

South offense shapes up to be an irresistible force

By Phil Sheridan
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On their own teams, they were the top players. They drew the extra coverage, the special attention. Defensive game plans were designed with them in mind.

But now they're preparing to play in the Bucks County Lions North-South All-Star Game, set for this Saturday, 8 p.m., at Doylestown War Memorial Field. Now that all of their teammates are outstanding, it's going to be impossible to key on any one of them.

Their statistics speak for them. Bristol High's Wayne Keys had over 1,000 yards and 14 touchdowns receiving; he was first-team all-state and the *Courier Times* Player of the Year. Morrisville's Tony Bethea was the Lower Bucks scoring champ with 120 points, including an incredible 19 touchdowns, and top rusher. His teammate, Gerald Toney, was the fourth-highest scorer, with 64 points; he caught 18 passes for 348 yards (19.3-yard average) and rushed 29 times for 266 yards (9.2 average).

Who do you double-team on this South squad? Those three alone are enough to hurt you seriously. Add tight ends like Pennsbury's Andy Anderson and Morrisville's Dan Cappiello and running backs like Jamy Franco of Council Rock and Roy Strandberg of Pennsbu-

ry. The equation is simple.

"This offense is so potent, it's unreal," Bethea said after practice at Bishop Egan Tuesday. "We've got scorers left and right. There's no way you can key on one person."

The key to the South's success, Head Coach Hank Johns has said, is for the team to come together in time. Selflessness helps.

"Everybody out there is a star," Keys said. "We're all all-stars, but we have to play as a team. It doesn't matter if I get the ball or Gerald gets the ball or if we pass or run. I just want to have a good game."

Toney agreed. He'll play defensive back, his favorite position, for West Chester University next season, but his great speed makes him a natural at receiver, too.

"I'd rather give out the punishment than take it," Toney said. "Nobody's starting both ways and that's good. Everybody gets to play a certain number of plays. I hope to get in on the defensive side of the ball in the second half. But we have lots of guys who can do the job. We needed a receiver and I was glad to step in."

Having Toney and Keys — both fast, both with excellent hands — plus Bensalem's Tim Downey (*Courier Times* Golden 30 selection) and Truman's Scott Bloom, gives the South a versatile array of wideouts.

Bethea, another Golden 30 first-teamer, gained 1,267 yards on 164

carries, a 7.7-yard average. He gives the South a burst of speed from the running back position.

Running the show will be quarterbacks Tim Ford of Neshaminy and Bob Long of Bristol. Morrisville's Bill Zoldi has primarily worked on his defensive position, cornerback, and doesn't expect to play quarterback.

Ford ran Dick Bedesem's option offense for two seasons. He is comfortable sprinting out.

"They (the North) have a lot of big guys," Ford said. "We're a lot quicker and probably have the more talented athletes."

Ford and the strong-armed Long will be able to take advantage of all that speed and talent.

"You can throw it anywhere and those guys will catch it," said Ford, who has several reasons to expect a good Saturday night. "We have a big line that's doing a great job. And the option is what I do best."

Since Morrisville is an option team, Bethea said he's comfortable with the system. "Tim is a great quarterback," he said. "He was no problem at all to get used to. In fact, he helped me out a lot. He worked with me on his option pitch. You have to get used to everybody, but (rivalries) are nothing here. We're all one team."

Bethea, like the rest of the players, sounded Johns' theme on the importance of unity.

"Let me give you an example," Johns said. "They're helping each

other learn their assignments. Whenever you put in an offensive system, you're going to have difficulties. But they're sharing, helping each other. It's great working with these kids."

Zoldi was asked if it was tough getting along with guys he'd played against for a couple of years, especially with the ancient Morrisville-Bristol rivalry.

"Nobody thought we'd get along," Zoldi said. "But we're getting along just fine. Nobody knows each other and they all just think they hate each other. But kids get along fine."

And Bethea, who will attend Delaware State on a full scholarship, summed up the feeling of playing his last game in Lower Bucks County.

"I'll miss it," he said, "but I'm going on to better things."

NOTES: The team selected Ford, Bethea and Pennsbury line-backer Galen Snyder as its tri-captains. "It's good to know that guys look up to you," Ford said. "Actually, most of these guys look down on me." Ford is 5-10. ... Egan lineman Joe Mossbrook celebrated his 18th birthday Tuesday. For the occasion, his mother sent a balloon bouquet to the field. Egan Coach Chuck Knowles delivered it while the team was doing calisthenics. ... Bart Brelsford of Morrisville and Neshaminy's Bill Clemens are sharing punting duties. Truman's Bob Hansberry is the placekicker.