Derrick said. "He's been like that since I started playing football, so I'm used to it. I always hear it; I can't say I don't. But I'm at the point where I use some of it and kind of let some of it go. It's that way especially late in the game, when your concentration has to be at its highest."

Derrick Downs had a busy afternoon.

On offense, he rushed 17 times for 114 yards and two touchdowns and made a 13-yard reception, working in perfect concert with fellow headliner Toby Booker, who collected 106 yards and a TD on 14 carries and also made a 13-yard catch.

On defense, he and Booker waged classic



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Malvern's Derrick Downs follows Jim Woodward (left) for a sizable gain

Debbie, Donna, Lonnie, Steve, Derrick, Chris and "Tony." All of the boys have been athletes. Steve, a product of Penn Wood High, is an outside linebacker at Central State, in Ohio.

"I learned a lot from him. And from my dad, who played semipro ball in Clifton Heights," Derrick said. "I'm trying to help out my younger brothers. They look up to me. I'm trying to show them the way."

Downs has scored 980 on the Scholastic Assessment Test. He is receiving preliminary interest from a wide assortment of Division I-A and I-AA schools. As to what position he will play . . .

"Anywhere he wants," Pellegrini said. "He blocks like hell, runs like hell, catches like hell, he's a great tackler, he's a great d-back. He deserves all the credit that he gets."

Malvern's line featured center Dom Cusano, guards Steve Galczynski (also an outstanding linebacker) and Jim Woodward, tackles Brooks McDonald and Rob Moser and tight end Dave O'Brien. Fullback Joe Nangle, who added 47 yards on 10 carries, was also a determined blocker.

Though Malvern still must conquer Episcopal Academy and Havertford School in league play, its student fans began chanting "Inter-Ac champs! Inter-Ac champs!" when quarterback Doug Borgerson scored from the 1 with 5:44 left in the third quarter, raising the lead to 27-6.

Mild concern set in three plays later, when Storm and Tolbert hooked up for their 69-yard scoring connection. It increased one series later, when a 41-yard catch by Ley moved the ball to the Friars' 12.

But Downs, Dan Bonner and Nangle made tackles for losses on successive plays and a fourth-down pass to Ley yielded just 5 yards.

PC had one more possession. It ended with 2:45 left as Mike Trevisan intercepted a bomb.

"Oh, yes. That'll do it!" Dee Downs roared. ■

## 1995 MP 27 PC14 article about Derrick and the family

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