1. -Main Line football team

* By Bruce Adams Dec 4, 2008

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Malvern Prep led an impressive group of Main Line Inter-Ac football squads this fall. The Friars (10-0) outscored their opponents, 424-115, this fall, and capped off their season with a 34-27 victory against highly-regarded St. Joseph's Prep on Thanksgiving Day.It was the Friars' fourth perfect record in the 31-year coaching reign of Gamp Pellegrini (the others were in 1980, 1995 and 2001). Prior to the Friars' win against St. Joseph's Prep, Pellegrini called his 2008 squad the best team he has coached in his 31-year span at Malvern Prep.

Leading the way for Malvern Prep was quarterback Billy Conners, the Inter-Ac MVP. Conners completed 70 of 96 passes for 1,509 yards and 19 touchdowns, and came through like a champion in the Friars' come-from-behind victory against St. Joseph's Prep (Malvern was trailing 21-0 in the second quarter). Against SJP, Conners completed eight-of-eight second-half passes for 186 yards and three TD's, including a game-winning 27-yard strike to Joe Price with 37 seconds left.

Another local Inter-Ac team that prospered this fall was Haverford School (7-3 overall, 3-2 Inter-Ac), coached by fourth-year mentor Michael Murphy. The Fords enjoyed their best season since 1989, tying for second place in the Inter-Ac circuit this fall with Penn Charter.

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Episcopal Academy (7-3 overall, 2-3 Inter-Ac) was another strong local Inter-Ac squad. The Churchmen started the season like a house afire, winning their first five games.

Perennial power Conestoga (9-4 overall, 7-3 Central League) finished tied for fourth place in the always-tough Central circuit, while Haverford High School (6-6 overall, 4-6 Central) oustcored its opponents 304-151 and featured the school's all-time leading rusher in Dante Pergolese.

The All-Main Line high school football teams are selected by the coaches, who vote for their own players - and because the Main Line Times covers 19 area high schools, the coaches of every sport are limited as to the number of All-Main Line nominations they can make.

While it's possible, for example, that the fourth-best football player on one Main Line school's team is better than the best player on another local school's squad, one of the intentions of All-Main Line voting has been to give all of the Main Line schools recognition, relative to the strength of each team.

What follows are the 2008 All-Main Line high school football teams, as selected by the coaches:

FIRST TEAM

CHRIS KENNEDY, ARCHBISHOP

CARROLL - Senior 6-foot-3, 285-pound tight end/punter/defensive tackle was first team All-Catholic and All-Delco selection as a defensive lineman. Averaged 37.5 yards per punt, and more than 25 yards per reception.

JACK LOWNEY, ARCHBISHOP

CARROLL - Senior 6-foot-3, 255-pound offensive tackle/defensive end was a first team All-Catholic selection on both sides of the ball. A two-time All-Delco selection at tackle, he was considered the anchor of the Patriots' offensive line.

BRYAN BARLEY, CONESTOGA - Senior was first team All-Central League wide receiver, noted for outstanding speed as well as aggressiveness in pursuing and catching the football. Also was a standout kick returner - scored four touchdowns on kickoff returns during his career.

ZACH TRAEGER, CONESTOGA - Senior defensive lineman was noted for his quickness off the ball and relentless pursuit. A good tackler, he nailed many enemy ballcarriers for losses throughout the season. Received second team All-Central League honors.

PHIL MARIANI, CONESTOGA - Senior was a first team All-Central League selection at both linebacker and tight end. Was the defensive leader of the Pioneers - called signals and made many big tackles. Noted for his versatility on offense, he played many roles, including slot receiver, tailback and quarterback as well as tight end.

STEVE FAULKNER, EPISCOPAL

ACADEMY - Senior fullback/line-backer and captain was the Churchmen's MVP, rushing for 853 yards and 12 touchdowns in 139 carries. Was first team All-Inter-Ac running back. Also was a key cog in EA's tough defense, which allowed only 123 points in 10 games.

BUDDY

FERRO, EPISCOPAL ACADEMY - Senior outside line-backer/wide receiver was the Churchmen's Defensive Player of the Year, leading the EA team with three interceptions. Also noted for his outstanding performance on the Churchmen's special teams.

JOHN GORMLEY, EPISCOPAL

ACADEMY - Senior halfback/defensive back was a multi-faceted offensive performer in the EA attack, gaining 663 yards and seven touchdowns in 130 carries, while leading the Churchmen in receptions. Was voted EA's Most Improved Player.

VICTOR DELOMBA, HARRITON - Senior defensive end/offensive tackle and captain was noted for his durability, playing every snap as well as on special teams. Made 55 tackles on defense, and was Rams' best run blocker. Received second team All-Central League honors.

COLIN POWELL, HARRITON - Junior middle linebacker and center led Rams in tackles (80) and recovered two fumbles. Played every snap on both sides of the ball as well as special teams. Received All-Central League recognition.

LIAM MCGRATH, HAVERFORD

HIGH - Senior was a first team All-Delco and All-Central League defensive back, picking off nine enemy passes this fall. Was a versatile quarterback as well, passing for 736 yards and eight touchdowns while running for 555 yards and seven touch-downs.

DANTE PERGOLESE, HAVERFORD

HIGH - Senior running back set a school single-season record with 1,628 rushing yards. Also scored 16 touchdowns, and was a first team All-Delco and All-Central League selection at running back. The 5-foot-11, 170-pound senior is considered a tough-as-nails runner.

