

Neshaminy visits end zone early, often

Abington fumbled four times inside its own 30 in the first period. The Redskins capitalized in a 45-8 rout.

By Eric Karabell

INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

LANGHORNE — The Neshaminy football team hasn't had much luck scoring this season, and the Redskins entered Saturday's Suburban One National game against the only other winless league team determined to change that luck.

But nobody could have predicted the way they would do it.

Though turnovers can be expected when winless teams meet, Abington set a new standard by fumbling four times deep in their territory in the opening period, enabling punchless Neshaminy to score four touchdowns

in eight minutes and gallop to a 45-8 win.

Hard-working Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt got a Gatorade shower when his first victory of the season was complete, even though he already was soaked by a two-hour downpour. Clearly the rain had something to do with the fumbles: Overall, Abington coughed the ball up six times, and the teams combined for nine turnovers.

Neshaminy senior quarterback Dave O'Brien and senior fullback Joe Nugent each made their first starts of the season. Nugent ran for the first two scores, caught the third

touchdown, and finished with 75 yards on 21 carries. O'Brien, who was told only a few minutes before game time that he'd be starting, completed 8 of 12 passes for 162 yards and four touchdowns.

"It feels incredible," O'Brien said. "I didn't think I'd do *that* well. I'm astonished. After I threw the first touchdown, I calmed down a bit. Then they just kept coming."

Neshaminy (1-6 overall, 1-5 league) entered the game having scored only 40 points all season, and only 13 in the last four games. Schmidt won the coin toss to open the game and elected to give Abington (0-6, 0-6) the ball. That lasted one play. Quarterback Wes Furchner dropped the ball on the first snap, Neshaminy recovered, and the fun began.

After one period, Neshaminy led, 25-0. Abington had four fumbles before it ran its eighth play. Neshaminy's average field position in the period was the Ghosts' 20-yard line, and the Redskins needed only 15 plays to score four times.

"It's kind of hard to win when you turn the ball over four times inside your 30 in the first quarter," long-time Abington coach Doug Moister said. "It's one of these years we seem to be snake-bit."

Abington	0	0	8	0	—	8
Neshaminy	25	0	7	13	—	45

N: Nugent 1 run (run failed)
 N: Nugent 5 run (pass failed)
 N: Nugent 8 pass from O'Brien (Miller kick)
 N: Hunter 15 pass from O'Brien (pass failed)
 N: Feeney 9 pass from O'Brien (Miller kick)
 A: Allen 2 run (Blackstone pass from Furchner)
 N: Hunter 38 pass from O'Brien (kick blocked)
 N: Hunter 2 run (Miller kick)