

All-Montgomery and Bucks County Football

Quarterbacks

FIRST TEAM

Chris Pennington, La Salle. The area's player of the year. Pennington led the Explorers to their third Catholic League title in the last four years, accounting for 1,645 yards and 18 TDs passing, running and receiving. His college destination could be a school in the Ivy or Patriot League.

SECOND TEAM

Kris Blake, Norristown (6-foot-2, 195 pounds, Sr.).

Running backs

FIRST TEAM

Phil DeCecco, William Tennent. A player who was used exclusively on defense before this season, the 6-1, 205-pound senior rushed for 1,507 yards and scored 23 TDs, averaging 7.8 yards per carry. He rushed for more than 300 yards against Upper Merion and ran for seven TDs against Souderton.

Dustin Picciotti, Central Bucks West. The final numbers were enormous for the Bucks' 6-3, 235-pound junior. Picciotti rushed for 1,969 yards and scored 42 TDs, averaging a little more than 7 yards per carry. He set state Class AAAA championship-game records of 236 yards and five TDs rushing in West's 56-7 rout of New Castle on Saturday.

Troy Swittenberg, Norristown. The 5-10, 180-pound junior is already at the top of the list of great Norristown running backs. This season, he set a school single-season record with 1,800 yards rushing, and he has a two-year total of 3,242 yards. He scored 18 TDs this season, has 33 in two years, and should be one of the most highly recruited high school runners in the country next year.

SECOND TEAM

Jason Adamek, Methacton (5-9, 155, So.); Hikee Johnson, North Penn (6-0, 180, Jr.); Josh Stadulis, Academy of the New Church (6-0, 205, Sr.); Grant Wiley, Perkiomen Valley (6-2, 220, Sr.).

Receivers

FIRST TEAM

Antoine Lovelace, Neshaminy. No longer just a basketball prospect, the 6-2, 180-pound senior caught 41 passes for 634 yards this season, giving him 82 receptions in the last two seasons. He gained more than 15 yards per catch this fall. He made an oral commitment to Northwestern before this season.

Rick Tucholski, Souderton. This is the second straight first-team selection for the 6-3, 205-pound senior. This season, he caught 54 passes for 727 yards and seven TDs — giving him 91 pass receptions in two years, with an average gain of 16.4 yards per catch. He said he would be willing to go to a Division II college so he could play as a freshman.

SECOND TEAM

James Edmonds, Norristown (6-3, 185, Jr.); Joe Kellogg, Lansdale Catholic (6-1, 185, Jr.).

Offensive linemen

FIRST TEAM

Ben Carber, Central Bucks West. The leader of the Bucks' big offensive line, the 6-3, 310-pound senior committed to the University of Virginia during the summer. The West staff credited him with a team-high 42 pancake blocks during the 15-game schedule.

Mitch Keating, Pennridge. A first-team all-league selection on both offense and defense, the 6-2, 200-pound senior center set in motion an offense that established a school record for points in a season and reached the District 1 playoffs for the first time.

Chris McKalvy, North Penn. A starter for two seasons, the 6-4, 295-pound junior will move to the head of the recruiting class of 1999. Injuries kept him out of almost three full games this season, but the North Penn staff graded him at a team-high 83 percent on his blocks this season.

Kevin Noone, La Salle. At 6-3 and 235 pounds, the senior anchored the Explorers' line. He consistently graded at 90 percent on his blocking assignments every week, and he likely will head to an Ivy or Patriot League college.

Joe Wilson, Central Bucks West. At 6-4 and 280 pounds, the senior was only the third-biggest starter on the Bucks' line. He has told college recruiters that he and his twin brother, Jon, who played tight end this season, will attend college together.

SECOND TEAM

John Bryner, Lansdale Catholic (6-5, 250, Sr.); Evan Kerrane, Council Rock (6-3, 255, Sr.); Steve Malin, Bishop McDevitt (6-2, 255, Jr.); Jim Moser, Perkiomen Valley (6-2, 285, Sr.); Jarrod Nfiedosik, Germantown Academy (6-0, 220, Sr.).

Defensive linemen

FIRST TEAM

Dave Costlow, North Penn. When he committed to Penn State this summer, the 6-4, 260-pound senior had been no more than an honorable-mention all-league choice in 1997. This season, he was a first-team all-Suburban One League National Conference performer on offense and defense. He was in on 62 tackles, with seven sacks, and was named the Knights' best defensive player in six games.

