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All-stars enjoy teaming with rivals at Classic

By yourmonroeville

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The 10th Annual Foothills Football Classic was more than a football game -- it was about recognition of the best senior football players in the area and teaming up with those who are typically the opposition.

"It was a great opportunity to come together in an all-star platform. Season rivals came together to form a common bond and built relationships that will last a lifetime," Terry Smith, Gateway High School's athletic director and head football coach, said.

For the record, the South beat the North 13-8 in a game that went down to the North's last possession.

But what was most impressive to Muzzy Colosmo, the North's head coach, was how the different personalities on the team were able to gel together and egos were forgotten.

"I could tell that all of the players were captains of their teams and all of them have had the glory, but they were able to put their egos and pride behind them and did what they needed to do for the team," Colosmo said.

Representing the North from the area were Plum High School's Matt Kachurik, Joe Hadley and Arpan Shah. From Penn Hills High School were Charles Morris, Steve Ibrahim and Carlos Burns.

Woodland Hills High School sent Sergio Brockington, Jonathan Edwell, Terrence Johnson and Matthew Griggs.

And Gateway featured Justin Colbaugh, Matt Houy and Evan Ayasso.

The game forced the squads to team up with players that were rivals during the football season. It was not too much of a challenge to put those feelings aside and work together.

"It was a great experience and shows how we can play together as one," Colbaugh said.

"It shows the respect that we have for the game. Everybody was chosen for the game for a reason."

Colbaugh, who will play football for Seton Hill University in the fall, said that Woodland Hills was Gateway's biggest rival, but he and Griggs could sit and talk about match-ups that they had in the

past.

He contributed two interceptions in the game with one coming on a failed two-point conversion by the South.

The rivalries also made for competitive practices, according to Morris.

"In practice it was a (heated battle), but everybody was easy to get along with," Morris said.

Morris was a running back and kick returner for the North and also played safety.

His big highlight of the game was a 49-yard kickoff return. But that's not what he'll always remember about the experience.

"I had an alright game," Morris said.

"I will never forget the players and coaches that I [interacted] with. It made the experience very enjoyable."

Winning the Most Valuable Player for the North was Burrell High School's defensive end Bob Johnson who had three sacks including a safety.

The South's MVP was running back Shane Brooks of Duquesne High School who had an 80-yard run that set up the South's first touchdown.

Clairton High School running back Dana Brown scored both touchdowns for the South and was named Game MVP.

Gateway's Houy won an academic scholarship from Amixa for \$250.

He will be attending Washington & Jefferson College in the fall and will play on its offensive line for the football team.

"It was a great honor to be chosen by the people that run Amixa," Houy said.

Other players that have decided on colleges include, Ayasso (Princeton University), Burns (Saint Paul's College), Ibrahim and Morris (Clarion University), Hadley (Seton Hill University), Kachurik (Thiel College), Shah (University of Pittsburgh), Edwell (West Virginia Wesleyan College) and Johnson (California University of Pennsylvania).

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