

Malvern caps its season in triumph

The Friars posted a 20-13 victory over Carroll. They finished 6-4.

By John Knebel
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

RADNOR — Malvern Prep completed its Tale of Two Half-Seasons yesterday by defeating Archbishop Carroll, 20-13, in the 13th annual Friar-Pat Cup game at Radnor High.

The Friars (6-4) finished with a four-game winning streak after losing four of their first six games. The win improved Malvern's lead against Carroll in the Thanksgiving series to 10-2-1.

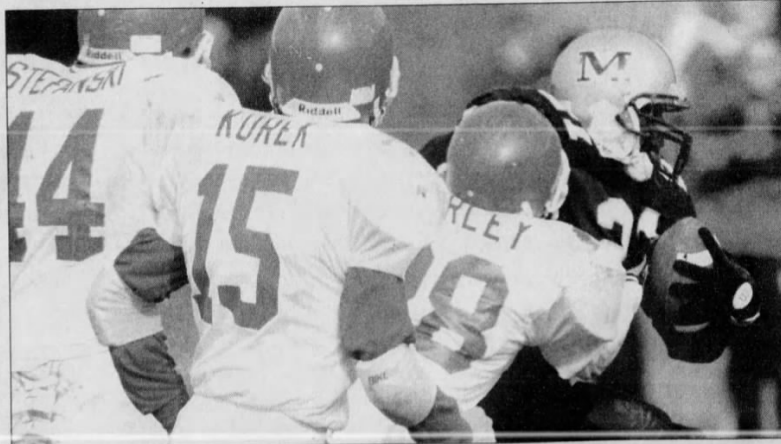
"This is emotional," senior two-way lineman Dom Cusano said. "There is so much joy to this win. Thinking about how things were, and then to get to this point.

"I know we were an undefeated team last year, but in a lot of ways this year was more fun. We all pulled together after the Penn Charter game [a 46-27 loss], and we became a team again."

The Friars again rode the legs of junior Chris Downs, whose 150 rushing yards and three touchdowns on 34 carries established Malvern single-season records in both categories — 1,653 rushing yards and 20 touchdowns.

"I'd have to say he's the best running back I've played against," Carroll senior Sean Scott said. "He just keeps coming at you. You stop him, and he doesn't quit."

Downs' first touchdown, a 44-yard



For The Inquirer / LAURENCE KESTERSON

Malvern's Chris Downs (right) has lots of company for Thanksgiving as Carroll players give chase.

sweep down the left sideline just 37 seconds into the game, gave Malvern a 6-0 lead. That advantage disappeared early in the third quarter when junior quarterback Pat Curtin connected with Scott on an 11-yard scoring lob.

A 5-yard touchdown run by Downs with 2:46 left in the third gave the Friars a 13-6 lead, but Carroll (6-5) answered with a nine-play, 65-yard drive, punctuated by a 2-yard plunge up the middle by junior

Brandon Banks two minutes into the fourth quarter.

Malvern then turned to Downs, and with help from the offensive line, he didn't disappoint. He carried 10 straight times for 50 yards, his final run a 6-yard touchdown on fourth and 3.

Carroll's loss symbolized how its season turned out. Thought to be a Catholic League Southern Division contender after an upset over St. Joseph's Prep, the Pat's lost their

final three games, including two league defeats that left them out of the playoffs.

"We'd get psyched to play the good teams," Scott said, "and against the lesser teams, it was like we didn't want to play."

Malvern Prep	6	0	7	7	—	20
Archbishop Carroll	0	0	6	7	—	13
MP: C. Downs 44 run (kick failed)						
AC: Scott 11 pass from Curtin (kick failed)						
MP: C. Downs 5 run (Wingeter kick)						
AC: Banks 2 run (Noone kick)						
MP: C. Downs 6 run (Wingeter kick)						

1996 MP 20 Carroll 13 article and box score

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Fri, Apr 23, 2021