All-Main Line football: Malvern Prep, Carroll grabbed gridiron glory

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By BRUCE ADAMS

ARDMORE - Malvern Prep and Archbishop Carroll led a pack of competitive Main Line high school football teams this fall.

Malvern Prep enjoyed an undefeated season, winning the Inter-Ac championship and beating strong non-league opponents like St. Joseph's Prep and Downingtown by scores of 21-10 and 35-7, respectively.

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Malvern's all-around excellence was recognized throughout the Philadelphia area, as the Friars were ranked among the top Philadelphia-area high school teams.

For Malvern coach Gamp Pellegrini, it was his 16th Inter-Ac title. For his efforts in building this year's memorable championship squad, Pellegrini has been selected as by the Main Line Times as the 2001 high school football coach of the year.

Archbishop Carroll also had a great season, losing only one game and easily winning their second straight Catholic League Blue Division championship. The Patriots, led by wide receiver Maurice Stovall, the All-Delco Player of the Year, outscored their opponents 323-40.

Harriton started the season like a house afire, winning their first four games and seemingly headed for their first winning season (and post-season trip) since 1992. The Rams finished with a 5-5 record, which marked another step in the three-year pattern of improvement by the Harriton squad.

Haverford, Radnor, Haverford School and Episcopal Academy all were competitive, each playing at least close to .500 ball; while Lower Merion struggled through a winless season.

What follows is the 2001 All-Main Line high school football teams, as selected by the coaches:

FIRST TEAM

MAURICE STOVALL, Archbishop Carroll - Spectacular 6-foot-5, 205-pound senior wide receiver has attracted recruiting interest from every major college football program in the United States. Was Catholic League Blue Division MVP as well as All-Delco Player of the Year. Despite the Patriots' run-oriented offense, he grabbed 31 passes for 745 yards and nine touchdowns. As a defensive back, he intercepted 11 passes, returning five for touchdowns. Averaged 38 yards per punt return, scoring four touchdowns.

JOHN VANAK, Archbishop Carroll - Senior 6-foot-1, 240-pound senior offensive guard was first team All-Catholic and second team All-Delco. Noted as an outstanding blocker on offense, Vanak also excelled at defensive end, averaging more than one sack per game and making more than 60 tackles.

PAT KELLY, Archbishop Carroll - Senior 6-foot-2, 245-pound senior defensive tackle was first team All-Catholic and second team All-Delco. Led the powerful Patriots' squad in tackles. A relentless defender noted for his quickness and strength.

JOHN TSAFOS, Episcopal - Senior quarterback was the leader of the EA offense, throwing for eight touchdowns and 907 yards in eight games. First team All-InterAc signal-caller ran for more than 200 yards, scoring five touchdowns. Also did a solid job at defensive back. Noted for his toughness, intelligence and leadership qualities.

JOE PERSON, Episcopal - Senior 6-foot-5, 230-pound lineman was a strong presence on both sides of the ball for EA. At defensive end, he recorded 50 tackles and five sacks in nine games. At offensive guard, he was a first team All-Inter-Ac selection. Noted for his quick movement relative to his size and for his year-round work ethic.

JEFF ROSENBLUTH, Harriton - Senior quarterback threw for more than 1,300 yards and eight touchdowns. Second team All-Del Val quarterback was noted for his gritty competitiveness, leading the Rams' improved offensive attack despite some painful injuries.

WENDELL HOLLAND, Harriton - A dangerous all-around offensive weapon, senior receiver was first team All-Del Val selection. Picked up 430 receiving yards, while scoring two touchdowns on pass receptions and two six-pointers via punt returns.

PETE BURDO, Harriton - Hard-hitting linebacker, a first team All-Del Val selection, led competitive Ram squad in sacks (seven) and tackles (48). Also had one interception, one fumble recovery and one forced fumble.

PETE MANOTTI, Haverford - Hard-hitting fullback has been Fords' main offensive weapon the past two years. Picked up close to 1,000 yards rushing each of the last two seasons, tallying nine touchdowns last year. Received All-Delco honorable mention at linebacker.

MIKE DONATO, Haverford - Senior offensive lineman was Fords' best blocker, helping spur Haverford's solid running game. The 6-foot, 200-pound senior was second team All-Delco selection. Was second team All-Main Line pick last year.

