

# Best of Pa. look forward to Big 33

By JAMES REESER  
Collegian Sports Writer

HERSHEY — On July 27, 1996, 34 young men will be taking the field at Hersheypark Stadium dressed in blue and white representing Pennsylvania in the 39th annual PNC Bank Big 33 Football Classic.

For 11 of Pennsylvania's finest, it will be the first of many times that they will take the field together. These 11 are Penn State bound.

"I don't know, I guess its a big honor to be recognized as one of the best in Pennsylvania," said John Blick, an offensive lineman from Pleasant Valley. "It means more because I'm going to play another football game before I get up to Penn State. But I can't wait. I've already known lots of them for a while. It will be fun, get to play with them a little bit, have some fun."

That is exactly what the Big 33 stresses, having fun and building lasting relationships. Oh yeah, and

playing a little bit of football.

The week leading up to the game includes living with a host family, spending time with buddies, visiting hospitals and playing at Hersheypark.

Despite all of the activities, the main focus is the game.

"Being selected means your hard work is being appreciated and recognized," North Penn's Jason Wallace said. "I've followed it the past couple of years since I've been in high school. It's a big week. There is a lot to do. But we'll be ready to play the game."

Pennsylvania is coached by Manheim Central High's Mike Williams. And he may just have a few tricks up his sleeve come game time.

"We've got two good quarterbacks, so we're going to let them throw a little bit," he said. "We're going to go with a wide open attack. We might even run a little option in there. An option play at the right time in a game like this could be perfect."

The quarterbacks Williams will be using are Penn-Trafford's Tony Zimmerman and Dave Robbins of Berwick.

Robbins led Berwick to an undefeated season and a No. 1 national ranking by USA Today.

"Tony Zimmerman is a run and shoot quarterback, Robbins is also from a wide open pass offense," Williams said. "So we will use the one back set, you can't use no-back in this game. The kids are experienced at opening things up. We've got a number of kids that are slot-back receiver types."

The Pennsylvania squad is once again deep at the running back position.

The tailback position will feature Norristown's Daymon Carroll, who is headed to Florida in the fall and Penn State-bound Kenny Watson from Harrisburg.

Both rushed for over 1,000 yards in their respective senior season and were named to the all-state team.

"We have some good fullbacks,"

"It means more because I'm going to play another football game before I get up to Penn State. But I can't wait...It will be fun, get to play with them a little bit, have some fun."

— John Blick

Lion recruit and Pennsylvania offensive lineman

Williams said. "So we'll probably run a fullback trap a little bit. We do that at Manheim, so we expect to do that. Of course we have to give the tailbacks the ball every once in a while. We have a lot of diversity and that's what I want to be, diverse, wide open."

Every year the Penn State recruits make some sort of impact in the game. Last year Brandon Short was the MVP. In the past future Lions like Curtis Enis, Kerry Collins, Kyle Brady and Jimmy Cefalo have made their mark.

"I think Penn State recruits the

(players) and I suspect that those kids will be a big part of the game," Williams said. "I don't think Penn State is going to recruit a kid that can't do well in the Big 33 game. As to what their role will be, it is still to early to tell."

Two future Lions will be playing for the Ohio squad: defensive back Derek Fox of Glen Oak High in Canton and Marc Kilmeyer, a defensive lineman from Westerville South.

"I would say that we know very little about them," Williams said. "I met their head coach (Mike Mauk) at the coaches clinic and he was



Courtesy of Phila. Cardinal Dougherty

Imani Bell

Lion recruit playing in Big 33

trying to feel me out a little bit. We don't know much about each other. We're not allowed to scout each other at the practice sessions. They have a lot of talent. They have seven or eight kids going to Ohio State, which is a great program. Some are going to Michigan, Notre Dame and Penn State."

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