

# Neshaminy's Brittingham is player of the year

By Todd Zolecki

INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

This is the quiet time. It is what the NCAA calls its dead period.

It means no college football coach can visit Neshaminy senior running back Jamar Brittingham.

And it means he can't visit them.

That is fine with Brittingham, because he knows the time for visits will come. Brittingham, the 6-foot-1, 190-pound running back who led the Redskins to the PIAA Class AAAA state championship this season, will have plenty of destinations from which to choose.

Brittingham, The Inquirer's Southeastern Pennsylvania football player of the year, lists Boston College, North Carolina, Pittsburgh, West Virginia and James Madison as his top five college choices.

Those are his top five schools at the moment. He also knows that could change. He still has not scheduled any official visits, which he will begin to take next month.

"I'm getting calls every night," he said of the college recruiters. "And everybody at school wants to know where I'm going."

This is why the schools are so interested.

Brittingham carried the ball 364 times for 2,585 yards (an average of 7.1 yards per carry) and 30 touchdowns this season.

In the state championship game against Woodland Hills — a team Western Pennsylvanians and many in the Eastern part of the state expected to whip the Redskins — Brittingham had 30 carries for 157 yards with two touchdowns. He also caught four passes for 96 yards and threw a 31-yard pass to wide receiver Keith Enns.

The Redskins won, 27-0, on a rain-soaked field at Hershey Park Stadium.

Brittingham, who is expected to be academically eligible to play next fall, according to Neshaminy head coach Mark Schmidt, looked like a major college player against Woodland Hills.

He made several long runs, including a 45-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter to seal the state-title victory.

Schmidt said other schools had expressed interest in Brittingham since they watched their games.

"I guess they were waiting for one big thing to kick in," he said. "That game threw a little gas on the fire."

Brittingham follows with strong state ties — that is, Penn State alumni — who know if the Nittany Lions are interested, it's because since last year, out to Virginia Tech last season in the Kevin Jones sweepstakes. With 5,728 yards, Jones was ranked first in the Division I/OHara as the Catholic League's all-time rushing leader.

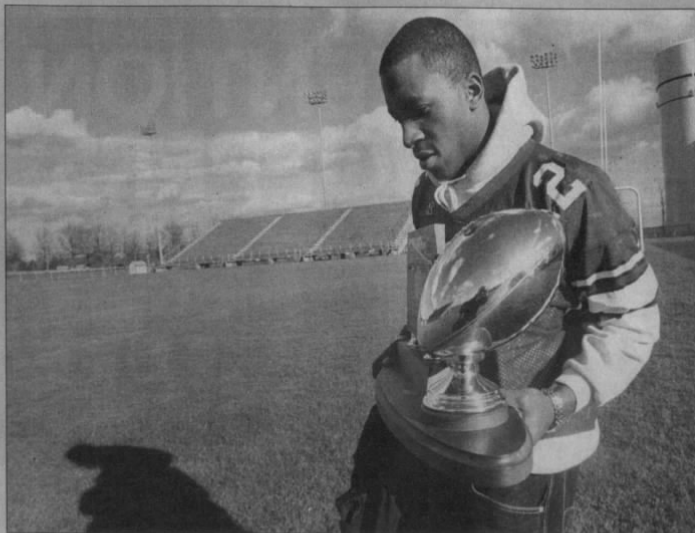
It appears as though Penn State is interested. "Coach [Joe] Paterno watched [tape of the Woodland Hills game] and he was awfully excited about it," Schmidt said. "[The State assistant coach] Fran Gantner expressed interest in [Brittingham] again, so I sent them some tape."

When asked if he has not been offered the Lions had not been more aggressive recruiting him early in the process, Brittingham said. "Not really. I can't control if people like me or not."

He said he would be interested in Penn State if the Lions would show interest in him.

Just the fact that he is in position to make a choice from among several strong programs is good news for Brittingham. "I've enjoyed it," Brittingham said of the recruiting experience.

## All-Southeastern Pennsylvania Football Team



Jamar Brittingham has helped to bring plenty of laurels back to Neshaminy this year, including the state-title trophy that the Redskins won against Woodland Hills.

