

MAN ON A MISSION: One Quip really can make a difference

**By Joshua Funk
For PA Football News**

Aliquippa's defensive back Terry Patrick got a phone call from one of his relatives prior to the WPIAL title game against Beaver Falls. It was Darrelle Revis, cornerback for the New York Jets.

"He said, 'If you want to do what I did, you gotta work extra-hard,'" Patrick said.

What Revis did five years ago was win Aliquippa's last WPIAL championship, an 18-6 victory against Jeannette.

But this article isn't about Terry Patrick. It's about his teammate, Maurice Carter, who got a call of a different kind – a call from himself.

Carter didn't play in the Week 3 Thursday night match between Beaver Falls and his Quips, a game lost by the red and black 27-12. So Carter, a senior, took it personally.

"For me, it was personal," Carter said, "because I wanted to beat Beaver Falls."

Well, Carter beat Aliquippa's arch-rival. He literally did it by himself.

No, none of the other 10 members of Aliquippa's offense quit. Carter just happened to be the one that made the big plays.

Carter's 5-yard touchdown run with 56 seconds left in the first half knotted the game at six. He ran for 111 yards on 30 carries, giving him 1,248 yards and 18 touchdowns this season.

But defensively, Carter made the game's biggest play. He blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety and the winning points, allowing Aliquippa to secure its 13th WPIAL title, first in the last five years, and third for head coach Mike Zmijanac.

To lose the game on a blocked punt was nothing short of terribly ironic for Beaver Falls. Why?

"We hadn't allowed a blocked kick all year," head coach Ryan Matsook said. "And we only had one bad snap all year because our snapper had a shoulder injury."

To make matters even worse for the Tigers, Carter also nearly out-rushed Beaver Falls by himself. The Tigers' three-pronged rushing attack of Admire Carter, Todd Thomas, and Cody Cook could only muster 116 yards for the game, five yards better than Carter's 111.

Did having Carter this time around help Aliquippa?

“A little bit,” Zmijanac said quickly into the mic.

He didn't address that question the rest of the press conference, except to point out to another reporter who tried to ask the same question, “You play with who you have. In that game (Week 3), we didn't have him (Carter), and this game, we did.”

When asked about the blocked punt, Zmijanac said the Quips had worked on that in practice.

“Truthfully, we thought we could block a punt,” the Quips' boss said. “We worked on that all week.”

Even Carter admitted he didn't do anything special for the blocked kick.

“I just did what was designed for me to do,” he said.

This is Aliquippa's sixth trip to the PIAA playoffs. Aliquippa made trips in 1988, 1991, 1996, 2000, and 2003, and won PIAA titles in '91 and '03.

The Quips' 13 titles are the most among WPIAL programs, and the most impressive thing – all the titles are outright. None are shared.

Perhaps, in Aliquippa's next game – Karns City – Carter will share some of the scoring among his other teammates.

But when you're a man on a mission, like Carter was Saturday, the others might just want to sit back and watch.