

HIGH SCHOOLS

# Malvern's Driscoll displays versatility

By **TED SILARY**  
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When the opponent is family, a tie is acceptable.

A month-plus later, that's how Malvern Prep football star D.J. Driscoll still views his battle-within-the-war against St. Joseph's Prep's Kyle Ambrogio, a cousin on his mother's side.

On Sept. 8, Ambrogio burned Driscoll for a 76-yard TD reception. A short time later, Ambrogio was bearing the scorch marks after Driscoll caught a 62-yard scoring pass.

"Kyle always has a smile on his face when he's playing," Driscoll said. "We were laughing the entire game. He got me on a long TD, then I got him back. He tackled me a few times. I put some hits on him. Overall, I would say it was even [though Malvern won, 21-10]."

Saturday, family pride was not on the line in an Inter-Ac League opener, but the championship probably was.

Driscoll did the job in tri-cornered fashion. The 6-3, 190-pound senior, a wideout, safety and return man, caught four passes for 45 yards, returned a punt 95 yards and had an interception as the Friars, in time, flattened visiting Penn Charter 24-0.

It's unlikely Malvern (5-0), the defending champ, will have much trouble in its other league games against Episcopal Academy, Haverford School and Germantown Academy.

"People will probably think we can win with less effort," Driscoll said. "We'll have to guard against [overconfidence]."

Again, "I think some of our guys were underestimating Penn Charter," he continued. "I saw a tape of them last Monday and I thought they looked really good. Some guys were messing around in practice and that had me worried. I mean, we had an undefeated season going. I didn't want that get-

ting messed up. When it was taking us a while to score, I was really getting concerned."

As the first quarter wound down, PC (1-4) lost 21 total yards on back-to-back bad snaps in a shotgun formation. Gerry Sasse then punted from the 24 and Driscoll made the catch on Malvern's 35.

He might have been touched, but don't place a bet on it. Driscoll spurred, bobbed, weaved and was gone in way-too-easy fashion.

"Just before the punt," he said, "I was telling [return partner] Andy Mackrides, 'We're going to take this back.' I took off. Gerald Price finally made a good block — he let me get drilled last week; this time he laid out two guys — and it wasn't too hard after that."

"That gave us a spark. Which we needed."

Junior fullback T.J. Casco (13 carries, 82 yards) later added two touchdowns and Brendan Carney kicked a 27-yard field goal (in addition to

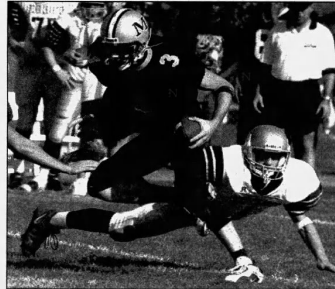
putting three of four kickoffs deep into the end zone).

Meanwhile, junior quarterback David Moore passed 10-for-13 for 114 yards while filling in for senior Matt Skellan, who is out for the season with a shoulder problem. In last year's Malvern-PC game, Skellan filled in for the injured Bill Corbett (wrist) and went 9-for-18 for 167 yards and a TD in the Friars' 20-19, title-yielding win.

Driscoll, who lives in Downingtown, Pa., entered Malvern as an eighth-grader when his uncle, Bernie Driscoll, now the basketball coach at Kutztown, was dean of men.

Not so long ago he figured lacrosse, in which he plays defense, would be his ticket to a college scholarship. But Villanova, Delaware and even Miami have made football contact and Driscoll is now leaning in that direction.

Miami, eh?  
"My dad [Dan] has a lot of good



ALAN BRIAN NELSEN/For the Daily News

Malvern's D.J. Driscoll breaks a tackle in second quarter.

contacts," he said, somewhat sheepishly. "A Miami guy asked if I redshirted for a year, how much weight could I put on? I was flattered they even called."

Since beginning to play football

as a youth, Driscoll has moved from QB to RB to WR.

"It was basically my choice each time," he said. "I didn't really like quarterback . . . I just like catching, I guess." ★

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