

Charles Nesley, carrying the ball for Owen J. Roberts, tries to squeeze past Malvern's Greg Oschell.

Malvern Prep defeats OJR, boosts Pellegrini to record

The 24-16 win by the Friars was their coach's 185th. Three fumbles by Owen J. Roberts were crucial.

By Lou Costello
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

MALVERN — Malvern Prep and Owen J. Roberts had difficulty maintaining possession of the football in a nonleague game Saturday afternoon, combining for nine turnovers. But the Friars took advantage of three fumbles by the Wildcats that led to 17 points in a 24-16 win.

Chris Downs, who ran for 365 yards on 23 carries, sprinted for a 72-yard touchdown run with 8 minutes, 49 seconds left in the first quarter after the Wildcats' first fumble for a 7-0 lead. Malvern defensive back Brian Botta made the recovery on Malvern's 28-yard line.

After the Wildcats scored on a 25-yard field goal by Don Eastman with 4:57 left in the period, it was their turn to take advantage of a turnover. Adam Brant recovered a Malvern fumble on the ensuing kickoff, and on the next play, quarterback Ryan Lumbetta threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Jason Bratto with 4:49 left in the period to give the Friars (5-4) a 16-7 lead.

The Friars (5-4) took a 14-10 lead on an 11-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Shaun Gallagher to Ryan Edginton with 1:41 left in the

quarter.

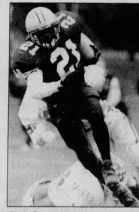
The Friars' win was the 185th in the career of their coach, Gamp Pellegrini. He is now the winningest high school football coach in Philadelphia city leagues history. He broke the record of former Frankford coach Al Angelo, who had 184 wins.

"The fact that a win would break the record for Coach Pellegrini gave us even more incentive," Gallagher said. "He's a great coach."

The feeling of respect is mutual between the coach and his players. "The kids have done more for me over the years than I could ever do for them," Pellegrini said.

Malvern defensive end Greg Oschell recovered a fumble on the Roberts 19 and it led to a 23-yard field goal by James Wingerter with 4:14 left in the first half and a 17-10 Malvern lead.

Malvern defensive end Marlon Miller recovered a fumble on the Roberts 39. This set up a 2-yard touchdown run by Downs with 10:01 remaining and a 24-10 Malvern lead. Roberts' Lumbetta tossed a 7-yard touchdown pass to end Zach Heskett with 28 seconds remaining to finish the scoring.



Chris Downs of Malvern Prep carried the ball 33 times for 365 yards and his team's first and last touchdowns.

Owen J. Roberts	10	0	0	0	— 16
Malvern Prep	16	2	0	1	— 24
MP: Downs 72 yds (Wingerter kick)					
MP: Bratto 28 pass from Lumbetta (Eastman kick)					
MP: Edginton 11 pass from Gallagher (Wingerter kick)					
MP: FG Wingerter 23					
MP: Downs 2 yds (Wingerter kick)					
MP: Heskett 7 pass from Lumbetta (kick failed)					

1996 MP 24 OJ Roberts 16 artile and box score

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