

Neshaminy whips winless Abington, 69-36

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By Rick O'Brien

INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

LANGHORNE — Although touchdowns were flying back and forth evenly in the first half of Friday night's Suburban One League National Conference football matchup between Abington and Neshaminy, the game turned into a one-sided affair in the final 24 minutes.

Senior running back Frank DiSandro rushed for a career-high 213 yards and four touchdowns on 22 carries as Neshaminy righted itself in the second half and eased past the visiting Ghosts, 69-36, in a contest that made both defensive coordinators shudder.

The teams combined for 15 touch-

downs and 854 yards of total offense, including 585 rushing yards. Winless Abington (0-8 overall, 0-7 league) held a 28-14 lead midway through the second quarter and was ahead, 28-27, at halftime.

"Who would have figured that team was 0-7 coming into this game?" DiSandro said. "We were in a dogfight in the first half."

Playing in his final home game, DiSandro amassed 258 all-purpose yards. He accounted for four of Neshaminy's eight offensive touchdowns, scoring on runs of 64, 1, 5 and 2 yards.

The Redskins (6-2, 5-2) kept alive their bid for a District 1 playoff berth by tallying four unanswered touchdowns in the third quarter. Two of the scores came on interception returns, a 76-yarder by strong safety Mike Kelly and a 30-yarder by linebacker Mike O'Brien.

Led by junior running back Jim

Johnson, Abington netted 344 rushing yards against the Redskins' porous defense. Johnson carried 19 times for 159 yards and scored three touchdowns, the first on a 54-yard screen pass.

"We played horribly on defense in the first half," said Kelly, who was involved in a team-high nine tackles. "In the second half, except for that one run [a 56-yard gain by Johnson], I thought we played pretty well."

Neshaminy senior quarterback Jim Dietz completed 11 of 13 passes for 198 yards and three touchdowns. He tossed 16-yard TD passes to tight end Ron Smith and wideout Antoine Lovelace in the first half, and hooked up with fullback Chaz Hall for a 19-yard score late in the third quarter.

Abington had to play the second half without two of its top running backs, junior John Conner and sen-

ior Jason Markey. Conner, who scored on a 59-yard run early in the first quarter, pulled a hamstring, and Markey hurt his left shoulder.

"I was pleased with the offense," said Ghosts coach Doug Moister. "Our defense, obviously, didn't rise to the occasion. We just have had real problems stopping people this season."

Abington	14	14	0	8	—	36
Neshaminy	14	13	29	13	—	69

- A: Conner 59 run (Gillespie kick)
- N: Smith 16 pass from Dietz (Vetter kick)
- A: J. Johnson 54 pass from Goodwin (Gillespie kick)
- N: DiSandro 64 run (Vetter kick)
- A: J. Johnson 18 run (Gillespie kick)
- A: Dawson 5 run (Gillespie kick)
- N: Lovelace 16 pass from Dietz (Vetter kick)
- N: DiSandro 1 run (kick failed)
- N: DiSandro 5 run (DiSandro run)
- N: M. Kelly 76 interception return (Vetter kick)
- N: Hall 19 pass from Dietz (Vetter kick)
- N: O'Brien 30 interception return (Vetter kick)
- A: J. Johnson 7 run (Dickerson pass from Goodwin)
- N: DiSandro 2 run (kick failed)
- N: Ketterer 1 run (Vetter kick)