NICK ROSSINO, HAVERFORD HIGH

– Senior offensive guard helped spring Dante Pergolese to a school-record 1,628 rushing yards this fall. Noted for his quickness and athleticism, he received first team All-Central League honors as an offensive lineman, and All-Delco honors as well. Also was solid defensive tackle.

TERANCE

FITZSIMMONS, HAVERFORD SCHOOL - Senior was first team All-Inter-Ac running back, rushing for 859 yards and nine touchdowns in 119 carries. A fine all-around threat on offense, the senior also was a productive receiver, with nine catches for 65 yards. Received the Fords' offensive MVP award as well as All-Delco honors.

SHOMARI WATTS, HAVERFORD

SCHOOL - Senior 6-foot-1, 220-pound linebacker/center and captain was considered the anchor of the Fords' defense. Was considered a fine run-stopper, making many tackles each game. A first team All-Inter-Ac and All-Delco linebacker, he also made three interceptions.

SAM SHEA, HAVERFORD SCHOOL

– Junior defensive lineman was considered a disruptive force for opponents while on the Fords' defensive line. Noted for his quickness, agility and toughness, he recorded a number of sacks during the season. Also noted for his great attitude and work ethic.

BILLY CONNERS, MALVERN PREP

– Senior quarterback was voted the Most Valuable Player of the Inter-Ac, completing 70 of 96 passes for 1,509 yards and 19 touchdowns. Was also a highly-regarded defensive back, making five interceptions (including two in the Friars' 34-27 win against St. Joseph's Prep on Thanksgiving) and receiving All-Inter-Ac first team honors at DB as a junior. A fine all-around athlete, he will play lacrosse for Duke University next year.

NEIL WILLIS, MALVERN PREP - Senior was first team All-Inter-Ac running back for second year in a row, rushing for 699 yards and 13 touchdowns on 94 carries. An all-around threat on both sides of the ball, he made nine catches for 225 yards and three touchdowns, returned two punts for touchdowns and scored a six-pointer on an interception return. Scored 118 points for the Inter-Ac champions. Is receiving recruiting interest from University of Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

JOE PRICE, MALVERN PREP - Senior wide receiver/defensive back was a threat to score anytime, on the other end of Billy Conners' passes. Was first team All-Inter-Ac receiver for second year in a row, grabbing 36 passes for 939 yards and 13 touch-downs. Is receiving recruiting interest from Boston College, Delaware and various Ivy League schools.

TYLER ANDERSEN, RADNOR - Senior 6-foot-1, 190-pound quarterback passed for 1,081 yards, the second year in a row he exceeded the millennial mark. Was moved to cornerback midway through the season, and responded with three interceptions in the last two games. A fine athlete, he will play lacrosse at Notre Dame next year.

JONATHAN COLEMAN, RADNOR - Senior 6-foot-4, 210-pound wide receiver caught 32 passes for six touchdowns during the season. A gifted wide receiver who was a second team All-Delco selection, he is attracting interest from Division I and I-AA programs.

SECOND TEAM

Archbishop Carroll - Luke Wischnowski, senior quarter-back/safety; Bryant Moritz, junior running back/middle line-backer.

Conestoga - Kenan Wilson, senior defensive tackle; Jim Batgos, senior defensive back; John Williams, senior center; Nick Deluca, senior kicker/punter.

Episcopal Academy - Jake Butts, junior guard/linebacker; Ryan Klein, senior quarter-back/defensive back; Brian Taylor, junior linebacker.

Harriton - David Horev, senior guard/defensive end.

Haverford High - Pat Maloney, senior linebacker; Bryce Collymore, senior line-backer; Gus Sutera, senior offensive tackle.

Haverford School - Dan Judge, senior quarterback; Joe Nassib, junior defensive back/wide receiver; Robert Boyle, junior defensive lineman.

Lower Merion - Josh Mallin, senior linebacker.

Malvern Prep - C.J. Mooney, senior tight end/defensive end; Bob Panchisin, senior offensive tackle; Rob McCabe, senior line-backer/running back; James Connelly, senior running back.

Radnor - Dan Webster, senior defensive lineman.

HONORABLE MENTION

Archbishop Carroll - Ryan Shea, sophomore running back/defensive back.

Conestoga - Mike Bronzino, senior quarterback/defensive back; Brad Herzlich, junior line-backer; Leighton Dennis, junior running back/defensive back; Blair Brooks, sophomore running back; Hamilton Lane, senior offensive tackle.

Episcopal Academy - Rich Rosati, senior wide receiver/defensive back.

Harriton - Nick Maguire, junior running back/outside linebacker; Steve Przybyszewski, senior wide receiver/defensive back; Troy Iskarpatyoti, senior running back/defensive back.

Haverford High - Jake Ritter, junior defensive end; Silvio DeAngelo, senior offensive tackle; Kevin Martin, senior kicker.

Haverford School - A.J. Jones, junior wide receiver; Wyatt Benson, junior line-backer.

Lower Merion - Dan Saris, senior center.

Malvern Prep - Joseph DiTrolio, junior defensive tackle; Mike McCorkle, senior offensive guard; Matt Devlin, senior center; Sean Ferguson, senior defensive tackle.

Radnor - Dan Schmader, senior offensive lineman; Richard Yespelkis, senior line-backer.