FOOTBALL: With two games to go, Friars still undefeated

* By John DiCandilo, Oct 31, 2001

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There was Haverford School in one end zone, whooping it up. Proud of themselves. This was a team that had finished the day with a total of minus-27 yards rushing.

Down there in the other end zone was Malvern Prep. This was a team that had finished the day with 265 yards rushing. The Friars' traditional "rooster" chant was half-hearted, at best.

Host Malvern Prep *did* win the Inter-Ac League contest, 35-19, last Friday afternoon. So why were the Friars' shoulders at half-mast after the game?

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Well, see that 19 at the end of the score? Only one team, St. Joseph's Prep, scored more than once against Malvern Prep (8-0 overall, 3-0 in the Inter-Ac) all season before last Friday. Nobody in the Inter-Ac had dared crossed the goal line against the Friars. And, for a while, Haverford School (3-5, 1-2) didn't even look like it would get close to scoring.

"We played terrible football," said Malvern Prep coach Gamp Pellegrini. "They score 19 points, and they're cheering. My kids didn't even want to do a 'rooster.' The rooster cheer is something they've done every year since I've been here. They did it somewhat reluctantly."

The count had reached 35-0, but here came the Fords, scoring all of their 19 points in the fourth quarter. What was worse in the Friars' eyes was that all 19 points came against the first-team defense.

Oh, and maybe the fact that Malvern Prep lost four fumbles during the afternoon bothered the Friars.

"We were beaten badly by Penn Charter last week," said Haverford School coach Ron Algeo, himself a Malvern Prep grad. "We set goals we wanted to achieve. The thing I'm most pleased with was the way the kids worked hard every day. A game like today, you get behind early, and we could have packed it in early. But we didn't forget about our goals.

"We want to take some positives from this. The defense did a good job of coming back. They came up with a lot of fumbles. Offensively, we tried to get some things going.

"To be able to go against a team that is ranked No. 2 [in Southeastern Pennsylvania], not many people get that opportunity. Fifteen years from now, you can say you played against the best. I respect the hell out of them. They don't accept losing [at Malvern Prep]."

Last Friday, the Friars didn't accept winning too well, either.

Malvern Prep scored three of the first four times it had the ball. And scored quite easily at that. The Friars' worst starting field position during that stretch was the 50 yard line.

Mike Treston, who cranked out 185 yards, ended Malvern Prep's first drive with a 15-yard touchdown run.

With T.J. Cascio running for 28 yards on three carries, the Friars' next possession concluded with Dave Moore sneaking in from the 1.

D.J. Driscoll set up the next Malvern Prep sixer with the first of his two interceptions. Treston capitalized with a 48-yard burst off right tackle.

Then came three Malvern fumbles, one on a punt return, one at the Malvern 28, the third at the Haverford School 11.

"They took away everything inside," said Pellegrini. "They forced us to go outside and off-tackle. We turned the ball over too many times. Three in the second quarter is not the way it should be."

That was eased somewhat by a Moore-to-Kevin Barr scoring pass that covered 30 yards and a Gerald Price 2-yard run that pumped it up to 35-0 midway through the third quarter.

Then came the fourth quarter and the Fords' onslaught. After Mike Vail recovered a Malvern Prep fumble at the Friars' 32, Vail threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to John Chermak off a fake field goal.

Boom.

Next Haverford School possession: Bryan Savage, who was savaged by the Malvern Prep defense all afternoon, tossed a pass to Andrew Bailey, who slipped a tackle and went 46 yards for the score.

Some more boom.

Ed Fields blocked a Brendan Carney punt, giving the Fords possession at the Friars' 7 with 1:23 to play in the game. On the final play of the game, Bailey ran in another fake field goal for a score.

The result: Haverford School jubilation; Malvern Prep dejection.

"Ron does a good job every year," said Pellegrini. "They get a fake field goal. Those things happen. Then they get another touchdown, then another touchdown. We're up, 35-0, and I don't want to throw the ball. I want to be a classy coach.

"I'm not going to run it up on anyone, and certainly not Ron. He's a former player and a friend."

But Algeo was the happier coach after the game.

Haverford School            Malvern Prep

5      First downs      13

-27      Net rushing      265

125      Net passing      55

98      Total offense      320

0      Fumbles lost      4

0      Intercepted by      2

2-10      Penalties      5-49

4-33.3      Punts      3-36.7

Haverford School      0      0      0      19-19

Malvern Prep            21      0      14      0-35

Scoring

M-Treston 15 run (Carney kick)

M-Moore 1 run (Carney kick)

M-Treston 48 run (Carney kick)

M-Barr 30 pass from Moore (Carney kick)

M-Price 3 run (Carney kick)

H-Chermak 13 pass from Vail (Bailey kick)

H-Bailey 46 pass from Savage (kick failed)

H-Bailey 12 run (no attempt)

HAVERFORD SCHOOL      MALVERN PREP

Rushing      tc      yds      lg      Rushing      tc      yds      lg

Collins      13      17      5      Treston      13      185      48

O'Brien      3      5      3      Cascio      6      60      18

Moser      1      2      2      Price      5      21      9

Peretta      1      0      0      McKeeta      3      12      5

Bailey      2      -8      7       Liva      2      6      9

Savage      10      -43      3      Gough      1      1      1

                         Dougherty      1      -3      -3

                         Moore      3      -8      1

                         Barr      1      -9      -9

Totals      30      -27      7      Totals      35      265      48

Passing      a      c      i      yds      Passing      a      c      i      yds

Savage      18      9      2      112      Moore      10      3      0      46

Vail      1      1      0      13      Dougherty      2      2      0      9

Totals      19      10      2      125      Totals      12      5      0      55

Receiving      cgt      yds      Receiving      cgt      yds

Vail      7      89      Barr      2      37

Fisher      1      19      McKeeta      1      10

Chermak      1      13      Treston      1      9

Bailey      1      4      Liva      1      -1

Totals      10      125      Totals      5      55