

Redskins sluggish in victory

Neshaminy QB Jim Dietz passed for 300 yards — just enough to top Allentown Dieruff.

By Rick O'Brien

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LANGHORNE — The start to Neshaminy's football season turned out to be a positive one, but coach Mark Schmidt wasn't exactly doing cartwheels after the team's 21-18 victory over visiting Allentown Dieruff on Friday night.

Though the Redskins snapped a three-year losing streak against the Huskies, they showed defensive weaknesses that must be corrected if they hope to duplicate last season's 7-2 mark in the powerful Suburban One National Conference.

Dieruff tailback Tosh Riddick rushed for 187 yards and two touchdowns on 36 carries, almost single-handedly carrying the Huskies.

Senior quarterback Jim Dietz responded for Neshaminy by passing for 300 yards.

"We knew Riddick was for real," said Schmidt. "He had over 2,000 yards last season, and he put our defense to the test in this game."

Neshaminy secured its first season-opening victory since 1993 when Dietz tossed his third touchdown pass of the evening with six minutes left to play. On fourth and 9, he avoided a heavy pass rush and completed a 10-yard TD pass to senior fullback Mike Ketterer.

Schmidt had called for a play-action pass to the tight end, but Dietz — who completed 14 of 28 passes — spotted Ketterer wide open in the left flat. The score capped a 16-play, 91-yard drive.

"We didn't want to lose to this team four years in a row, so we're pretty happy to get the win," said Dietz. "We were tired of them coming down here and pushing us around."

Dietz collected 186 of his passing yards in the first half. He threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to senior Jason Jonigkeit in the first quarter and a 60-yard scoring bomb to junior Antoine Lovelace late in the second quarter.

The Redskins, however, allowed Riddick to romp for 100 yards in the first 24 minutes, and the hosts led by 14-12 at the half.

Victimizing Neshaminy's inexperienced defensive line, the Huskies opened the second half by marching 76 yards on 11 plays. Riddick's 34-yard touchdown burst gave Dieruff an 18-14 lead.

In the fourth quarter, the Redskins atoned somewhat for the 288 rushing yards they allowed in the game. They forced four turnovers in the contest, including Mike Kelly's interception at the Neshaminy 29 in the final minute to stave off Dieruff's comeback bid.

Allentown Dieruff	0	12	6	0	—	18
Neshaminy	7	7	0	7	—	21

N: Jonigkeit 25 pass from Dietz (Vetter kick)

AD: Riddick 4 run (kick failed)

N: Lovelace 60 pass from Dietz (Vetter kick)

AD: Marcks 19 pass from Engler (pass failed)

AD: Riddick 34 run (run failed)

N: Ketterer 10 pass from Dietz (Vetter kick)