

Area football players can sign their letters of intent for college today

By Frank Bertucci
MAJOR IBER SUBURBAN STAFF

High school football stars Antoine Lovelace, Alex Wade and Ed Injaychock thought they had made their college commitments last summer. Lovelace selected Northwestern, Wade chose Duke, and Injaychock decided on Connecticut.

But when the three players sign their national letters of intent today — the first day of the NCAA's two-week signing period for fall sports athletes — only Wade and Injaychock will be bound for their original choices.

Lovelace will be sending his letter to Rutgers.

"I liked Rutgers a lot," Lovelace said. "They stayed in contact with me from the beginning. Calling the (Northwestern) coaches was tough."

Making a college decision is an important choice, even for players who have known where they want to go for months. For players such as Lovelace, Wade and Injaychock, the scholarships were waiting for them this morning.

For some players, however, the future was unknown until after the scholastic season. For others, it's still unknown.

Lovelace's change of heart had nothing to do with coach Gary Barnett leaving Northwestern for Colorado. The Neshaminy wide receiver



Antoine Lovelace, who was a standout wide receiver at Neshaminy, has changed his mind and will attend Rutgers. He originally chose Northwestern.

said he made his decision for family reasons.

Lovelace has lived with his uncle and aunt, Cliff and Sue Collins, who are also his legal guardians, since his mother died several years ago. Last summer, his 14-year-old sister, Aubrey, moved in with them after

living in foster homes in Philadelphia.

For Lovelace, being an hour's drive away from his family was preferable to moving to Northwestern in Evanston, Ill., and he made his decision to switch colleges in December after making an official visit to Rutgers in New Brunswick, N.J.

Like Northwestern, Duke and Connecticut changed coaches, too, and Wade and Injaychock were contacted by their new coaches almost as soon as they were hired. But neither player had to reconsider his original decision.

"Coach (Fred) Goldsmith was part of my reason, but I made my decision on Duke because it is Duke," said Wade, Council Rock's all-time leading rusher who plans to study medicine, referring to Duke's former coach. "But Coach (Carl) Franks got the job the day of my official visit so he talked to me the day he was hired."

When Skip Holtz left UConn to join the coaching staff of his father, Lou, at South Carolina, Injaychock, the Academy of the New Church lineman, suddenly became a hot recruit again. Thinking he might want to change his mind, coaches from all the Atlantic Ten Conference schools called Injaychock. He even got a phone call from a Massa-

chusetts assistant coach the day the Minutemen won the NCAA Division I-AA championship.

"My reaction was that I'm sticking with Connecticut no matter what," Injaychock said. "Coach (Randy) Edsell called me once he got the job." Chuck Tornetta had to wait until December to discover his fate. Tornetta was a Division I-A recruit until a knee injury on Oct. 8 ended his senior season. It also ended the weekly phone calls from college coaches.

Tornetta, a Plymouth-Whitemarsh lineman who was a first-team all-Suburban One American Conference selection on both offense and defense despite the injury, didn't hear from Florida State, Syracuse, Pittsburgh or Maryland like he had before the injury.

"I was disappointed and upset, but then other schools started calling," he said.

Villanova was one of the schools that kept in touch.

"They gave me a limited time to accept a scholarship," Tornetta said. "I visited there on Dec. 10 and decided about five days later. I didn't want to take a chance of losing that scholarship."

"I was relieved for my family. I didn't want my parents to have to pay for college like they did for my brother. If it came down to it, I

would have gone to (community college) and gotten a job."

Mike Savage wasn't so lucky. Even though he was a big part of La Salle's Catholic League championship team in the fall, he kicked 11 field goals — four in three playoff games — and had 32 extra points, he

didn't get a scholarship.

"I sent my resume to a lot of schools," he said. "Some sent letters back, but I didn't get any phone calls. A coach at Penn State told me I'd have to walk on."

So that's what Savage will do.

Area Division I Football Commitments

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	High school	College
Ben Carber	OL	6-2	300	Central Bucks West	Virginia
Dave Costlow	DL	6-4	260	North Penn	Penn State
Dave Edwards	DB	6-1	205	Central Bucks West	Richmond
Ed Injaychock	OL	6-5	265	Acad. New Church	Connecticut
Jim Johnson	DB	6-0	180	Abington	Stanford
Troy Lavinia	TE	6-2	220	Central Bucks East	Pennsylvania
Antoine Lovelace	WR	6-2	180	Neshaminy	Rutgers
Darin Henry	FB	6-2	225	Upper Perkiomen	Lehigh
Mike Savage	PK	6-0	170	La Salle	Penn State
Bryan Scott	RB	6-2	205	Central Bucks East	Penn State
Chuck Tornetta	DL	6-1	255	Ply.-Whitemarsh	Villanova
Alex Wade	RB	6-1	235	Council Rock	Duke
Doug White	DL	6-2	300	Norristown	East Carolina
Grant Wiley	LB	6-2	220	Perkiomen Valley	West Virginia
Joe Wilson	OL	6-4	280	Central Bucks West	Richmond
Jon Wilson	OL	6-3	255	Central Bucks West	Richmond