

# Redskins smother Knights

Pat Carroll and the Neshaminy defense limited North Penn in the Skins' 23-14 win.

By Rick O'Brien

INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

LANGHORNE — Pat Carroll had heard the talk of Neshaminy High's defense possibly being the team's Achilles' heel this season.

Excluding a forfeit win over Bensalem, Neshaminy's defense had allowed 49 points in two games. The squad's offense, meanwhile, had racked up just enough points (56) to keep the Redskins undefeated heading into Friday night's Suburban One League National Conference Patriot Division showdown against North Penn.

"I think our defense was a little bit underrated," said Carroll, a senior inside linebacker. "We were definitely out to prove something against North Penn."

The 6-foot, 220-pound Carroll was involved in 11 tackles, including five solo stops, as Neshaminy held the visiting Knights scoreless in the second half and posted a 23-14 victory at Harry E. Franks Stadium.

The Redskins, the No. 2 team in The Inquirer's suburban rankings, improved to 4-0 overall, 3-0 in the conference. They are one of the early-season front-runners for a berth in the PIAA Class AAAA playoffs.

"We still have a long way to go, but I think we have a good chance at making the playoffs," Carroll said.

Carroll played in only one game last year. He broke his shin in Neshaminy's season-opening win over Father Judge.

"It was very frustrating to sit out the rest of the season," he said. "I spent most of my time in the weight room, trying to get ready for this year."

Carroll registered nine of his tackles in the second half as the Redskins limited North Penn (2-2 overall, 1-2 conference) to 7 rushing yards and sacked quarterback Dane Mengel Spurio four times in the fourth quarter.

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