

# Down 16-0, Neshaminy wins it

By Frank Bertucci

INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

LANGHORNE — Trailing by 16-0 with 29 seconds to play in the first half Friday, the Neshaminy Redskins had North Penn just where they wanted them.

In just five plays, North Penn's lead was down to 16-7, and by the end of the game, Neshaminy had a 20-16 victory. It was the fourth time in six Suburban One National Conference wins that the Redskins had rallied from a halftime deficit.

"Somebody's looking after us right now," said Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt, raising his eyes toward the cloudy sky, "but I said a whole lot of stuff this halftime."

Schmidt was alluding to the ritual his players have of talking among themselves during halftimes, before the coaches can step up.

But how can Neshaminy's lack of offense in the first half be explained?

In the first 23 minutes, 31 seconds of the first half, North Penn gained 205 yards in 35 plays, with 13 first downs, and controlled the ball for 16:21.

Neshaminy's totals, before the 29-second drive, were 61 yards on nine plays from scrimmage, with four first downs in 7:05.

And then Jim Dietz took over the game.

On first down from Neshaminy's 34, Dietz connected with John Hatfield for 5 yards. On second down, Hatfield made a diving catch for a 33-yard gain.

Dietz hit Lester Wiltz on a quick slant on the next play, and Wiltz ran for 24 yards to North Penn's 4.

After downing the ball to stop the clock with eight seconds to play in the half, Dietz hit Omar Harris with a quick slant at the goal line, and Neshaminy was on the scoreboard.

"We knew we had to score," said Hatfield, the former quarterback,

who had five receptions for 110 yards. "Jimmy did a great job."

"We did it against Norristown in the fourth quarter," said Dietz, who completed 10 of 19 passes for 193 yards. "I knew I'd have a good day passing because the field was wet, and they couldn't stay with our receivers."

The Knights (2-5 overall, 2-5 league) had their last drive end when quarterback Chris Janson fumbled a snap at the Redskins' 29. Linebacker Adam Cortes, playing with a cast on the left hand he had broken in practice on Tuesday, recovered.

North Penn	3	13	0	0	—	16
Neshaminy	0	7	7	6	—	20

NP: FG Lopoten 24

NP: Janson 4 run (Lopoten kick)

NP: Janson 5 run (kick failed)

NE: Harris 4 pass from Dietz (Miller kick)

NE: Wiltz 1 run (Miller kick)

NE: Hatfield 15 pass from Dietz (pass failed)