

# All-star rushers to carry load in Bucks game

By Tom Sheridan

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Jack Klebe, who will coach the South squad in the Bucks County Lions-Bob Sands Memorial All-Star Football game Saturday at Bensalem High School, is an unabashed devotee of power football.

While guiding Bensalem to a 7-3-1 record last year, Klebe featured an attack that attempted fewer than 10 passes a game and yielded a pair of 1,000-yard rushers in Sam Lake and Edmund Robinson.

On Saturday, Klebe will have four running backs who topped 1,000 yards last season: Lake, Rob Latronica of Neshaminy, Eric Sessoms of Morrisville and Jamah Williams of Pennsbury.

"We have four 1,000-yard rushers, so we are going to show some power," Klebe said.

But the game's rules require that each team throws at least 15 passes. The question is: How is Klebe going to split up the remaining rushing attempts?

"We may have a lottery in the huddle," he said. "Maybe we'll flip a coin.

"That's the toughest thing: If you have two 1,000-yard rushers, you know [to whom to give the ball]. But with four 1,000-yard rushers ..."

Last year, in winning 15-14, the South attempted 17 passes in 44 plays from scrimmage. That was with Steve Doring of Council Rock at quarterback. Doring began the camp as the No. 3 quarterback but became the starter when the other two pulled out of the game.

This year, Klebe will be able to rely on Bucks County's best passing quarterback — Neshaminy's James Franklin, who completed 79 of 163 passes for 1,252 yards and 11 touchdowns during his senior campaign.

The competition in the South's practice sessions, which began May 29, has been fierce at times.

"We were all banging heads fighting for a position," Latronica said. "But we're all coming together as a team."

Latronica said he would be used as an "emergency back" on offense and would play defensive back, too. Almost everybody is prepared to play two positions, Klebe said.

Some of the other players who played in the backfield this week were Scott Haws of Bishop Egan and Matt Walp of Bristol.

No North backs rushed for 1,000 yards last season, but that doesn't bother coach Bob Finley.

Finley, who resigned as the coach at Archbishop Wood after narrowly missing the Catholic League Northern Division playoffs last season, likes the range of talent his backs have displayed.

"I think we have some backs who can play a lot of positions," he said. "We don't have the runners the South has, but we have quick, versatile backs who can run, catch and are good enough to block. And that is good for the offense we run, which is the same offense we ran at Wood — the multiple bone."

One versatile player whom Finley won't have is Adam Voyles, a quarterback and slot back from Council Rock. Voyles said the coaches at Southern Methodist University, which he will attend in the fall, had advised him against playing in the game.

But Finley has enough depth to overcome Voyles' absence. Council Rock teammates Tim Maduzia and Mike Thomas, Archbishop Wood's Mark Paciolla and Central Bucks West's George "Puddy" Gilbert all are accomplished runners and receivers. Finley also has been impressed with Bryan Poster of Pennridge during practice.

"Gilbert, Paciolla and Maduzia not only run — they are good tailbacks — but we can put them out at a slot or wing and they are capable of catching the short pass and taking it all the way," Finley said.

Though he thinks his backfield matches up well with the South's, Finley sees a North advantage in the lines.

His offensive line includes Chris Moore (6-foot-5, 225 pounds), Steve Shelly (6-2, 240) and Jon Jones (6-4, 250) of C.B. West; Boris Populoh (6-3, 260) of Council Rock, and James Bromwell (6-0, 210) of Quakertown.

"This is an outstanding offensive line," Finley said. "It's an offensive line that I can't see the South matching. We have the capability to go power."

One thing is for sure: The run-and-shoot does not figure into either coach's offensive plans for Saturday.