

North pulls out last-second

By Chris English
Courier Times Sports Writer

Hank Johns is pretty good at keeping things in perspective.

Johns, Harry S Truman coach and head coach for the South squad Saturday night in the Bucks County Lions North-South All-Star football game at War Memorial Field in Doylestown, knows this contest is played mostly for fun and good competition.

However, Johns also does his best to win in the process, and he thought his South squad was about to end three years of frustration. The North had different ideas, though, and claimed an exciting 23-19 triumph on a Steve Clark to Chris Westcott 10-yard touchdown pass with only 21 seconds left.

The win was the North's fourth in succession and gives it a 10-3-2 edge in the series.

Clark rolled right with several options, but found Westcott wide open in the corner of the end zone and hit him with the winning touchdown. The score climaxed a 14-play 70 yard drive.

"Our defensive back thought the quarterback was going to run so he stepped up a little and that left the guy open," Johns explained. "I thought that was probably one of the few mistakes we made all game."

"Clark (from Central Bucks West) did a nice job escaping our pressure all game. He'd run around and that made our defenders kind of change up in their zones a little and left guys open."

The climactic drive included a clutch 21-yard completion from Clark to Tom Parker (Pennridge) on a third-and-long. That play put the North in business on the South 10 and set up Westcott's grab.

"That winning play was a flood pattern where we sent several people out," explained North head coach Joe Franchella (Archbishop Wood). "Steve may have originally been looking for the fullback toward the middle but then Chris (Westcott) got open."

The South appeared to have things well in hand early in the fourth quarter when Jamy Franco (Council Rock) dived over from



victory, 23-19

Wayne Keys of Bristol (81) and Tony Bethea of Morrisville (20) show their disappointment South's loss...

Photos by Joe Di...

the two to give Johns' team a 19-16 lead. But after stalled possessions by both teams, Clark went to work. The winning drive also included a clutch fourth-down completion to Mike Fahie (Central Bucks East), good for eight yards.

Johns' team opened the contest like gangbusters. On its first drive, quarterback Tim Ford (Neshaminy) directed the team 74 yards on nine plays, the big play coming on a 35-yard completion to Andy Anderson (Pennsbury). Morrisville's Tony Bethea finished the march with a three-yard sweep.

The North answered on its next possession when Central Bucks West's Bill Kilkenny plunged over from the two. A blocked extra point made it 7-6 South. The South went back ahead in the second quarter when Bristol's Bob Long directed them 51 yards. Again the big play was a completion to Anderson, this one for 25 yards. Be-

thea again finished the drive with a two-yard run. The extra point was wide.

Pennridge's Luke Hadfield got the North closer before the half when his 36-yard field goal closed the gap to 13-9 with 3:17 left until halftime.

Momentum changed in the third quarter when a one-yard run by Kilkenny, climaxed a 73-yard drive and gave the North the advantage, 16-13. Clark, who played the whole game, was again the key with three completions on the march.

"The South had a good game plan with their quick hitting passes. It kind of kept us off balance. I give their team an awful lot of credit," Franchella said.

"I think they just made the big plays when they had to," Johns finished. "That's the way things go in football but I thought we did a fine job the entire game."

North 23, South 19

	North	South
First Downs	14	17
Yards Rushing	114	137
Yards Passing	138	174
Total Yards	252	311
Passes, Comp., Int.	21-10-1	24-15-0
Punts, Average	2-33.0	3-33.3
Fumbles, Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties, Yards	2-20	2-10

SCORING

FIRST: S-Bethea 3 run (Hansberry kick); N-Kilkenny 2 run (kick blocked by Mossbrook).

SECOND: S-Bethea 2 run (kick failed) N-Hadfield 36 field goal.

THIRD: N-Kilkenny 1 run (Hadfield kick).

FOURTH: S-Franco 2 run (kick failed) N-Westcott 10 pass from Clarke (Hadfield kick).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

South

RUSHING: Franco 10-62, 1 TD; Clemens 4-29; Strandberg 7-26; Bethea 8-15, 2 TDs; Toney 1-13; Ford 3-(-15); Long 4-(-17).

PASSING: Ford 8-14-1, 110 yards; Long 2-7-0, 28 yards.

RECEIVING: Anderson 3-67; Toney 5-62; Keys 2-9.

North

RUSHING: Kilkenny 18-74, 2 TDs; Donk 4-16; Wahl 4-17; Clarke 5-(-12).

PASSING: Clarke 15-24-0, 177 yards, 1 TC

RECEIVING: Fahie 4-59; Parker 3-33; Donovan 3-19; Schaffer 1-12; Kershner 1-1; Westcott 1-10, 1 TD; Thomas 1-10; Wahl 1-9