

I don't think this was ever in The News-Herald or any other local publication. But, Franklin's Ted Marchibroda was once named to the Catholic All-America team.

And I should say "a," not "the."

This was in 1952 when he led the nation in total offense with 1,813 yards (201.4 per) as the T-formation was gaining popularity.

I ran into the bit of information by accident (as usual) when I was looking up a former teacher of mine -- to find out if he was still alive.

That would be Harry Miller who set a Pennsylvania collegiate scoring record with 18 touchdowns for King's College in Wilkes-Barre, also in 1952.

Turns out Marchibroda and Mr. Miller were in the same Catholic All-America backfield together with Johnny Lattner of Notre Dame and Gene Filipski of Villanova.

So, I tried to find out more, but in all my many googles, I couldn't find this team. I found Mr. Miller in the Delaware County Times where he taught civics at Nether Providence High School (now Strath Haven) when I attended school there. Mr. Miller was a big, big local star in Delco -- mainly as an amateur baseball player -- the best ever down there. He lived in Norwood (part of what is now home to Interboro High School), but went to St. James in Chester -- same school as Danny Murtaugh.

Mr. Miller starred in all the sports at St. James before becoming a legend at Wilkes where in 1952 he was known as "Mr. Touchdown." Stats for the then 5-10, 165-pounder: 50/402 rushing and 27/698 receiving to go with his 108 points.

Trouble is, there was no attribution for this Catholic All-America team that he and Marchibroda both made. There was one Catholic All-America team released by the National Catholic Welfare Conference, but its 1952 squad did not include either Mr. Miller or Marchibroda in the backfield. Lattner and Filipski, yes, but them, no.

I found still another team that listed Marchibroda as an honorable mention, but no Mr. Miller.

There was another newspaper out of Wilkes Barre that had the team Mr. Miller and Marchibroda were on, but, in addition to having Marchibroda's name spelled *way* wrong, no attribution.

I tried every way to find it, and finally I tried the predecessor of the Delaware County Times -- the Chester County Times. And, sure enough, there was an article that explained everything. The team team Mr. Miller and Marchibroda made was released by, get this, The Brooklyn Tablet, official newspaper of the Brooklyn diocese.

Well, whatever.

I did find it interesting that Marchibroda was one the ground floor of big-time passing offenses. You know, he didn't make first team all-state in football in high school. Just basketball. In fact, during his time, the positions in the backfield weren't designated quarterback, halfback, fullback, etc. Just four backs.

The News-Herald ran an article about Marchibroda leading the national in total offense.

The first graph read, "The T-quarterbacks took over completely, en masse and with no doubt about it, in the individual total offense race among the nation's major colleges this season, and Detroit's Ted Marchbroda led the pack for the title with 1,813 yards -- 1,637 of them by passing."

Georgia's Zeke Bratkowski, who played many years in the NFL, was runner-up to Marchibroda. The top five guys all had more than 1,500 yards and all were T-formation passers. There were only two single-wing tailbacks in the top 20 -- Dick Clasby of Harvard and Paul Giel of Minnesota.

This article noted that up until 1948, there were never more than two exclusive passers in the top 10, and never more than five until 1952.

What's more, Marchibroda was only the only player to average more than 200 yards per game and the ninth ever to do so. During the '52 campaign, completing 27 of 54 passes for two TDs, he set a NCAA record with 392 yards passing in a game against Tulsa. The old mark belonged to Loyola's Don Klosterman who threw for 372 in 1951 against Florida.

So now you know. But the one thing I still do not know is if Mr. Miller is still alive or not.