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Teacher beats old pupils as Malvern wins

Friars coach Gamp Pellegri got the better of St. Joe Prep and three of his former players.

By Todd Zolecki
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Gamp Pellegri looked across the field yesterday to see the boys who are no longer boys but coaches for the St. Joseph's Prep football team.

It was a proud moment in his 35-year career.

"Maybe, a little bit of something I might have done might have helped them," said Pellegri, the Malvern Prep coach. "It was an emotional game for me."

And then Malvern beat the visiting Hawks, 21-10, at Quigley Field, which made the occasion even more special for Pellegri, who coached Gil Brooks, the Prep head coach, and Prep assistants Greg McIlvain and Bill Kerrigan during his tenure with the Hawks from 1970 to '77.

"They were favorites of mine, and they've always been favorites of mine," Pellegri said. "We just never played each other."

"It was a meaningful game. And I hope this series will continue, because I think it's a game between two of the premier Catholic boys' high schools in this whole area."

Malvern, playing its opener, played incredible defense to shut down the Hawks, who dropped to 0-2 and will face Holy Cross, a South Jersey powerhouse, next weekend.

"I didn't know what we had," Pellegri said.

He had to wonder after the third play from scrimmage. Hawks quarterback Vince Gallagher broke a few tackles behind the line of scrimmage — he had appeared certain to be sacked —



SCOTT S. HAMBRICK / Inquirer Staff
Kyle Ambrogi finds himself about to be pulled down by Malvern Prep's T.J. Cascio. Ambrogi scored the only Hawks TD.

and threw a 76-yard touchdown pass to running back Kyle Ambrogi, giving the Hawks a 7-0 lead.

But the Friars came back. On their second offensive play, Matt Skellan threw a 62-yard touchdown pass to D.J. Driscoll to tie the score. Then, after the Hawks botched a punt to give Malvern the ball on their 4-yard line, Skellan made a 1-yard sneak into the end zone to make the score 14-7.

That was all the Friars needed, although Mike Treston's 17-yard touchdown run in the third quarter provided insurance.

Meanwhile, the Hawks found themselves deep in their own territory to start almost every possession, thanks to the strong leg of Brendan Carney, Malvern's kicker and punter.

And with that less-than-favorable field position, they found it



SCOTT S. HAMBRICK / Inquirer Suburban Staff
A pass gets away from Malvern Prep's Kevin Barr for an incompletion as he is hauled down from behind by Hawks defender Danny Jones.

difficult to move the ball. Ambrogi, who rushed for more than 2,100 yards last season, finished with 11 carries for just 27 yards.

"His spirit was here all week," Pellegri said of Ambrogi. "We talked about him all week. I knew, if we didn't stop him, we'd be in big trouble."

Defensive end T.J. Cascio was just about everywhere for the Friars, making numerous tackles and sacks.

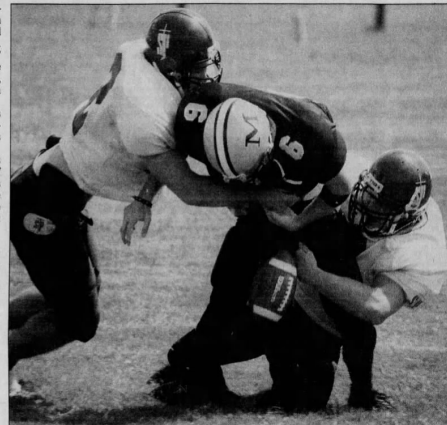
"We've been preparing for this game since the beginning of camp," Cascio said. "Gamp has tremendous respect for [the Hawks]. When we came out, he said to play with respect but hit them real hard."

They followed his orders.

Brooks was clearly upset after the game. When asked if the loss was especially disappointing because of his strong connection to Pellegri he said: "That has nothing to do with it. We coached [poorly]. We played [poorly]. That's the disappointing part."

St. Joseph's Prep	10	0	0	0	—	10
Malvern Prep	14	0	7	0	—	21
S.P. Kyle Ambrogi 76 pass from Vince Gallagher (Pat Kasper kick)						
M.P. D.J. Driscoll 62 pass from Matt Skellan (Brendan Carney kick)						
M.P. Skellan 1 run (Carney kick)						
S.P. Mike Ambrogi 17 run (Carney kick)						
M.P. Mike Treston 17 run (Carney kick)						

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The Friars' Timothy Murray fumbles as he is hit by Dave McDermott (left) and Mike Minetti of St. Joe's.

2001 Gamp beats SJP

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