

SPORTS

Small player's big kick wins all-star game

By Joe Ferry
Special to The Inquirer

At 5-foot, 5-inches and 130 pounds, Chuck Klein was by far the smallest player to set foot on War Memorial Field for Saturday night's Bucks County Lions Clubs' all-star football game.

But the Central Bucks West place-kicker made the biggest play of the game. Klein kicked a 25-yard field goal with 6:37 left to play, lifting the North to a 10-7 victory over the South in the 10th annual game.

"All I was thinking about was making the field goal," said Klein, who got precious few chances to kick field goals for the power-laden Bucks' offensive machine last year. "I really wasn't worried about the distance. I just wanted to make sure I had a good shot at it."

Klein, however, was not alone in his heroics. Pennridge's Gary Pascoe took over at quarterback after starter Eric Montanye of William Tennent broke an ankle late in the first half, and scored the North's only touchdown. Pascoe, who is bound for Villanova's rejuvenated football program in the fall, finished with 78 yards on 12 carries.

Defensively, the North did an excellent job of containing the South's explosive running attack, which featured Earl Brown of Neshaminy and Smitty Horton of Bristol. The North's head coach, Doug Shobert (Quakertown), cited linebacker John Tate (Central Bucks East), ends Patrick Ellis (William Tennent) and Scott Starke (CB East) and nose guard Chris Hackley (CB West) as the main architects of the solid defensive effort.

The South scored its only touchdown near the end of the third quar-



Special to The Inquirer / JOHN SLAVIN

Replacing the injured Eric Montanye, Pennridge's Gary Pascoe fires a pass in North's 10-7 victory Saturday at War Memorial Field

ter, when quarterback Bart Szarko (Pennsburg) eluded several tacklers and tossed a 29-yard strike to wide receiver Chris Jones (Council Rock).

The South had another good chance to score, but Archbishop Wood's Marty Haurin recovered a fumble by running back Brian Hickman

(Pennsburg) inside the 10-yard line to squelch that threat.

"I thought we did a very good job of containing them," said Shobert. "Our defense played a heck of a game."

But the drama of the game for the North came on offense, where a healthy quarterback was a rare commodity. Shobert lost one quarterback, Central Bucks West's Chris Baggett, with a shoulder problem midway through the week before the game. Shobert chose Montanye as his quarterback, but Montanye was injured with 7 seconds left in the first half when he tried a quarterback sneak on second-and-goal from the 4. He picked up three yards, but, in the pique, his ankle was fractured in two places.

Pascoe, who just a few minutes earlier had taken a pitchout from Montanye and heaved a 43-yard completion to West's Dave Perrine, replaced Montanye and pushed the ball in from a yard out. Klein kicked the extra point for a 7-0 North lead at halftime.

The North's game-winning drive took 15 plays and covered 66 yards, but perhaps more importantly, controlled the clock for much of the 15-minute quarter. Keeping the ball on the ground and dividing the carries among Pascoe, Phil Long (Pennridge), Mark DeLawter (CB East) and Dave Perrine (CB West), the North marched to the South 7 yard line, setting the stage for Klein.

Klein, who was 20-for-20 in extra points during one stretch of his sen-

ior year before finishing 38-for-41, said he was kicking well at the start of practice two weeks before the game. But his form deteriorated unexpectedly during the past week, so much so that he summoned his kicking coach, James Gallagher, who also is the principal of Central Bucks East.

"I was shanking everything to the right," said Klein, who will continue his kicking career at East Stroudsburg University. "I was doing a lot of things wrong. But he (Gallagher) straightened me out."

Klein almost didn't get a chance to kick the winning field goal. Shobert, thinking it was third down, had the North offense lined up to go for the four yards it needed for a first down. But at the last second, Shobert realized it was fourth down and hurriedly called for his kicker.

"I got mixed up," Shobert said. "When I saw it was fourth down, I saw the whole game flashing in front of my eyes. I figured there was a chance we might not get that close to scoring again. I think we could have made the first down, but kicking the field goal was the right thing to do."

Eric Wilenzik, the 6-2, 235-pound defensive tackle from Central Bucks East, cemented the North's victory when he recovered a fumble by Szarko on the North 24-yard line with less than two minutes to play.

"I was very happy with the leadership, discipline and winning attitude these players showed all week and all during the game," said Shobert. "The players deserve all the credit for winning this game."

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