

Neshaminy rolls past Judge in opener, 45-28

By Rick O'Brien

INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

Neshaminy lost a boatload of starters from last year's PIAA Class AAAA state championship football team, so questions abounded going into this season.

The biggest question of all was whether the Redskins could fill the void left by the graduation of tailback Jamar Brittingham, who racked up 2,585 rushing yards and 32 touchdowns last year.

In last night's opener against visiting Father Judge, Neshaminy showed signs that it will again be a handful for oppo-

nents in the Suburban One League.

Spreading the ball among new varsity starters, the Redskins totaled 393 yards on offense and posted a 45-28 victory over the Crusaders at Harry E. Franks Stadium.

Devon Swope starred for Neshaminy. The 6-foot-1, 190-pound senior, used mostly on defense last season, caught two TD passes and returned a punt 57 yards for another TD.

"He's a terrific athlete," said Mark Schmidt, Neshaminy's coach. "He did exactly what we thought he was capable of doing."

Quarterback Joe Crostarosa,

a transfer from Council Rock, was mobile and accurate in his debut for Neshaminy. The senior completed 6 of 8 passes for 118 yards and two touchdowns.

"Joe did a nice job," Schmidt said. "He ran the offense well and made some good decisions."

Another key contributor for the Redskins, who went 15-0 last season and defeated Woodland Hills for their first state championship, was running back Cody Carlidge. The junior carried 12 times for 104 yards and two touchdowns.

Junior tailback Rodney Davis provided the spark in the first half, gaining 74 yards on 10 car-

ries. He sat out the second half with an injured ankle.

"We had a lot of young guys in there, guys that were playing at the varsity level for the first time," Schmidt said. "I was happy with their composure. They played with a lot of purpose, especially in the second half."

Swope's 32-yard, second-quarter touchdown reception gave Neshaminy a 14-7 advantage. Crostarosa spotted the fleet wideout cutting across the middle behind Judge's secondary and hit him in stride.

Swope's second touchdown catch, a 43-yarder early in the third quarter, broke the game

open. Maintaining his concentration after the ball had been tipped near the left sideline by cornerback Steve Halner, he snagged it and raced untouched into the end zone.

Father Judge	7	8	0	15	—	28
Neshaminy	7	14	10	14	—	45

N: Carlidge 16 run (Kelly kick)
FJ: Becht 1 run (Kocher kick)
N: Swope 32 pass from Crostarosa (Kelly kick)
N: Carlidge 40 run (Kelly kick)
FJ: Becht 2 run (kick failed)
N: Swope 43 pass from Crostarosa (Kelly kick)
N: FG Kelly 39
FJ: Becht 1 run (Berger pass from Curry)
N: Donahue 40 run (Kelly kick)
N: Swope 57 punt return (Kelly kick)
FJ: Flack 14 pass from Curry (Kocher kick)

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