

Neighbors Sports

F12 — North

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All thoughts on West after C.B. East throttles Neshaminy

Both rivals are unbeaten. "It's all on the line, and it should be a heck of a game," one of the Patriots said.

By Eric Karabell

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DOYLESTOWN — The chanting began in the closing minutes of Central Bucks East's 33-12 playoff-clinching victory over Neshaminy on Friday night:

"We want West! We want West!"

East will meet Central Bucks West on Saturday night in a game-of-the-century-type matchup that will decide not only the Suburban One Na-

tional football championship, but also the top seed in the District 1 Class AAAA tournament.

For the first time in the long, lopsided East-West history (West leads the series, 24-2-1), both teams will enter the game unbeaten. Both have earned playoff berths, but there's a lot more on the line — such as pride. This is what East-West was always meant to be.

"I'm so excited. I don't think I've

ever been so excited," said Adam Ratcliffe, a four-year starter for East, The Inquirer's No. 2-ranked team in the area. "We can't wait. There's no excuse this time. It's all on the line, and it should be a heck of a game."

East's demolition of Neshaminy, the league's third-best team, was certainly impressive. Especially the work of the mammoth offensive line, which helped senior Andy Ficzeko rush for more than 200 yards for the fourth time this year. Ficzeko increased his season rushing total to more than 1,500 yards and scored

his 18th, 19th and 20th touchdowns.

On a line that averages 6-foot-4 and 265 pounds, and will send Josh Mitchell and Mike Moosbrugger to major-college programs, gaping holes tend to open quickly. West will soon find that out.

"We set history tonight by making the playoffs, and we worked hard for it," East coach Larry Greene said. "The West game can't get here fast enough."

Surprising Neshaminy (6-3 overall, 6-2 league) will have its first winning season since 1989, and figured to give East (9-0, 8-0) some

trouble. However, the solid defense and exceptional passing attack led by quarterback Jim Deitz couldn't offset three turnovers, six penalties, and five East sacks.

Lester Wiltz's 39-yard touchdown scamper in the second quarter closed East's lead to 10-6, but the Patriots weren't fazed. Mitchell blocked the extra-point try, and Bryan Scott, the heir to Ficzeko, returned the kickoff 44 yards. Ficzeko's 28-yard touchdown run ended the short drive and killed what was left of the Redskins' momentum. Deitz then had a tipped pass intercepted

on the next drive, and East closed the half with Chris Staples' field goal. So much for a close game.

But most minds in this stadium were on next weekend, when East fans will hope a little more history can be made.

Neshaminy	0	6	6	0	—	12
Central Bucks East	10	14	0	3	—	33

CBE: FG Staples 25
 CBE: Ficzeko 4 run (Staples kick)
 N: Wiltz 39 run (kick failed)
 CBE: Ficzeko 28 run (Staples kick)
 CBE: Penecale 30 pass from Borstein (Staples kick)
 N: Wiltz 10 run (pass failed)
 CBE: FG Staples 23
 CBE: Ficzeko 39 run (kick failed)