

South All-Stars present solid case for defense

By Wayne Fism
Courier Times Sports Writer

Here is the South's case for the defense:

—Exhibit A: Defensive linemen can not slant and linebackers shall not blitz. It says so in the Bucks County Lions Club All-Star Football Game rules. This necessitates the use of a "5-2 Oklahoma" alignment.

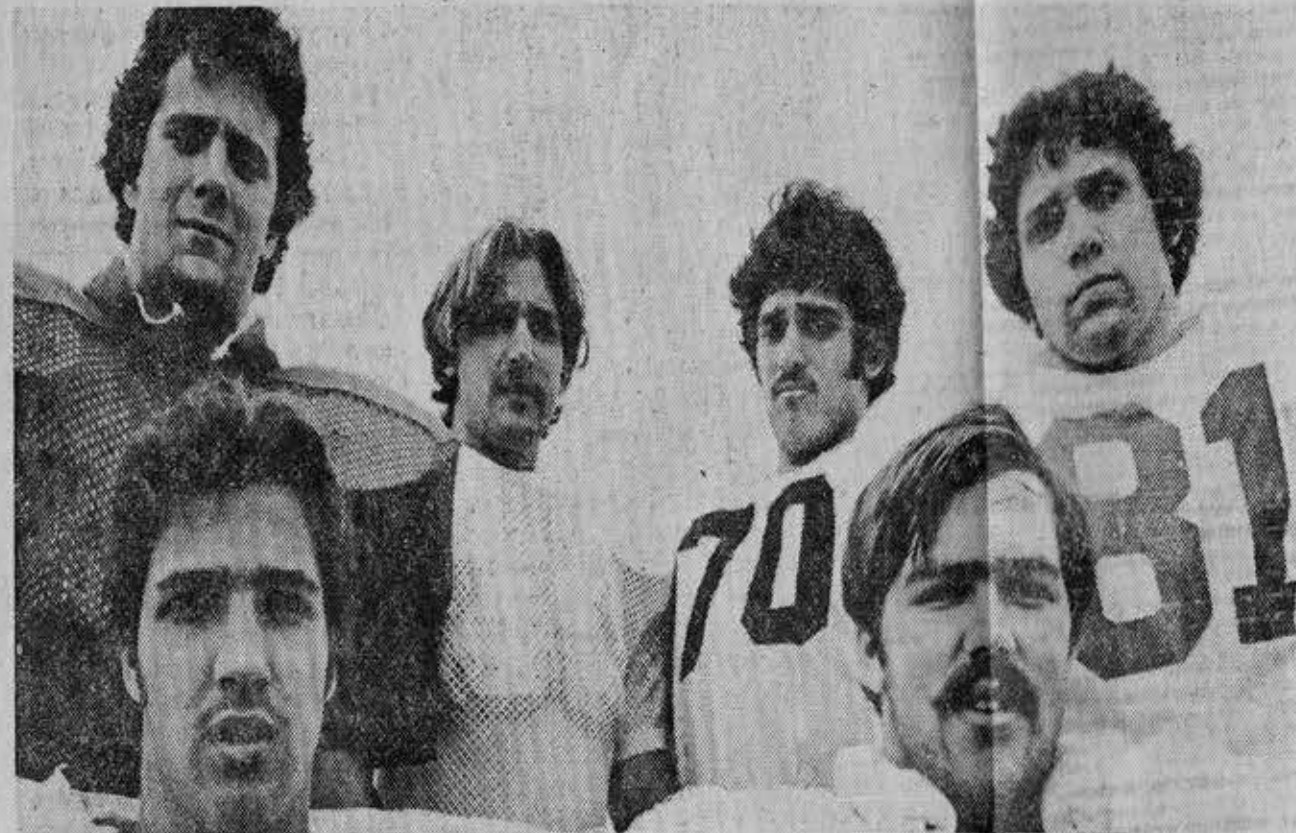
—Exhibit B: The North offense will more than likely run out of a veer option attack. The 5-2 Okie is notoriously weak against such a look.

—Exhibit C: Most Lower Bucks County players only have experience with the standard "4-3" or "Notre Dame" style of defense. Many linebackers and defensive tackles will have problems adjusting.

The jury is out but will return to Bensalem Stadium on Saturday night, June 24 to deliver a verdict. Can the South come up with a solid defense in less than two weeks? You may end up serving as judge.

Difficult

The key, according to South head coach Bob Hart, is to key.



Courier Times photo by Jay Crawford

South defensemen (from left, front row) Bensalem's Tom Betz and Neshaminy Langhorne's Steve Tibbels; (back row) NL's Tony Manzo and Jim Riley, Woodrow Wilson's Joe DiGiorgio and NL's Bob Costantini

Tailback trio promises speed

Well, that might be getting carried away but one thing is on the level: ...

like it was a basketball. But that's no big deal."

There has been a lot of talk about ... during the ...

said Price. "It's the last time we'll be playing on our home field and I think all of us want to go out doing the best we can."

"It's tough to defend a veer option with a straight 50," he explained at last Friday's practice session at Bensalem. "So the thing to do is to drill the defense on how to key. Not many teams in Lower Bucks County do that. Pennsbury does with its linebackers. Our team (Bensalem) did. But most teams rely on deception. They blitz more."

The South defense will have a Bensalem look about it, though.

"Last season (a championship season for the Owls), we didn't try to confuse people. We just tried to stop the big play and look for the turnover."

But the North will have a decided advantage.

"Since we're not an option team, it will probably be easier for them to prepare for us than it will be for us to prepare for the n."

Rule changes

All this came about because of Exhibit A, the rule changes which went into effect a few years ago.

"It's geared to make the game more offensive," said Hart, "and I go along with that. It's better for the game. It makes it tough when you have to build a defense."

It makes the next tough when you're about to see quarterback who can run the 100 in 4. His name is Jeff Lockett of Pennrie and he gave Greg Edwards of Worow Wilson a run for his money at the District One Track Meet at North Penn last month. Edwards scored a narrow victory and

went on to finish second in the state.

"Today we tried to cut down on some of the things we aren't doing well," said Hart. "With the straight 50 defense, you need great defensive linemen and linebackers. It's very difficult for a lineman to discipline himself for the 52 once he's had so much experience with other defenses."

The 52 defense consists of five down linemen (the employment of a nose-guard) and two linebackers.

Hart knows the South can't leave its defense on the field too long if he entertains thoughts of ending the North's three-game winning streak in this series.

"In '75, we had something like 400 yards against them but we could only manage 12 points. That's because we didn't control their offense enough. We got 400 yards but we still didn't get our offense on the field enough."

Defensive tackles could be the name of the game.

"We have Tom Betz from Bensalem, Jim Riley from Neshaminy Langhorne, Joe DiGiorgio from Woodrow Wilson and Steve Tibbels from Neshaminy Langhorne. But the size, that's what makes it tough."

BETWEEN THE LINES — The South lost another player on Friday when Bishop Egan's Mike Miller had to leave the squad. Miller has to report to Lock Haven State College's summer sports program. (Hart was counting on Miller to play wide line but it's too late to make substitutions on the roster.)