

# Late arrival leads way as Malvern wins in OT

By David T. Shaw  
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

MALVERN — Malvern Prep spent most of the first quarter against Episcopal Academy on Friday wondering how it could produce some offense.

Meanwhile, Chris Downs sat fidgeting in a classroom, waiting for the chance to provide some.

In private-school tradition, the penalty for fooling around in class is detention. And whether you're a water boy or a star running back, the punishment applies.

"I felt sick in there," said Downs, Malvern's leading rusher. "I was thinking, 'Just let me out.'"

At 3:10 p.m., Downs ran to the Malvern locker room, changed into his uniform, and raced to the field. And by game's end, he had made a big difference, running for 109 yards on 24 carries and scoring the winning touchdown as the Friars rallied for a 14-7 overtime victory.

The win kept Malvern (3-4, 2-1) in contention for the Inter-Ac title. Episcopal slipped to 4-3 and 0-2.

The Churchmen built a 7-0 lead in the third quarter, when tailback Matt Bailer (61 yards, 23 carries) took a swing pass from Brian Person

and went 16 yards for a touchdown.

The Friars, meanwhile, hardly threatened to score. On their first nine possessions, they turned the ball over four times, punted four times, and lost the ball on downs.

They awoke in the fourth quarter, becoming rejuvenated after Episcopal tried a 30-yard field goal attempt that sailed wide.

With 7 minutes, 7 seconds remaining, the Friars chewed up more than five minutes on an 80-yard scoring march. Downs picked up 29 of those yards on seven carries, and Shaun Gallagher hit Chris O'Connor for a 38-yard pickup. Dan Bonner capped the drive with a 3-yard plunge, and James Wingerter's extra point tied the score.

After time expired, both teams got their first taste of overtime under a rule new this year in the Inter-Ac.

With four downs to score from the 10-yard line, Malvern wasted little time and gave the ball to Downs on the first play. Downs went outside on a sweep, used a spin move to get away from a pair of tacklers, then ran over another defender to reach the corner of the end zone.

Episcopal coach Roger White could barely watch the play.



For The Inquirer / JON ADAMS

**Malvern Prep's Dan Bonner** (center) is tackled by Episcopal Academy's Brian Person. Bonner's 3-yard run in the fourth quarter provided the Friars with their only touchdown of regulation time.

"Who else was going to get the ball?" he said. "Then we've got three guys on him and couldn't tackle him. We didn't do it."

Episcopal wound up with six plays to score from the 10, thanks to a third-down interference call against Malvern.

The Friars then applied their best pressure of the day. They sacked

Person once, caught Bailer for a 4-yard loss, caused Person to throw three incomplete passes, and ended the game when Tony Downs, Chris' brother, intercepted in the end zone.

Episcopal Ac.	0	0	7	0	0	—	7
Malvern Prep	0	0	0	7	7	—	14

EA: Bailer 16 pass from Person (Alexiadis kick)  
MP: Bonner 3 run (Wingerter kick)  
MP: C. Downs 10 run (Wingerter kick)

## 1996 MP 14 EA 7 article and boxscore

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