Rumsey, Converted End, Makes Grade As Back Appears On TV Show

By BILL PRAUL

Five years ago Neshaminy's Head Coach Harry Franks moved a Redskin from his accustomed position at end to the right halfback slot. This change resulted in the writing of football history in the Lower Bucks Conference. The player was Don Cameron.

At the beginning of this season once again Franks made a similar move. He took an established end and placed him in the wingback spot. It is pure conjecture at this time—and certainly unfair to the boy—to predict that George Rumsey in the seven remaining games of his high school career will impress fans the way Cameron did.

But Rumsey, who is no Cameron—and George will be the first to admit it—has already attracted quite a bit of attention. The senior halfback has been selected by Jack Ryan, sports writer for the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, as the outstanding high school football player in the Philadelphia area in the past several weeks. Rumsey will appear on Ryan's television show, "Sports Highlights," on Channel 12 Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Ryan selected Rumsey for his excellent all-around play in the Pennridge contest. During that game George demonstrated to the fans that the change in assignments was no mistake. He carried the ball seven times for 44 yards or an average of 6.3 yards per try. He caught five passes which netted gains of 50, 14, 24, 30 and 3 yards respectively. Rumsey scored three touchdowns, place-kicked three extra points and intercepted a pass good for one of his three TD's.

"At first, when I was told that I would move into the number one back position, I didn't think I could do the job," Rumsey said. (No doubt George was thinking of his forerunners in that department;

namely Ray Brodie, Cameron and Ned Moyer). "But," continued the wingback, "I like the backfield now. You can do more things than when you are playing end. Now I can block, run, catch passes and thrown the ball once in a while."

"We need a boy in that number one spot that can block, run and catch passes," Franks declared. "He is, actually our third end. I selected Rumsey because I thought he had all these attributes.

"It wasn't too tough of a decision," replied Franks to the question: Weren't you afraid you would weaken your end position? "We have two good boys (Fischer and Covington) at the end slots now and we'll be strong there for several years to come. I believe that we actually strengthened our team."

George, who resides on West Maple Avenue in Langhorne, started his football career in junior high school as an end. He also is a letterman in basketball and track. His ambition lies along the coaching lines. Like most boys his favorite sport seems to be the one that is in season.

When it is Fall George loves to talk football. And eventually he will get around to discussing the most exciting football game as a member of the Redskins.

"The most exciting game that I ever witnessed was the Pleasantville game. That was the game to end all games. I rode the bench the entire 48 minutes, the edge of the bench that is," he explained.

What was his toughest game? "That was the Upper Dublin game," pointed out Rumsey." I just couldn't get started. In the Hatboro and Pennridge games everything went pretty smoothly.

"The one thing I hate in football," proffered Rumsey, "is to miss an extra point kick or have it blocked. I worked all year on that PAT kicking and it's disgusting when you miss." (Rumsey has made good on seven extra points out of nine attempts).

Rumsey closed his interview with a philosophical slant on football at Neshaminy, "You know, Neshaminy never gives up. Look at us last year. We started out with three straight losses. That is enough to stop any team, but we came right back.

"When those other big teams start to fall they really go. Take a look at Pennridge and Millville (N.J.). No matter what the odds are Neshaminy keeps coming back.

"If we work together," concluded Rumsey, "we should take the championship again this year. We have no outstanding stars on our team. That is the way it should be."

GEORGE RUMSEY