

North rises again on last-minute score

By Gary Miles

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Quarterback Steve Clarke and tight end Chris Westcott didn't have many opportunities to come from behind and win last fall with the Central Bucks West High School football team. That was one of the few disadvantages of playing for an unbeaten powerhouse.

But they had that chance Saturday night at the 15th-annual Bucks County North-South all-star football game at Doylestown's War Memorial Field, and they made the most of it. Clarke completed a 9-yard touchdown pass to Westcott with 21 seconds to play to enable the North to defeat the South for the fourth straight year, 23-19.

"I wanted to throw to the fullback in the flat, but he wasn't open and I had to roll out of the pocket," Clarke said. "That's when I saw Westcott open on the sideline. We were pretty confident in the huddle before the play, but we had never been forced

North 23 South 19

Bucks County all-star football game

to come from behind before. Now I know why it feels so great."

Although the South scored its go-ahead touchdown on the first play of the fourth quarter, the North dominated the final period. It racked up seven first downs and ran 26 plays, while the South had no first downs and ran just eight plays. "We were really excited at that point," said Clarke. "We could feel it coming together."

The North started its drive for the game-winning touchdown on its own 30-yard line midway in the fourth quarter. Trailing by 19-16, it marched to the South 9-yard line in 16 plays, the big breaks coming on a third-down, 8-yard completion from Clarke to Pennridge's Tom Parker; a third-down, 1-yard dive by West's Bill Kilkenny; a

fourth-down, 9-yard completion from Clarke to Central Bucks East's Mike Fahie, and a third-down, 22-yard completion from Clarke to Parker.

"We flooded the zone on the touchdown pass," said the North's head coach, Joe Franchella of Archbishop Wood. "We had three receivers in the area with the tight end [Westcott] doing a flag pattern. Our guys played it perfect."

After Clarke found Westcott open on the right sideline for the touchdown, the South had three plays with which to score. However, William Tennent's Frank Grandizio and East's Ted Dennis each sacked South quarterback Tim Ford, and Morrisville's Gerald Toney was forced out of bounds on the game's last play.

The South opened the game with an impressive passing game and scored on its first possession when Morrisville's Tony Bethea highlighted a 74-yard, nine-play drive with a 3-yard scoring run. The North drew within a point, 7-6, on the ensuing

drive when Kilkenny ended a 55-yard, five-play drive with a 2-yard run. West's Tim Donovan (68 yards on 14 carries) aided that drive with a 35-yard run on second down. But the extra-point attempt by Pennridge's Luke Hadfield was blocked.

The South made it 13-6 (the extra-point kick was wide) early in the second quarter when Bethea scored from 3 yards out. But Hadfield connected on a 35-yard field goal five minutes later to cut the lead to 13-9.

In the third quarter, the North took a 16-13 lead when Kilkenny scored from 1 yard out. But the South used a Jamy Franco 2-yard dive to go ahead, 19-16, on the first play of the fourth quarter.

From that point, however, the game belonged to the North's offense. "Our offensive line played great," said Kilkenny, who finished as the North's leading rusher, with 70 yards on 18 carries and two touchdowns. "Dick Beck [the Central

Bucks West guard] played the best game of his life.

"Coach Franchella said that this team came together faster than any other team he had, and that was the key. We worked together and it all worked out great."

Franco was the South's leading rusher, with 42 yards on 10 carries, while Ford was eight of 14 through the air for 108 yards. Clarke, who was forced to play the entire game because Wood's Tom Mehlmann suffered a concussion in practice last week, finished the game with 16 completions in 24 attempts for 170 yards. Fahie caught four passes for 57 yards and Parker caught three for 46.

South	7	6	0	6	—	19
North	6	3	7	7	—	23

S: Bethea 3 run (Hansberry kick)

N: Kilkenny 2 run (kick blocked)

S: Bethea 3 run (kick failed)

N: FG 35 Hadfield

N: Kilkenny 1 run (Hadfield kick)

S: Franco 2 run (kick failed)

N: Westcott 9 pass from Clarke (Hadfield kick)