### First-Team Offense

Player	School	Pos	HL	WT	Yr.	The Lowdown
Sam Hollenbach	Pennridge	QB	6-5	210	Sr.	In the wing-T, Hollenbach still threw for 1,260 yards with 14 touchdowns.
Jamar Brittingham	Neshaminy	RB	6-1	190	Sr.	Big 33 credentials? He had 364 carries for 2,585 yards and 30 touchdowns.
Kyle Ambrog	St. Joseph's Prep	RB	5-11	200	Sr.	He had 3,781 rushing yards and 43 touchdowns over the past two seasons.
Zack Pierce	St. Pius X	RB	5-11	210	Sr.	A Division I/AA recruit, he finished his career with 6,554 yards and 81 TDs.
Mike Bucella	Cardinal O'Hara	OL	6-3	295	Sr.	He paved the way for Kevin Jones and Anthony Hyogood the past two years.
Tang Sanders	Central	OL	6-5	280	Sr.	A second-team all-state selection, he recently made a commitment to Temple.
A.J. Mitchell	Downingtown	OL	6-3	295	Sr.	Syracuse and others are interested in the Whippers' star guard.
John Connors	St. Joseph's Prep	OL	6-3	275	Sr.	Strong blocker. Strong student. He turned down I-A offers to play for Harvard.
Justin Outten	Central Bucks West	OL	6-3	280	Sr.	The Syracuse recruit is one of the area's top run blockers.
John Hannum	Strath Haven	WR	6-0	160	Sr.	Will he stay with Notre Dame? He is a two-time first-team all-state selection.
Keith Enns	Neshaminy	WR	5-8	175	Sr.	A perfect complement to Brittingham, he made big plays at key moments.
Maurice Stovall	Archbishop Carroll	AP	6-5	205	Sr.	He scored 18 touchdowns; 9 catches, 4 punt returns, 5 interception returns.
Chris Schrader	Monsignor Bonner	PK	6-0	170	Jr.	He scored 33 points: seven field goals and 32 PATs.

### First-Team Defense

Player	School	Pos	HL	WT	Yr.	The Lowdown
Mike Malley	St. Joseph's Prep	DL	6-3	243	Sr.	On a team loaded with stars, he could be the Hawks' highest recruit.
Dave Quarintance	Archbishop Ryan	DL	6-5	275	Sr.	A first-team all-state selection, he has committed to Maryland.
Omarin Guilette	Glen Mills	DL	6-3	310	Sr.	A dominating run defender and first-team all-state pick, he'll play at Wake Forest.
Brandon Darlington	Downingtown	DL	6-5	260	Sr.	Wilcoxon, Miami and Syracuse are interested in this two-way performer.
Dan Connor	Strath Haven	LB	6-2	200	So.	A first-team all-state pick, he led a defense that allowed just 8.6 ppg.
Chase Bower	Conestoga	LB	6-3	215	Sr.	He came up big with 28 tackles in the Pioneers' final two playoff games.
Ryan Gors	George Washington	LB	5-11	205	Sr.	The Temple recruit led the Eagles to the Public League championship.
Erd Sabba	La Salle	LB	6-2	225	Sr.	Division I/AA schools are interested in this Catholic League Red pete.
Brandt Steinmetz	Pottsgrove	DB	5-9	180	Sr.	A talented defensive back, he also rushed for 2,314 yards at running back.
Kevin LeSage	Monsignor Bonner	DB	5-10	175	Sr.	A first-team all-state pick, he had four interceptions.
Kyle Bell	George Washington	DB	6-3	190	Sr.	Just as talented at receiver, Bell has interest from several Division I schools.
Brendan Carney	Malvern Prep	P	6-5	190	Sr.	The Syracuse recruit averaged 40 yards per punt.

### Second-Team Offense

Vince Gallagher	St. Joseph's Prep	QB	6-1	188	Sr.	Keary Packer	Archbishop Wood	DL	6-2	275	Sr.
Chris DeShields	Mashtaub	RB	5-10	195	Sr.	Boe Davis	Ben Franklin	DL	6-4	290	Sr.
Anthony Hyogood	Cardinal O'Hara	RB	6-1	190	So.	Y.J. Cascio	Malvern Prep	DL	5-11	215	Jr.
Chris Poindester	Northeast	RB	5-7	180	Sr.	Gene Rich	Central Bucks West	DL	6-1	275	Sr.
Colin Delaney	Pennridge	OL	6-5	285	Sr.	Jay Collins	Neshaminy	LB	5-11	225	Sr.
Jeff Miligan	Strath Haven	OL	6-1	225	Sr.	Maurice Bennett	George Washington	LB	5-10	220	Sr.
Ryan Nasa	Father Judge	OL	6-3	303	Sr.	Phil Plans	Springfield (Delco)	LB	6-3	210	Sr.
Joe Penon	Episcopal Academy	OL	6-5	290	Sr.	Mike Piciorowicz	North Catholic	LB	6-1	215	Sr.
Bob Welsh	North Penn	OL	6-1	275	Sr.	D.J. Driscoll	Malvern Prep	DB	6-3	190	Sr.
Pete Chorniak	St. Joseph's Prep	WR	6-2	191	Sr.	Desse Patterson	Cheltenham	DB	5-10	175	Sr.
Jim Lachman	St. Joseph's Prep	WR	6-3	199	Sr.	Brian Moore	Strath Haven	DB	5-11	172	Sr.
Bill McGlone	Hidley	AP	6-2	180	Sr.	Drew Maguire	Central Bucks East	P	6-0	190	Sr.
Pat Kaiser	St. Joseph's Prep	PK	5-9	186	Jr.						

— Todd Zolecki

He said he has a few shoeboxes full of letters, although he has had through out more lately because he did not want

the mess in my room." When it comes time for Brittingham to decide — the football signing period begins

Feb. 6 — he said he wanted to pick a school that simply was the best fit for him. "I know it's a big decision to

make," he said.

Todd Zolecki's e-mail address is tzolecki@phillynews.com.

CALL THE DAILY SPECIALIST  
Phone: 215-624-0222  
Fax: 215-624-0222