



For The Inquirer / SCOTT S. HAMRICK

Neshaminy quarterback Jim Dietz (left) is pressured by North Penn defender Martin Leonard as he looks for an open receiver. Dietz was 10 for 19 for 178 yards and one TD in Friday's rain-soaked win.

Redskins keep playoff hopes alive

Neshaminy stayed in the postseason running with a 16-14 win at N. Penn.

By Joe Fite

INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

TOWAMENCIN — Neshaminy isn't going to win the Suburban One League National Conference football title and the Redskins have only an outside shot at a berth in the PIAA District 1 playoffs.

They played North Penn like a championship team, however, and downed the host Knights, 16-14, in a steady rain Friday night at Crawford Stadium.

The Redskins (7-2, 6-2) moved into a tie for second place with North Penn (6-2, 6-2), as Central Bucks West clinched the league title by defeating Council Rock. Neshaminy has a chance to qualify for the district playoffs, but needs some help from other teams.

Neshaminy scored on the first drive of the game when Ron Smith caught a 41-yard touchdown pass

from Jim Dietz, then added a field goal at the end of its second possession — a 27-yarder by Josh Vetter with 1 minute, 42 seconds left in the first quarter.

It could have been worse.

North Penn lost a fumble late in the quarter and lost another midway through the second period. The Redskins weren't able to convert either into points and it almost cost them.

The Knights came out in the second half and took the lead, 14-10, as Hikee Johnson and Nate Vielhauer ended North Penn's first two drives with touchdown runs.

Neshaminy responded when Smith caught a 49-yard play-action pass from Dietz and Frank DiSandro went the final five yards for a touchdown with 3:42 left in the third quarter.

"Momentum switched over; that was definite," DiSandro said of North Penn's touchdowns. "We had to keep our heads in the game.

"You saw how explosive they were. They came out in the second half, bang, bang, they're up 14-10. It

was like, 'Gee, what are we going to do.' It was a dogfight, every play. We put it together and went down the field and we scored. It was fun."

DiSandro almost gets lost in the shuffle because of the attention given to the Redskins' high-octane passing game. Dietz was 10 for 19 for 178 yards Friday, but as the weather got worse and it became more difficult to pass the ball, Neshaminy had to count more and more on DiSandro's running. He finished the game with 106 yards on 27 carries.

Redskins coach Mark Schmidt has hopes his team can make the playoffs for the first time since 1988.

"Upper Merion's got to play Hatboro [a 21-6 Hatboro-Horsham win Friday night], Glen Mills has got to play St. Ignatius [of Cleveland]. Things happen. You never know."

Neshaminy	10	0	6	0	—	16
North Penn	0	0	14	0	—	14

N: Smith 41 pass from Dietz (Vetter kick)

N: FG Vetter 27

NP: Johnson 27 run (Pierantozzi kick)

NP: Vielhauer 20 run (Pierantozzi kick)

N: DiSandro 5 run (kick failed)