

# Sports

## Like father, like son

St. Andrew's Kenny Simpler will follow in his father's footsteps in Blue-Gold football game, C4

## Simpler following father's footsteps

*St. Andrew's star eyes Gold win*

By DAVID HUGHES

Staff reporter

If Kenny Simpler rips his jersey during this Saturday's 30th annual Blue-Gold All-Star Football Game, he won't have to worry about finding another one to wear.

That's because he's got the jersey his dad and namesake, Ken Simpler Sr., wore when he played in the 1962 All-Star Game. Ken Jr. has even chosen the same number his father wore: 43.

"Dad's jersey is still in pretty good condition," said Simpler, who will represent St. Andrew's School for the Gold Saturday afternoon at Delaware Stadium. "Of course, it looks a little different than the one I've got on. It's got old cloth with the stars sewn on. I could probably get away with wearing it, though."

Though Ken Simpler Jr. is playing with the same jersey number in the same All-Star Game, he is not representing the same school his dad represented in '62. The elder Simpler, owner of the popular Avenue Restaurant in Rehoboth Beach, played his football for old Rehoboth High.

Though Ken Jr. grew up in the Rehoboth area, spending many a summer washing dishes and busing tables at his family's busy restaurant, he never attended any area public schools.

"I went to a country school in Berlin, Md., then up to St. Andrew's [located in Middletown] for high school," he said. "My parents left the decision up to me as to whether I should go to St. Andrew's, but I loved the place when I saw it. The campus is nice and it's a fine school academically."

Simpler certainly took advantage of the latter quality. He finished second in this year's St. Andrew's graduating class while gaining summa cum laude honors, scored an impressive 1,350 on his college boards, and was accepted on early action to Princeton University.

"I'm thinking of entering pre-med," he said.



Kenny Simpler

Simpler gave no indication that he'd like to enter the restaurant business. In 1944 the Simpler family first opened the Avenue Restaurant, which is located on Rehoboth Ave., one block from the boardwalk. The Simplers sold the business in 1950 before buying it back in 1959.

"I started at the bottom in that place when I was a kid," said Simpler. "You name it and I've done it in there. I've even done some cooking, though I never really excelled at it. I guess I can do it if I have to, though."

Ken Sr., 40, gave a hint as to why his 1962 All-Star jersey may still be in such great shape.

"I didn't see a whole lot of action in that game," recalled Simpler from his Rehoboth home. "I can't even remember what position I played."

His son, a 6-foot-1, 180-pound fullback, plans on seeing a lot more playing time on Saturday. Kickoff is 2 p.m. and proceeds will benefit the Delaware Foundation for Retarded Children.

Simpler was St. Andrew's team captain last fall, and he's just the type who could help lead the Gold charge.

"The past two years, football has sort of been on a recovery at our school," said Coach Bob Colburn of St. Andrew's. "We were 0-9 the year before last and 3-6 last year, but we could easily have been 5-4. We lost twice in the final seconds. Our kids have begun to regain a strong attitude for football and a lot of that has to do with Kenny's leadership. We'll be stronger next year as a result of what he and the other seniors accomplished."