

Robertson, Outland and Briones part of strong South defense; McBride also wraps up career at all-star game



Players from Irvine had a part in the South's victory over the North including (from left) Jalen Robertson and Darrius Outland (No. 4) from University and Robert Briones (No. 3) from Crean Lutheran. Tim Burt photo

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Four football players from Irvine played a part in the South's 28-6 victory over the North in the 58th annual Orange County All-Star Classic Friday, June 30, at Orange Coast College.

Defensive backs Darrius Outland and Jalen Robertson from University, defensive end Robert Briones from Crean Lutheran and running back Connor McBride from Woodbridge celebrated after the South won to take a 26-23-3 lead in the series.

The game was sponsored this year by Costa Mesa United and the Los Angeles Chargers. Attendance was estimated at 3,500.

Robertson and Outland were busy starting as defensive backs. Robertson had seven tackles and Outland had four. Briones had one tackle.

Robertson said he had about 20 family members cheering him on.

"It was one of the best games I've ever played in my life," Robertson said. "I get to play against great people over there and I had a great team. I made new friends; it was so fun."

Robertson also got to play with his former teammate at University, Outland. Both will also be playing at Trinity International University in Deerfield, IL in the fall.

"Playing again with him was so fun," Robertson said. "He's like family to me right now. I can't wait to play on the next level with him."

Outland, the all-city defensive MVP, played his usual steady game in the backfield too.

"We made a quick bond and I loved it, I'm just happy we got the win," he said. "Nothing feels better."

Outland is looking forward to playing in college with Robertson.

"It was a blast as always, and being lined up on his side, no doubt, it was fun," Outland said.

Outland said he wants to also learn how to play free safety in college. Fresno State had originally expressed an interest in Outland.

"It wasn't God's plan for me to do that, so I'm going to do what I have now and just run with it," he said.

Briones, from Crean Lutheran, described the victory as a "great team effort."

"The wide receivers, the safeties and especially the D-line...we all came together as a team and that was a big challenge to come together in two weeks and we did it," he said.

"The offense was killing it too. The quarterbacks did phenomenal and we broke a receiving record. I was talking to a lot of my teammates and they said I was the only one to end my career with a win. I think that's really cool."

McBride, who set many career rushing records at Woodbridge, didn't get the ball as much as expected. He had 12 yards on four carries and also hauled in one catch for four yards.

"It's definitely different from what I'm used to," he said. "I'm used to a good amount of carries but it was a different kind of football. But it was obviously a great experience being with my team and watching my team play as a team."

McBride, the offensive MVP of the all-city squad, rushed for 4,966 yards and 45 touchdowns on 777 carries, all career school records.

"I think the plan was to be even throughout but I think our possessions were nice and short and so when a pass play works perfectly every single time, running backs don't really care as long as we're scoring," McBride said. "I got a little chilly at some points, but it was definitely enjoyable, it was a great experience and practicing for two weeks was super fun. There were great kids and great competition and it made everyone overall great players."

McBride was scheduled to report to the Saddleback College football team on Monday.

"I'm excited for it," he said. "I hope to go there and hope to start next year and continue playing running back and keep the recruiting process going and hopefully make it out to somewhere else."

The South was led by its player of the game, Tesoro's Shane Coleman who had six catches for 109 yards and an all-star game record three touchdowns.

The South defense was led by Angel Hernandez of Fountain Valley, who had 10 tackles, two for a loss along with a blocked field goal and punt.

(Michael Huntley of OC Varsity contributed information for this story).