

Neshaminy back wins rival's respect

By Don Beideman

INQUIRER STAFF

Woodland Hills football coach George Novak was joking. He said he would ask officials if his team could put 12 players on the field against Neshaminy on Saturday when his squad meets the Redskins at HersheyPark Stadium for the PLAA Class AAAA championship.

After all, that way, Woodland Hills would have a better chance of containing Jamar Brittingham, the dangerous running back who has rushed for 2,415 yards and 29 touchdowns this season.

He also has 250 yards receiving, with two touchdowns.

But Novak wasn't joking when he said Saturday's game was just what a championship game should be, a meeting between the "two best teams in the state."

Woodland Hills advanced to the title game Saturday with a 34-0 victory over Altoona. Neshaminy clinched its spot with a 25-19 win over Cumberland Valley.

The Wolverines (14-0) have posted three straight undefeated regular seasons. In the last three seasons, the WPIAL AAAA champions are 39-2. The Pittsburgh-area school is also making its second visit to the Class AAAA championship game. The Wolverines lost to Downingtown in 1996.

Woodland Hills is led by 6-foot-2, 170-pound quarterback Steve Breaston, the recipient of more than 20 Division I scholarship offers. He directs the Wolverines' option offense. In the victory over Altoona, he ran for two touchdowns and threw for another.

Breaston ran for 90 yards on 15 carries. His scoring runs came from 18 and 10 yards out.

Michigan, Notre Dame, Pitt and Syracuse are among the schools pursuing Breaston.

"He hasn't even decided on his visits," Novak said. Breaston is considered a strong all-around athlete. "He's played basketball, baseball and run track," Novak said.

Breaston has rushed for 1,642 yards on 135 carries (12.2 yards per carry) this season, including 10 games in which he managed 100 yards or more.

The two-year starter has completed 31 passes for 550 yards and eight touchdowns. He's also

caught 11 passes for 200 yards.

"He can also play on defense wherever we need him, and he returns kicks for us," Novak said. "He doesn't kick off for us — not yet."

Breaston's primary targets are wide receivers Ryan Mundy, a 6-2, 200-pounder who doubles in the defensive backfield, and Brian Coleman, a 6-0, 156-pounder. Mundy has caught 11 passes for 200 yards and Coleman five for 99 yards.

Tailback Kareem Dutrieuille is the team's other top ballcarrier. He has rushed for 1,566 yards on 215 carries, an average of 7.3 yards per carry. Dutrieuille led all rushers with 103 yards on 13 carries Saturday. He also scored a TD.

Novak sees a lot of similarities in the two teams, although he said he did not know a lot about Neshaminy, only what he had read on the Internet and in the newspapers. The Wolverines watched the Redskins (14-0) on film this week.

"Neshaminy likes to play aggressive defense like we do," Novak said. "They have a great athlete in Brittingham. He can go inside or outside with his breakaway speed.

"He reminds me of a kid, Gerald Thompson, we had here in the early '90s. And their fullbacks do a great job for him. Our quarterback is more of a runner while their quarterback [Jason Water] is more of a passer."

Novak called the 6-1, 190-pound Brittingham the best back his team has seen this season.

Because the two teams didn't have a common opponent this season, Novak said he wasn't sure what to expect.

Woodland Hills may have a slight size advantage on offense with Brian Borgoyne (6-5, 290), Josh Bannister (6-0, 281), J.P. Diroll (6-2, 270) and Phil Hall (6-3, 290) along the offensive line. Miguel Lebron is the Redskins' only starting defensive lineman listed over 240.

"Neshaminy does a lot of good things," Novak said. "You know what they say: Defense wins championships. We have a no-name defense that plays well together. On offense, we'll just have to watch the turnovers."

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Neshaminy-Woodland Hills Probable Starting Lineups

Neshaminy Offense

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
8	Jason Water	QB	6-0	175	Sr.
27	Geoff Donahue	FB	6-2	225	Jr.
2	Jamar Brittingham	TB	6-1	190	Sr.
1	Keith Ennis	WR	5-8	175	Sr.
26	Mike Loveland	WR	5-11	170	Sr.
84	Scott Mullin	TE	6-4	220	Sr.
58	Ryan Contento	C	6-3	240	Sr.
52	Liam Kelly	LG	5-10	235	Sr.
67	Nick Feszko	RG	6-1	265	Sr.
76	Brad Gower	LT	6-1	230	Jr.
77	Steve Brett	RT	6-4	265	Sr.

Woodland Hills Defense

55	Doug Selman	DL	6-1	258	Sr.
93	Lonnie DeOrio	DL	6-1	236	Sr.
54	Vamon Little	DL	6-2	235	Sr.
87	Bill Ray	DL	6-6	225	Sr.
99	Rob Smiley	LB	6-0	190	Sr.
45	Larry Connely	LB	6-0	190	Sr.
34	Will Clarke	LB	5-10	182	Sr.
41	Bill Brown	CB	5-8	162	Sr.
23	Brad Lang	S	5-11	163	Sr.
21	Ryan Mundy	S	6-2	200	Jr.
26	Mike Nesby	CB	5-8	160	Sr.

Neshaminy Defense

27	Geoff Donahue	DE	6-2	225	Jr.
74	Miguel Lebron	DT	6-0	280	Sr.
5	Ryan van den Brand	DT	6-1	230	Sr.
36	Chuck Koch	DE	6-3	230	Sr.
22	Erik Pederson	LB	6-2	200	Jr.
33	Jay Collins	LB	5-11	225	Sr.
6	Pat Carroll	LB	6-1	225	Sr.
42	Austin Jones	LB	5-11	175	Sr.
1	Keith Ennis	CB	5-8	175	Sr.
2	Jamar Brittingham	CB	6-1	190	Sr.
13	Devon Swope	S	6-0	180	Jr.

Woodland Hills Offense

79	Brian Borgoyne	LT	6-5	290	Sr.
67	Josh Bannister	LG	6-0	281	Jr.
52	Mat Strauss	C	5-9	192	Sr.
69	J.P. Diroll	RG	6-2	270	Sr.
76	Phil Hall	RT	6-3	290	Jr.
84	Austin Novak	TE	6-3	233	Sr.
39	Doug Connor	FB	5-7	193	Sr.
42	Kareem Dutrieuille	LG	5-10	236	Sr.
21	Ryan Mundy	SB	6-2	200	Jr.
28	Brian Coleman	WR	6-0	156	Sr.
15	Steve Breaston	QB	6-2	170	Sr.

Neshaminy Specialists

96	Kevin Kelly	PK	5-7	150	Fr.
72	Bill Thomas	P	6-6	250	Jr.

Woodland Hills Specialists

8	Austin Novak	PK	6-3	233	Sr.
14	Tony Carr	P	5-11	174	Sr.