

For Neshaminy, more late heroics beat Norristown

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LANGHORNE — The Cardiac Kids struck again Friday night.

Host Neshaminy overcame a big halftime deficit for the third time this year when Nick Durnin's 2-yard touchdown run with 25 seconds left capped a thrilling 17-14 victory over Norristown.

The Redskins (3-2 overall, 3-1 Suburban One National) fell behind, 14-0, in the second quarter and trailed, 14-3, at halftime. But they are getting used to having to rally.

"It got kind of ugly at halftime," Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt said. "The kids got mad. I got mad. We did everything wrong, but the kids corrected things. We've won three times after being behind by more than a touchdown at the half. How do you figure?"

The major reason for Friday's comeback was a stunning 89-yard drive in the closing minutes. The Eagles (2-3, 1-3) had a 14-10 lead and were deep in Redskins territory with 3 minutes, 17 seconds to play when Neshaminy's Dan Shaffer recovered a fumbled handoff at the 11-yard line.

Junior quarterback Jim Dietz (13 for 23, 190 yards) immediately hit Omar Harris (eight receptions, 140 yards) for a 39-yard gain and then John Hatfield (four catches, 78 yards) for an 11-yard gain. But two penalties forced a second-and-19 situation, and Schmidt called for an end-around that was designed to have Hatfield throw to Harris.

When Dietz went back to make the handoff, though, he fumbled. Somehow, Dietz shoveled the bouncing ball to Hatfield, who scooped it up and found Harris for a 38-yard

gain to the Norristown 10.

Three plays later, on fourth and 2, Durnin bulled in for the score. With just seconds left, Chris Krusen salted the game away with his second interception of Norristown quarterback John McClure.

"Everyone knows we're a second-half team," Hatfield said. "When they fumbled, we knew we were going to score. We could see their team had died."

Norristown had other chances to widen its lead. In the third period, the Eagles drove to Neshaminy's 4-yard line, but stalled after a penalty and a key sack by Ron Smith and Joe Fullerton.

Dietz then took his troops 80 yards in 10 plays, with Durnin going in from the 1-yard line. Rob Miller, who had kicked a 29-yard field goal with 11 seconds left in the first half, added the conversion.

"We dominated play for the most part and had every opportunity," Norristown coach Roger Grove said. "We got to the 4-yard line and then the 11-yard line and we didn't put the game away. It was one of those freak games you get."

The Eagles took the 14-0 lead in the second quarter on a 2-yard TD run by Lafton Thompson (17 carries, 91 yards) and a 55-yard TD pass from McClure to De'Andre Baker. Miller's field goal came after Adam Cortes intercepted McClure at midfield with only 1:13 left in the first half.

Norristown	0	14	0	0	—	14
Neshaminy	0	3	7	7	—	17

NO: Thompson 2 run (Marano kick)
NO: Baker 55 pass from McClure (Marano kick)
NE: FG Miller 29
NE: Durnin 1 run (Miller kick)
NE: Durnin 2 run (Miller kick)