Emotional Mooney helps Friars stay atop Inter-Ac with win over Sallies

* By Eric S. Smith Oct 8, 2008

 Top of Form

Bottom of Form

WILMINGTON, Del. - With time expiring in the third quarter and the Malvern Prep football team already up big on host Salesianum, C.J. Mooney picked up a Sallies' fumble and ran it back 55 yards for a touchdown. As he trotted across the goal line the senior defensive end pointed to the sky in a mild celebration. While the score was just a blip on the board in the Friars' 42-0 non-league rout of Salesianum, the touch-down was one of the biggest of Mooney's high-school career.

"I buried my grandfather (Thursday), so that touchdown was very meaningful for me," Mooney said. "On the scoreboard it didn't really matter, but it meant a lot to me and my family. It was the perfect way to cap off the night for me."

While Mooney's score was by far the most emotional, it was just one play on the highlight reel that was the Friars' night.

Malvern (4-0) jumped out to an early lead as it capped its opening drive with a 10-yard strike from quarterback Billy Conners to Joe Price. The two would hook up again later in the first quarter, this time for a 66-yard touchdown. Conners finished the night 7-for-8 for 174 yards and two scores, while Price caught five balls for 132 yards and a pair of scores.

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"My offensive line did a great job, and I wasn't touched all night," Conners said. "Joe is one of the best receivers in the area and makes my job easy."

In the second quarter, James Connelly punched in two scores of his own. The senior fullback finished with nine carries and 73 yards.

The Friars were quite impressive in the first half as they totaled 240 yards of offense compared to only 84 for Sallies (2-3). In the second half, the running clock limited what both teams could do."This team is just awesome for me to watch, especially with what they do on offense," said Malvern head coach Gamp Pellegrini.

The Friars seemingly could do nothing wrong all night. They scored on their first five possessions, punted on the sixth (with backups in the game), and regulation ended on their seventh. In stark contrast, Salesianum punted five times, had two turnovers and only mustered 106 total yards.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form