Steve Kodish, Spring-Ford. At only 6-2 and 205 pounds, the senior faced bigger offensive linemen every week but still was in on 90 tackles, with 11 sacks and 16 tackles for losses. He was a first-team all-Pioneer Athletic Conference first-team choice on offense and defense.

Troy Lavinia, Central Bucks East. Playing both end and linebacker, the 6-2, 220-pound senior made 45 tackles this season, with four sacks. His college future will be in Division I-AA, possibly at an Ivy League college.

Doug White, Norristown. Teams rerouted their running attacks to avoid this 6-2, 300-pound senior roadblock. The emotional leader of the 10-2 Eagles, whose only losses were to state champion C.B. West, White got in on 95 tackles, with 32 solo hits and three sacks. He also had an interception and recovered three fumbles.

SECOND TEAM

Taso Apostolidis, Archbishop Wood (5-10, 240, Sr.); Chris Cressman, Pennridge (6-3, 230, Sr.); Rob Keeler, Council Rock (6-0, 210, Sr.); Chuck Tornetta, Plymouth-Whitemarsh (6-1, 265, Sr.).

Linebackers

FIRST TEAM

Bryan Buckley, Central Bucks West. If there was an inspirational leader for the Bucks' defense, it was this 6-1, 220-pound senior, a starter since his sophomore year. He finished with 71 tackles and is headed for a Division I-AA college.

Troy Ellis, Norristown. At only 5-8 and 180 pounds, this senior flew all over the field. He was in on 154 tackles in 12 games and had 46 solo tackles, with two sacks and an interception.

Jon Slemmer, Harry S Truman. The Tigers won only three games, but this 5-11, 180-pound senior was the team's leader. He had a team-best 86 tackles, added two sacks, recovered two fumbles and forced two more fumbles, and he also led the team with 596 yards rushing.

SECOND TEAM

Tim Fleming, Plymouth-Whitemarsh (5-11, 190, Jr.); Brant Gadzicki, Spring-Ford (6-2, 210, Sr.); Tim McDonald, La Salle (6-0, 185, Sr.).

Defensive backs

FIRST TEAM

Dave Edwards, Central Bucks West. He made his mark on offense in the Bucks' run to the state championship with three long TD runs, but the 6-1, 205-pound senior was one of West's defensive leaders with 58 tackles.

Greg Kinzel, Central Bucks West. One of West's combination linebacker/defensive backs, the 5-9, 195-pound senior missed most of the Abington Heights playoff game because of a leg injury. But he played every minute of the next two state-playoff matchups while the games were still on the line. He finished with 70 tackles this season.

Chris Mahony, Council Rock. Mahony plays center field for Rock's baseball team, and the 5-10, 190-pound senior does the same in football. He has had six interceptions in each of the last two seasons, with 72 tackles this year. He probably will play baseball for a Division I college, and he might go to a school where he also can play football.

Bryan Scott, Central Bucks East. There hasn't been a better all-around football player in this area for the last three seasons than this 6-2, 205-pound senior. This year, he rushed for 1,252 yards, giving him 3,206 in his career. He ran for 32 TDs in three years, and caught 11 TD passes in that time. Defensively, he was in on 53 tackles this season, had three interceptions, blocked a field-goal attempt, and recovered two fumbles. He could play running back or defensive back when he gets to Penn State next year.

SECOND TEAM

Brian Benfield, Pennridge (5-11, 180, Sr.); Jim Johnson, Abington (6-0, 180, Sr.); Kharee Shorter, Cheltenham (5-11, 175, Sr.); Sean-Michael Yonson, Central Bucks West (6-1, 180, Sr.).

Kickers

FIRST TEAM

Mike Savage, La Salle. He split his time between soccer and football but made a huge mark as a placekicker. The 6-0, 170-pound senior kicked 11 field goals and 32 extra points. He nailed four field goals in three Catholic League playoff games, with the shortest being 39 yards. Earlier in the season, he said he intended to be a walk-on placekicker at Penn State.

SECOND TEAM

E.J. Cochrane, Pennsbury (6-0, 170, Jr.).

Punters

FIRST TEAM

Greg Davis, Germantown Academy. The 6-3, 190-pound senior didn't repeat his placekicking heroics of 1997 (13 field goals), but he averaged 38.5 yards for 40 punts and put 15 kickoffs into the end zone. For his career, Davis scored 141 points on 22 field goals and 75 extra points. He is considering the Air Force Academy, Stanford, Northwestern and Washington as possible college destinations.

SECOND TEAM

Tim Lawson, William Tennent (5-9, 160, Sr.).

— Frank Bertucci