



For The Inquirer / ELEFTHERIOS KOSTANIS

Central Bucks East's Brad Bernhard (30) finds an opening for a few rushing yards. He scored North's first touchdown on a 6-yard run in the second quarter of Saturday night's 21st annual Bucks County Lions Clubs All-Star football game, won by the North squad.

Young Jems are a polished softball team

There is just one senior on the roster. As many as four freshmen may start. They are one win from the state final.

By Beth Onufrak
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

The Villa Joseph Marie softball team is young, very young, but not so young, says one of its sophomore starters, that the Jems don't realize just what they've accomplished so far this season.

"We're young, to a point," said catcher Chris Duncan. "But not really. I think everybody is pretty much softball experience. And our juniors and (one senior) Kim (McAnany) keep us together. As a team, we're prepared for anything."

The Jems (17-5), who have only one senior on the roster and start as many as four freshmen, meet District 11 champion Northern Lehigh at 4 p.m. today at Morgantown in a PIAA Class AA state semifinal game. Morgantown was the site of Villa Joseph Marie's first state win, a dramatic 2-1 win over Annville-Cleona on June 3 when the Jems rallied for two runs with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning.

"The best part about this team is that we don't let each other get down," Duncan said. "Everybody is always rooting for each other and that helps give us confidence."

The Bulldogs (24-4) have reached the state semifinals three times in the last four seasons, missing only last year when they were upset in their district tournament.

The Bulldogs feature senior Vanessa Stroho on the mound. A hard-throwing right-hander who also mixes her pitches well, Stroho allowed two runs on three hits in the first inning of her team's 8-2 win over Riverside in the quarterfinals on Thursday, but then limited her opponents to two hits over the next six innings. Also the team's leadoff batter, Stroho carries nearly a .500 batting average and had three hits in that quarterfinal win. A good base runner who has more than 40 stolen bases this season,

Stroho will play next year for Kutztown.

"I think we just have to play like we have been," Jems coach Tom Beauchemin said. "That's the only way we can make people give respect for us."

The status of one of the Jems' freshmen is in question. Starting second baseman Tricia Gunn was hit in the face with a foul tip while batting in the Jems' 6-4 quarterfinal victory against Lewisburg on Thursday. If Gunn, who suffered swelling around her nose and two black eyes, is unable to play, her older sister Jenn, a junior, would move from left field to second base while freshman Melissa Murphy would play left field.

Beauchemin would not comment on who would be his starting pitcher — senior Kim McAnany or freshman Katie Reifsnyder. McAnany started the Lewisburg game, but Reifsnyder got the win in relief. When not pitching, Reifsnyder strengthens the defense by starting as shortstop.

Football

Erlandsen, North whip South, 33-17

The Council Rock senior missed most of the season with a broken leg. His MVP night, which included a 93-yard TD return, helped break the South.

By Frank Bertucci
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

WARMINSTER — This turned out to be the kind of game Mike Erlandsen had expected.

But he thought it would happen last fall, not on a night in June.

Council Rock's 5-foot-11, 190-pound senior, who missed all but one game last season due to a broken leg, returned one kickoff for a 93-yard touchdown, rushed for 73 yards on five carries, and was named his team's most valuable player in the North's 33-17 win over the South in the 21st annual Bucks County Lions Clubs All-Star football game Saturday night at William Tennent.

"This is exactly how I wanted it to be," he said. "I'm lucky. I get in situations where I get great offensive linemen and they make me look good."

"I thought he was a little tentative, but who can blame him," said North coach Mike Pettine of Central Bucks West. "He became more explosive as the game went on."

Erlandsen's big play was the kickoff return midway through the second period.

The South had just scored on a 29-yard pass-and-run play from quarterback Jeff Arndt (Pennsbury) to Neshamy's Jason Hunter to take a 9-7 lead.

Erlandsen took the kickoff on his 73-yard line, almost walked the first 10 yards to get behind his blocking wedge, took a look at his options, and then broke outside to his left and down the North sideline into the end zone.

"It was more fun pointing to all the guys in the stands after that," he said.

That TD put the North into the lead for good at 13-7. They added three rushing TDs in the second half, by Central Bucks East's Jason Karabin (19 yards), C.B. West's Luke Maroney (3 yards) and Pennridge's Doug Moore (1 yard).

"We had 40 guys, and they all showed up from the first day of practice," said Pettine. "That was a

good sign."

The teams were required to throw at least 15 passes by the rules of the game, and both coaches — Pettine and Harry S. Truman's Jan Cechak with the South — didn't go far beyond that. North quarterback Brian Thackeray (C.B. East) attempted only 15 passes (four completions, 41 yards), while Arndt threw 20 (eight completions, 70 yards).

Most of the yardage was gained on the ground. Eleven North players combined for 366 yards, led by Tennent's Julian Eickert (five carries, 96 yards).

Neshamy's Tim Smith led the South with 159 yards on 14 carries, and was named his team's MVP.

But all of that was overshadowed by Erlandsen's comeback from his broken leg. At one point, with 35 minutes, 40 seconds to play in the game, he came off the field pulling at his blue jersey and said, "That's enough." But Pettine put him back in the game and he carried the ball twice more in the fourth period, for gains of 32 and 24 yards.

"This was sweet," Erlandsen said, and added that he did it all while wearing Council Rock teammate Steve Taylor's pants.

"That couldn't have been a tight fit because Taylor outweighs Erlandsen by about 60 pounds."

"He couldn't fit into them," Erlandsen said.

Erlandsen, who will attend Shippenburg in the fall, also made a touchdown-saving tackle on Truman's Marvel Rogers on a fourth-period kickoff return.

"That was the first tackle I ever made in a game, and I had to wait until my last high school game to do it," he roared out.

It looked like he saved all of his best for the last game.

North	0	13	6	14	33
South	9	6	0	8	17
S: FG Ryan Matheson 20.					
S: Brad Bernhard 3 run (Tom Williams kick).					
S: Jason Hunter 28 pass from Jeff Arndt (kick failed).					
N: Mike Erlandsen 93 kickoff return (pass failed).					
N: Jason Karabin 19 run (kicked).					
N: Luke Maroney 3 run (Williams kick).					
S: Doug Moore 1 run (Williams kick).					
S: Matterson 1 run (Tom Smith kick).					