

Malvern rolls to 40-14 win

Valley Forge was the victim, as the Friars built a 26-8 halftime edge behind quarterback Shaun Gallagher.

By Gene Morris
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

WAYNE — Put Valley Forge Military Academy coach Mike Korom on the list of critics concerning Malvern Prep's preseason reputation. Maybe near the top.

"Anybody who says they're rebuilding doesn't know what they're talking about," Korom said, after his team was pounded Saturday at home by the Friars, 40-14. "That's a very good team out there."

Considering that Malvern graduated nearly its entire 190 squad from a year ago, and had just six seniors on its 53-man roster, Saturday's trouncing was nothing short of remarkable.

In the season opener for both teams, the Friars manhandled the Trojans, who aren't as big and physical as in the past.

Malvern's new quarterback, junior Shaun Gallagher, threw four touchdown passes and had receivers open all day.

And Malvern freshman Clarence Green, a 5-foot-9, 266-pound defensive lineman, dominated play at times during the game.

Tack on 227 yards rushing (164 by Chris Downs) and you have a pretty complete package.

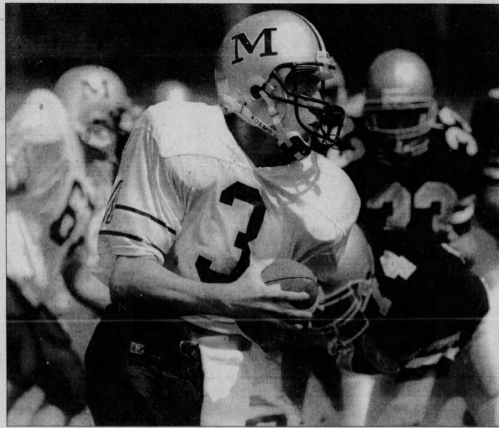
"I was a bit nervous at first but we took it right to them at the beginning," said Gallagher, a 6-2, 185-pounder.

His first three passes were for touchdowns and he finished 5 for 8 for 86 yards.

"The whole team played great. The line, receivers, backs, defense. Valley Forge is a good team, but we just played very well. Everyone was ready for this," Gallagher said.

Gallagher led Malvern to a touchdown on its opening drive, completing a 16-yard scoring pass to Chris O'Connor.

Malvern missed the extra point and Valley Forge's Joe Ginn returned the ensuing kickoff 87 yards as Valley Forge got the two-point conversion for its only lead of the



For The Inquirer / BARBARA JOHNSTON
Malvern Prep quarterback Shaun Gallagher takes the ball in for a two-point conversion and a 14-8 first-quarter lead for his Friars. His conversion run followed his 24-yard scoring pass to Chris Downs.

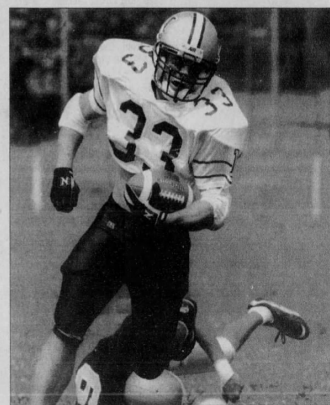
game. Gallagher then immediately led another TD drive, which culminated in a 24-yard pass play to Downs. Downs showed some fancy footwork, eluding tacklers and picked up a huge block by Brian Botta to spring him loose at the 8-yard line.

Later, Gallagher connected with Ryan Edginton and O'Connor again for scores, and Downs and Dan Bonner scored on runs of 63 and 10 yards, respectively.

Valley Forge countered with an electrifying 86-yard run by Ginn in the third period.

"The way I looked at it, if we played well here we could show up for our next three games against West Chester Henderson, Downingtown and West Chester East," Malvern coach Gamp Pellegrini said. "But if we got beat up today we could be looking at 0-4. I certainly feel better going into this stretch after what we did today."

Malvern Prep	14	12	14	0	40
Valley Forge	8	0	8	0	14
M. O'Connor	16	pass	from	Gallagher	(kick failed)
V. Ginn	87	kickoff	return	(Ginn run)	
M. Downs	24	pass	from	Gallagher	(Gallagher run)
M. Edginton	16	pass	from	Gallagher	(kick blocked)
M. Downs	63	run	(gull failed)		
V. Ginn	86	run	(kick failed)		
M. O'Connor	21	pass	from	Gallagher	(pass failed)
M. Bonner	10	run	(Bonner run)		



Brian Botta leaves Valley Forge tackler Derek Patterson in his wake as he carries the ball for some extra yardage for Malvern Prep.

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