RYAN DABNEY, Haverford - Senior 6-foot-1, 205-pound linebacker/running back had several outstanding games on defense this season, earning recognition from the Central League coaches. Was All-Delco honorable mention at linebacker as well as a solid running threat.

MIKE VAIL, Haverford School - Standout receiver averaged 4.5 catches per game (ranked second in Delaware County). Was second team All-Delco selection at wide receiver, averaging 13.9 yards per catch. Also was fine defensive back, with 37 tackles, one fumble recovery and three interceptions. Versatile senior tossed two touchdown passes. Co-captain was Fords' offensive MVP.

ED PANKO, Haverford School - As defensive lineman, was Fords' MVP on defense, with 68 tackles, and 7.5 sacks (led team). Was All-Delco honorable mention selection at defensive lineman. Ford coach Ron Algeo says of Panko: "He's the most dominant interior defensive lineman I've seen in years."

JOE MASCIANTONIO, Haverford School - A dominant two-way lineman who is attracting Division IAA interest. Co-captain led team in tackles behind the line of scrimmage, and finished with 32 tackles and 3.5 sacks. Was considered the Fords' best offensive lineman, receiving All-Delco honorable mention at that spot.

DAN WAKE, Lower Merion - Senior quarterback averaged more than 10 yards per completion and was a strong running threat despite injuries. Was a four-year varsity football letter-winner - a distinction held by only three players in Lower Merion High School history.

D.J. DRISCOLL, Malvern Prep - Senior was dangerous two-way threat for Inter-Ac champions. Defensive back led Inter-Ac champions' stingy defense with seven interceptions. Was Friars' leading receiver, averaging nearly 20 yards per catch. First team All-InterAc selection.

T.J. CASCIO, Malvern Prep - Promising junior defensive end helped anchor the Inter-Ac champions' defense (less than seven points per game allowed). Fullback was Friars' second-leading ground gainer, with 447 yards and 10 touchdowns in 74 carries (more than six yards per attempt). First team All-Inter-Ac selection scored 62 points.

CHRIS EMPER, Malvern Prep - Senior linebacker was a key cog in the Inter-Ac champions' stingy defense (less than seven points per game allowed). Second on the team in interceptions (three). Tight end was one of Friars' leading receivers, averaging more than 10 yards per catch. First team All-Inter-Ac pick scored three touchdowns.

WILL BOSMA, Radnor - Senior tri-captain was standout defensive back for the Red Raiders, earning All-Delco honorable mention and All-Central second team honors. A steady, smart player who was noted as a good run defender. Also was solid wide receiver.

SCOTT KIRKER, Radnor - Senior tri-captain and fullback anchored Red Raiders powerful running attack, picking up 898 yards on 141 carries (6.3 yards per carry). Ranked eighth in Dealware County for rushing yards per game (81.6). Scored eight rushing touchdowns in 11 games. Received All-Delco honorable mention, and was second team All-Central selection, at running back.

SECOND TEAM

Archbishop Carroll - Pat Brochet, Joe Cocco, Jared O'Shea.

Episcopal -Matt Sutter, Garrett Wilson, Stephen Keefe.

Harriton - Pat McDermott, Eugene Bright, Andrew Kahn.

Haverford - Larry Decina, Andrew Petrillo, Bill Rogers.

Haverford School - Andrew Bailey, Dane Collins, Joe Peretta.

Lower Merion - Sean Capkin, Brendan Martin, Jason Brokenborough.

Malvern Prep - Brendan Carney, Michael Meehan, Michael Treston, Kevin Barr.

Radnor - Ryan Finley, Cris Matthew, Phil Lee, Andy Ryan.

HONORABLE MENTION

Archbishop Carroll - Mike Malandra, Chaz Scott, Mike Cutone, Paul Rambo, Vince Lynam.

Episcopal - Roger Syracuse, Chris Auch, Mike Lamb.

Harriton - Dan Engel, Britt Reid, Matt Loughran.

Haverford - Dan Duffy.

Haverford School - Bryan Savage, Chris Moser, Nate Earle, Matt Lancaster.

Lower Merion - Tom Watts, Dwight Campbell, Ted Oxholm.

Malvern Prep - Gerald Price, Sean Quinn, Jeff Carroll, Stefan Niemczyk.

Radnor - Jamie Algatt, Charles Sims, Chris Saggiotes.