

High Schools

Pennridge puts end to Neshaminy win streak

The Redskins had won 18 in a row. With a good mix of passing and running, the Rams beat them, 21-19.

By Joe Fite

FOR THE INQUIRER

Pennridge did last night what Neshaminy's last 18 football opponents had been unable to do. Beat the Redskins.

The Rams used strong passing and an equally strong running game to knock off the defending Class AAAA state champions, 21-19, in a Suburban One National Conference showdown at Neshaminy's Harry E. Franks Stadium.

The longest winning streak in the state now belongs to St. Joseph's Prep, which has won 13 straight.

Pennridge beat a traditional power for the third time this season. Previously, the Rams had knocked off Archbishop Carroll, the defending Catholic League Blue Division champion, and Central Bucks West.

After Neshaminy (3-1 overall, 0-1 Patriot Division) grabbed a

6-0 lead in the first quarter, Pennridge (3-1 overall, 1-0 Colonial Division) came on strong in the second quarter to take the lead.

But after the teams spent the night pushing each other up and down the field, it all came down to a field-goal attempt with two seconds left.

The Rams held a 21-12 lead after Ryan Shoultes broke through the middle of the Redskins' line for a 72-yard touchdown with 26 seconds left in the third quarter.

Neshaminy rebounded with a 12-play, 73-yard drive that end-

ed with a 1-yard scoring plunge by Geoff Donahue with 6 minutes, 3 seconds to go, cutting the Pennridge lead to 21-19.

After a 43-yard field-goal attempt by the Rams' Erik Walck fell short, the Redskins came back again.

Joe Crostarosa moved Neshaminy down the field with key passes to Jim Chapman for 17 yards and Devon Swope for 26 yards.

With the ball at the Pennridge 15 and two seconds left, Neshaminy sophomore Kevin Kelly lined up a 32-yard field-goal try.

The snap and hold were good, but the kick knuckled wide right.

Pennridge's offense was superb all night. Julius Myers completed 8 of 13 passes for 95 yards and two touchdowns. Meanwhile, the running attack was paced by Shoultes, who carried the ball 13 times for 115 yards — the first 100-yard rushing game for the Rams this season.

Myers was also a force on defense, tipping away a pair of passes and stopping a two-point conversion attempt by Crostaro-

sa that would have tied the score at 14 in the third quarter.

Myers' efforts blunted a fine performance by Crostarosa, who carried the ball seven times for 109 yards and completed 6 of 10 pass for 73 yards.

But the night belonged to Pennridge, so Neshaminy will look to start a new winning streak next week when it faces Harry S Truman.

Pennridge	0	7	14	0	—	21
Neshaminy	6	0	6	7	—	19

R: Chapman 11 pass from Crostarosa (kick failed)

P: Fox 3 pass from Myers (Walck kick)

P: Dameron 14 pass from Myers (Walck kick)

R: Crostarosa 58 run (run to loc)

P: Shoultes 72 run (Walck kick)

R: Donahue 1 run (Kelly kick)