

Bucks-Montco Report

The ending doesn't spoil Steve Miller's night

■ Pennridge senior is North MVP in Bucks All-Star grid game.

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Special to The Morning Call

BENSALEM Pennridge's Steve Miller didn't think he had a shot at playing in the Bucks County All-Star football game, let alone winning a Most Valuable Player award.

But that's exactly what the 5-foot-10, 190-pound senior did.

Miller ran for 121 yards and two second-half touchdowns on just eight carries to earn his team's award.

The South prevented a perfect

finish for Miller and his North teammates, getting a late score and the ensuing two-point conversion to force a 28-28 tie.

The ending, however, couldn't spoil Miller's night.

"Not winning doesn't disappoint me at all," said Miller, who helped the North recover from a 14-7 half-time deficit. "Winning the MVP was the best feeling in the world.

"When I heard 'Pennridge' on the public address, I just lit up. I was surprised and happy. I can't explain it."

His touchdown runs from 40 and 53 yards Saturday night at Bensalem High School put the North ahead 28-20 with 9 minutes, 9 seconds left.

It also helped Miller ease the

disappointment of the Rams' 2-9 season last fall.

"I was happy to see Steve do so well," said Quakertown defensive lineman Steve Kline, who helped negate the South's running game.

"He didn't have a lot of yards during the season. He didn't win a whole lot, either. He deserved the award."

Miller, who will play this fall at East Stroudsburg University, wasn't sure he'd performed well enough to earn a spot on the North roster.

The fullback didn't post big numbers. His best performance came in a win over Methacton; over 100 yards rushing, two scores and solid defensive performance.

"I wasn't expecting to make it because we didn't do very well," Miller said. "Pennridge is not a marquee football school. We didn't have a lot of size, especially on the offensive line."

Lining up at tailback, Miller showed deceptive speed behind a sizeable offensive line.

His first score, just 2:37 into the third quarter. Set up by a defensive holding penalty on a North punt, Miller covered 40 yards nearly untouched.

The touchdown tied the game 14-14, and served as rallying point for the North, which committed five turnovers in the first half.

"I wasn't expecting to get the ball in the second half," said Miller, who had just eight yards on

three carries in the first half. "I just concentrated on doing my job."

The teams exchanged touchdowns before Miller scored again, from 53 yards out, on a toss left.

"Something changed in the second half," he said. "There was some finger pointing in the first half. The coaches told us to stop blaming each other and play up to our ability.

"I think I surprised a lot of people with my speed. Some of the guys said I was really moving on my second touchdown. But I think I was running pretty slow."

He got plenty of help.

"The offensive line did a great job," Miller said. "They gave me huge holes to run through. I fig-

ured working behind bigger linemen would be a little easier."

The North was denied the victory when the South scored on its final possession, marching 67 yards on 10 plays.

South quarterback Todd McLemore capped the drive with a one-yard dive with 27 seconds left.

McLemore, from Harry S Truman, hooked up with tight end Dan Errigo on the two-point conversion.

William Tennent quarterback Steve Bellosi moved the North to the South's 30. But he overthrew Travis Blomgren in the back of the end zone as time expired.

"When they scored it took something out of us," Miller said. "But I was confident we would score again. We almost did."