

Carroll's teammates get in on winning act

Norristown's star got 217 yards. When Neshaminy keyed on him, other Eagles backs broke loose.

By Joe Fite

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NORRISTOWN — When a team has a player the caliber of Norristown's Daymon Carroll, there isn't much room for publicity for his teammates.

Against visiting Neshaminy Friday night, Carroll again grabbed the spotlight with a 217-yard rushing performance in a 24-3 victory by the Eagles, The Inquirer's No. 3 team in the area. That raised his total to 1,005 yards rushing in just five games.

It was certainly a noteworthy performance, but this time, at least, a couple of Carroll's teammates also had the opportunity to shine. And in Norristown's next two games, against Central Bucks East and Council Rock, coach Roger Grove is going to need them.

Quarterback A.J. Nidosik and receiver Rich Hicks proved to be an effective, if little used, weapon when they hooked up for a picture-perfect, 37-yard touchdown strike to close out the scoring for the Eagles (4-1, overall, 3-1 Suburban One Na-

tional).

Also showing they could not be ignored were running backs Lofton Thompson and James Kelly. Thompson gained 28 yards on five carries, and Kelly had 33 yards on six attempts. Both backs were free to run, because the Redskins' defense was focused on Carroll.

"We're going to try to utilize that a little bit," Grove said of spreading the ball around. "Lofton Thompson and Jimmy Kelly are two good backs. And A.J. tonight — we didn't throw the ball a lot — but the couple we threw, he made good plays for us. I have two good wideouts. Both Hicks and [Don] Milligan are good wideouts. So we have to incorporate that a little more.

"The next two weeks, we go C.B. East, Council Rock, both outstanding defensive football teams, so we're going to have to open up a little bit."

Forget any ideas about Grove's using Carroll as a decoy to open up other things, however. Carroll is still the Eagles' bread-and-butter player. Against Neshaminy, he scored on runs of 46 and 23 yards in the first half and rushed for 144 yards by halftime. He carried the ball 29 times in the game.

"With Daymon Carroll, I have no



For The Inquirer / JOHN SLAVIN

Norristown's Daymon Carroll, who scored two touchdowns in the 24-3 victory, carries the ball against Neshaminy. Through five games this season, the Eagles rusher has gained 1,005 yards.

problem at all giving him the ball that many times with what he's able to accomplish out there," Nidosik said. "We'll stick with our game plan and give him the ball as many times as we can. But when the pass opens up, we're going to throw the ball, too."

The Redskins (0-5, 0-4) had a bright spot in the first half when they controlled the ball for almost 12 minutes, Neshaminy used 19 plays to

reach Norristown's 10-yard line, from where Robert Miller booted a 27-yard field goal for the Redskins' only points of the night, with 9 minutes, 46 seconds left in the half.

Neshaminy	0	3	0	0	—	3
Norristown	7	10	7	0	—	24

NO: Carroll 46 run (Marano kick)

NE: FG Miller 27

NO: Carroll 23 run (Marano kick)

NO: FG Marano 24

NO: Hicks 37 pass from Nidosik (Marano kick)