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## All-Stars team up in Classic

By yourmonroeville

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Football returned Saturday night and summer is just beginning.

No, Steelers preseason games (or in my case the Ravens) haven't began, but some of the Pittsburgh area's best senior football players took the field Saturday night at Norwin High School in the Foothills Football Classic.

In Pennsylvania, high school football seems to be a lot bigger than it is in my Maryland. Teams play Friday nights under the lights when families can watch their relative play. In Maryland, there are some night games, but the majority of the games begin at 3:30 or 4 p.m.

Most people don't get off work until 5 p.m. I admire the way Pennsylvania does football. Everybody is involved, which can be a big motivational tool.

And after watching on Saturday, I liked what I saw on the field as well. Even though the South beat the North 10-8 in a game that went down to the wire, both teams were able to gel together and attempt to secure bragging rights with a win. These players took teamwork and sportsmanship to another level. These two subjects, especially sportsmanship, have appeared in a previous column.

Seeing players that are embarking on manhood act it out was great to watch. As with any type of sport there are rivalries. The Steelers had the Browns, even though their rival has now become the Ravens, and the Yankees have the Red Sox just to name a couple of rivalries in professional sports.

I talked to two players following the game, Charles Morris of Penn Hills High School and Justin Colbaugh of Gateway High School. Both players stated that Woodland Hills was considered their rival.

But instead of talking down about Wolverine players, they had nothing but positive things to say. Morris and Colbaugh along with other players stated that getting the opportunity to play along side players from opposing teams was one of the best parts of their experience.

Colbaugh even mentioned discussing this past season's games between Gateway and Woodland Hills, which were both Gator victories, with the Wolverines' Matthew Griggs.

Back home in Maryland, we have an all-star game following the season, but I never got an opportunity to attend. But I must say that the buzz that high school football creates seems to be bigger.

And the Foothills Football Classic is a great opportunity to showcase what local football is all about.

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