

Linebackers in Southeastern Pennsylvania.



Rick O'Brien

In compiling our top-15 list, we took into consideration the following: open-field tackling ability, range from sideline to sideline, skill at stopping the run and defending against the pass, and instincts.

Here are the linebackers:

- 1. Dave Ayanbikan,** Strath Haven, senior, 6-foot, 235 pounds. He is also a lacrosse star, and led the Panthers in tackles in each of the last three seasons.
- 2. Andrew Stoll,** North Penn, senior, 6-1, 205. With quickness and stellar instincts, Stoll has been involved in a team-high 65 steps (47 solo).
- 3. John Nurthen,** Great Valley, senior, 6-2, 215. The Geesey Nurthen (128 tackles) is getting looked at by Navy, as well as by a number of Ivy League schools.
- 4. Mike Pereira,** St. Joseph's Prep, senior, 6-0, 238. Pereira, a three-year starter, has a terrific nose for the football, is a punishing tackler, and closes well.
- 5. Steve Marck,** Pennsylvania, senior, 6-4, 225. Although he is projected as a tight end or halfback in college, Marck was a heavy hitter for the Falcons.
- 6. Daniel Jones,** Imhotep Charter, senior, 6-2, 215. Because of his speed and strength, Jones was hearing from the likes of Temple and Connecticut.
- 7. Corey Majors,** Neshaminy, sophomore, 6-0, 218. Majors is quick and a ferocious tackler. He could finish as one of the Redskins' all-time best at the position.
- 8. Adam Nowak,** Father Judge, senior, 6-3, 225. Nowak, who moved from strong safety, was a two-way terror (he also played wideout) for the Crusaders.
- 9. Anthony Hernandez,** Bayard Rustin, senior, 6-3, 215. He's a solid kicker, and rushes and drops back equally well. Lehigh and other Division I-AA schools are calling.
- 10. Anthony McCloskey,** Cardinal O'Hara, senior, 6-0, 220. The three-year starter, consistent and great at sniffing out the ball, has an offer from Navy.
- 11. B.J. Deola,** Council Rock South, senior, 6-0, 220. A four-year starter who also stood



Marty Bernard (top) of Roman Catholic goes after a pass with North Catholic's Julian Huggins. Bernard is a natural leader and athletic, and was an unsung hero for the Cahillites.



Father Judge's Adam Nowak (rear) and Roman Catholic's Dennis Regan fight for a pass. Nowak, who moved from strong safety, was a two-way terror, also playing wideout.

out at fullback, Deola was a physical tackler.

- 12. Bill Laboe,** St. Joseph's Prep, junior, 6-3, 220. The up-and-coming Labor is a quality playmaker, quick on the edge, and recovers well on misdirection plays.
- 13. Hayden Schumcker,** Academy of the New Church, senior, 6-1, 215. Schumcker, hidden away in Bryn Athyn, has smarts, toughness and good instincts.
- 14. Rob McCabe,** Malvern Prep, senior, 6-2, 210. McCabe, also talented on the diamond, has been a stalwart for a unit that has yielded just 9.8 points per game.
- 15. Marty Bernard,** Roman Catholic, senior, 5-11, 200. An unsung hero last season, Bernard is a natural leader, ath-

FOOTBALL

Team	Record
<i>Last week's rankings are in parentheses.</i>	
1. North Penn (1)	12-0
The leaders on defense for the Knights include linebacker Andrew Stoll and backs Joe Godio and Anthony Taggart.	
2. Malvern Prep (2)	9-0
Gang Pellegri and the Friars are preparing for a Thanksgiving game vs. Gil Brooks and St. Joseph's Prep.	
3. La Salle (4)	9-2
On Saturday, the Explorers will play George Washington or the District 12 Class AAAA championship.	
4. Garnet Valley (3)	12-0
The Jaguars edged Pennsylvania in a District 1 Class AAAA quarterfinal. Next is two-time champ Neshaminy.	
5. Neshaminy (5)	11-1
The linebacking corps features sophomore Corey Majors, and seniors Dan Blundo and Justin Donnerumms.	
6. West Catholic (6)	11-1
With Curtis Drake at the controls, the high-scoring Bursas focused on a first-round state playoff against Palisades.	
7. Father Judge (7)	8-4
The Crusaders fought hard for their first Catholic League championship since 1984 but fell short against La Salle.	
8. Downingtown West (10)	11-1
Bret Glinaspe has passed for 1,796 yards and 17 TDs. Jared Heller has rushed for 1,210 yards and 22 scores.	
9. Pennsylvania (8)	9-3
Against Garrett Hill, the Falcons rallied in the fourth quarter. A missed two-point conversion try was the difference.	
10. St. Joseph's Prep (9)	8-3
Mike Yeager and Garrett Compton have combined for nearly 2,000 rushing yards. Can the Hawks knock off Malvern Prep?	
Under consideration listed alphabetically: Abington (9-3), Archbishop Wood (10-2), Bayard Rustin (10-1), Conestoga (8-4), Pottsgrove (10-2), Ridley (8-3), Upper Merion (10-1).	

—Rick O'Brien

letic, and stout against the run.

Others to watch, listed alphabetically: Ricky Bailey, Penncrest, senior, 6-4, 210; Rob Basile, Quaker town, junior, 6-0, 185; Jake Butts, Episcopal Academy, junior, 6-1, 227; Vince Claverelli, Phoenixville, junior, 6-1, 180; Derek Clark, Dobbins, senior, 6-0, 220; Ted Conrad, Central Bucks West, senior, 5-10, 205; Sean Cunningham, Archbishop Wood, senior, 6-1, 215; Larry DeVicino, Monsignor Bener, senior, 5-11, 202; Aaron Duckett, Abington, senior, 5-9, 172; Verann Dupree, George Washington, junior, 6-0, 225; Antoine Fowler, Northcast, senior, 5-10, 200; Mike Goode, Norristown, senior, 6-0, 185; Preston Hamlette, Pottsgrove, junior, 5-9, 200; Chris Hulton, Central Bucks South, senior, 6-4, 200; Phil Mariani, Conestoga, se-



Mike Pereira of St. Joseph's Prep has a terrific nose for the football.

nior, 6-2, 240; Lee Marvel, Council Rock North, junior, 5-11, 195; Andrew Sklar, Perkiomen School, senior, 6-3, 210; John Michael Staudenmayer, Plymouth White, soph., 6-0, 175; Gabe Steinhilber, Conestoga, junior, 5-10, 195; Joe Swalton, Father Judge, senior, 5-9, 215; Tim Verdon, German town Academy, senior, 6-3, 217; Mark Visco, Upper Dublin, senior, 5-10, 180; Shomari Watts, Haverford School, senior, 6-1, 215; J.R. Wells, Chester, senior, 5-11, 195; Pat Zimmerman, Ridley, senior, 5-10, 190.

Contact staff writer Rick O'Brien at 610-313-8019 or robrien@phillynews.com.

Football Notebook

N. Penn kicker commits to Temple

The strong-legged Brandon McManus also serves as a punter for the top-ranked Knights.

By Rick O'Brien
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER
Brandon McManus is a punter for the top-ranked Knights.

terback Justin Davey has completed 80 of 119 passes (67.2 percent) for 1,180 yards and 14 touchdowns. He has carried 38 times for 385 yards and two scores.

The other offensive leaders



2008 Top Linebackers (McCabe) Inquirer Top 10

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