

HIGH SCHOOLS

Mighty Quinn leads Malvern

Inter-Ac title goes to Friars

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Shawn Quinn rolled out, stopped on a dime, gave change, and fired a 20-yard pass for a title-producing touchdown.

Wait . . . Shawn Quinn?

Isn't he a star at guard and defensive tackle for Malvern Prep's ever-impressive football team?

"Believe it or not," he said, "I used to be a quarterback."

Back in another century.

The play mentioned above, which ignited a wild celebration — and is relived again and again to this day, thanks to videotape — occurred when Quinn was playing pee-wee football for Clifton. That was many years, many meals and many snacks ago.

Quinn these days goes 6-foot, 260 pounds, and if he's sorry that quarterbacking is no longer part of his life, he's not telling.

Anyway, by now he has a ball in the trenches.

On Saturday, Quinn was a double-edged sword as visiting Malvern pasted Germantown Academy, 44-7, to complete a 4-0 Inter-Ac League season and give coach Gapare "Gamp" Pellegrini his 16th title (13 outright, three shared) in 24 seasons.

The Friars frolicked on offense, generating 358 yards on 43 plays as Michael Preston (15 carries, 136 yards, two touchdowns) led the way. The defense yielded

105 yards, but just 29 (and no points) came against the first unit.

When it was over, the celebration ranged from *mild* to *barely existent*.

"Part of that was that the starters hardly played in the second half," Quinn said. "We were just standing there. It was hard to be that emotional. It really wasn't a big win because it was something we expected."

"Lately, it's been a little hard to stay focused. We came into the season with a lot of excitement because we knew we had games against some very good teams like St. Joseph's Prep, Downingtown . . . After that stretch, it was like we knew we'd win, so we focused more on group things — getting a certain amount of rushing yards, trying to keep our opponents to negative rushing yards, etc." (GA had minus-34.)

Malvern's offensive line included center Jeff Carroll, guards Quinn and Michael Meehan, tackles Steve Fischer and Stefan Niemczyk and tight end Chris Emper. The defensive line, nicknamed "Mount-Rush-No-More," had T.J. Cascio and Eric Moore at the ends and Quinn and Meehan at the tackles.

"I like defense better. It's more fun," Quinn said. "You get to hit, plus you think more because you don't know what's coming."

The Friars, who won a surprise title last year and then returned 19 starters, rolled to a 138-26 scoring advantage in Inter-Ac play. The full first defense yielded just one TD. It came against Haverford School with the score 35-0.

"This success happened for two reasons," Pellegrini said. "No. 1, we're very good. No. 2, the other schools are a little down, mostly because they're young. I can't remember marching through the league like *this*."

When asked whether this squad could stay on the field with his other top-notchers, Pellegrini said without hesitation, "No question. It would be a helluva battle."

He added, "Those teams had some standout guys that carried them. This team, they all carry each other."

Said Quinn: "Coach always says we're one of the best teams Malvern's ever had. He compares us a lot to his 10-0 '95 team."

(Malvern has swept through nine games and has Bishop Shanahan remaining. However, the *Daily News* and other news organizations consider the Friars 8-0 as one opponent, Fairfield, near Gettysburg, was an unsanctioned club team. Malvern rolled, 54-0.)

Quinn, who lives in Media, is hearing from a steady stream of Division I-AA schools (Lehigh, Delaware, Davidson, Rhode Island), and he wants to major in business management.

Asked now to take snaps, he'd probably decline.

"I was a quarterback until the eighth grade at Malvern, but I'm fine with being a lineman now," he said, laughing. "You don't get the same kind of glory, or have people noticing you, but you get credit from the backs and that's good enough. They know they can't go anywhere without us." ★

2001 Mighty Quinn leads MP to title

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