



Special to The Inquirer / JOHN SLAVIN

South quarterback Cornelius White (right) is chased by Jeff Kosh (64) and Jack Loughery.

North rallies to nip South in all-star football classic

By Beth Onufrak
Special to the Inquirer

Two fourth-quarter touchdowns rallied the North squad to a 21-18 victory over the South at the annual Bob Sands Memorial All-Star Football Classic on Saturday at Bensalem High.

Big plays from Bucks County all-stars highlighted the 20th game of the series, which the North leads, 12-6-2.

"Finally, we got it going in the fourth quarter," said North coach Bill Saybolt, who is the head coach at William Tennent. "We did what we wanted to do. We leaned on them, and we muscled the ball in the last two scores."

The North scored a last-second touchdown to salvage a first half in which it crossed the 50-yard line just once. The South continued its dominance early in the third quarter by surging ahead, 18-7, on two rushing touchdowns by Bensalem's Edmund Robinson.

"We came back out and moved the football well," South coach Hank Johns, who was fired this year as coach at Truman, said of the second half. "We had a few breakdowns, and that hurt us. Defensively we did a fine job, but they were on the field too long. We had turnovers that hurt us. They were bigger than us, and I think that wore us down."

Central Bucks East's Mike Morelli led the North to a touchdown with 10 minutes, 19 seconds to play in the third quarter, starting the comeback. Mike Valenta of Archbishop Wood

scored the touchdown on a 2-yard run, but the big play of the drive came on a 45-yard pass from Morelli to Central Bucks West's Chris Warren.

The North relied heavily on Council Rock running back Paul Cozza, who ran the ball 6 times for 25 yards in the 86-yard, 11-play drive.

After much trying, Archbishop Wood's Brian Lafond and William Tennent's Bob Rosenberger finally got together for a North score in the fourth period. While directing the North's first touchdown, Lafond continually threw passes to Rosenberger, only to see dropped balls and great defensive plays prevent completions.

"I was dropping everything. It was my fault," Rosenberger said. "I caught the last two they threw to me and just tried to make up for it."

Lafond tossed a 29-yard pass to Council Rock's Chad Koenig to score in the second quarter, but the Vikings' quarterback went back to Rosenberger in the fourth. On fourth and 7 at the South 12, Lafond tossed the ball to his big (6-foot, 4-inch) target. Rosenberger out-leaped his defenders to score and give the North a 19-18 advantage.

"The touchdown right before the half helped us out a lot," Lafond said. "It got us motivated. We had come out really flat. Our offense wasn't doing anything. Then we got pumped up and got more confidence. We got down early in the second half, but we bounced straight back."

Rosenberger and Lafond connect-

ed on the opposite side of the field with nearly the same play to score the 2-point conversion, making the score 21-18.

The North victory overshadowed several outstanding performances by South all-stars, including Robinson, Neshaminy's Cornelius White and Pennsbury's John Daidone.

White directed all three South scoring drives. He finished the game 8 for 17 for 63 yards and a touchdown. Fellow Redskin Jason Bowman opened the scoring with 7:32 remaining in the first quarter on a 6-yard touchdown pass from White.

Robinson, who finished with a game-high 85 yards rushing on 12 carries, returned the lead to the South in the second half, 12-7, with a 13-yard run in the third quarter. His 1-yard plunge over the top of the line made the score 18-7 with 2:49 remaining in the third quarter.

Daidone made his presence known all over the field, throughout the game. Leading the South defensive backs, Daidone recovered a fumble and broke up a would-be touchdown pass in the second quarter. He also intercepted a pass and returned a punt 50 yards in the third quarter.

North	0	7	0	14	—	21
South	6	0	12	0	—	18

S: Jason Bowman 6 pass from Cornelius White (kick failed)

N: Chad Koenig 29 pass from Brian Lafond (Chris Warren kick)

S: Edmund Robinson 13 run (pass failed)

S: Robinson 1 run (kick failed)

N: Mike Valenta 2 run (pass failed)

N: Bob Rosenberger 12 pass from Lafond (Rosenberger pass from Lafond)