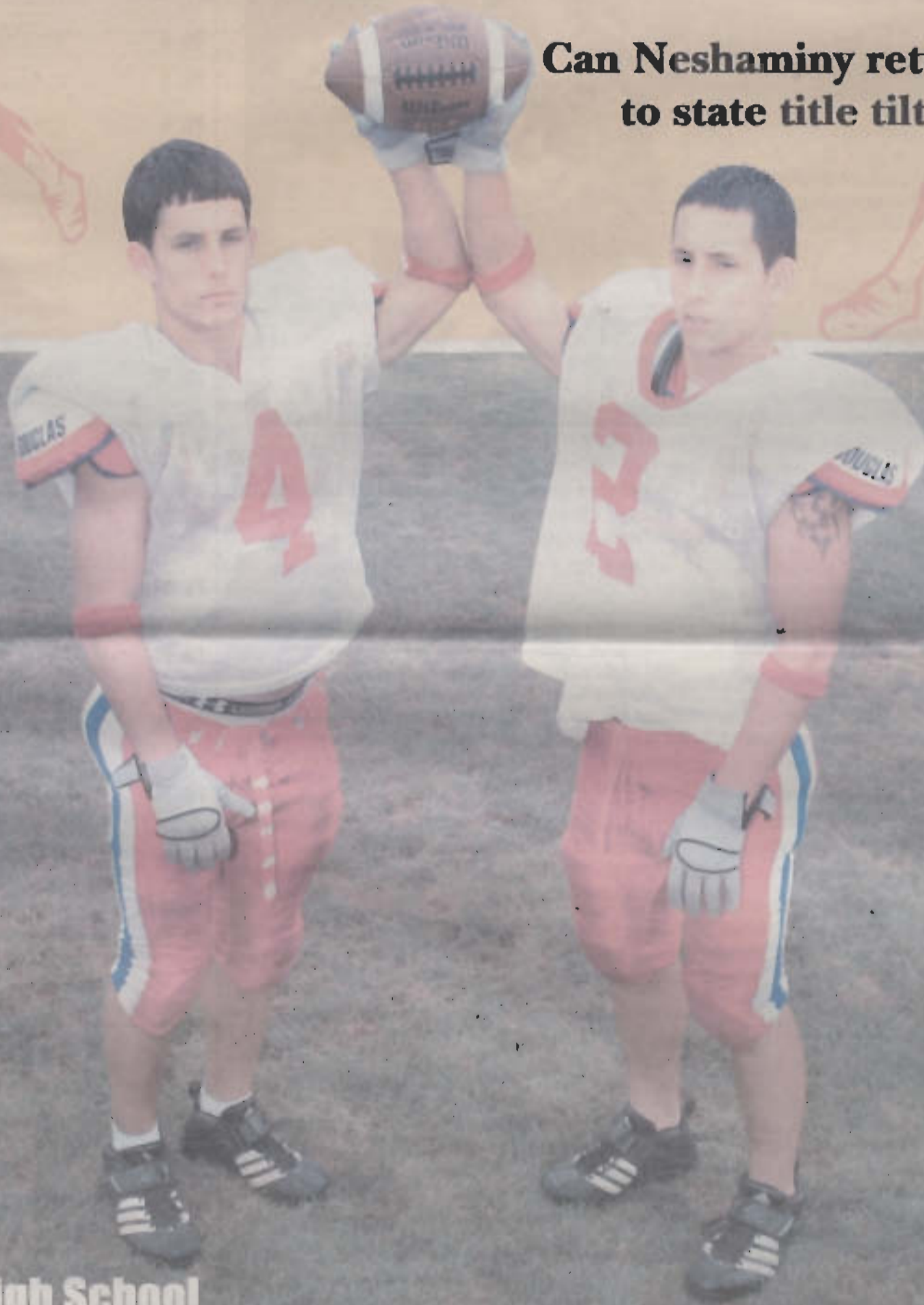


High School

Football

**Can Neshaminy return
to state title tilt?**



**15 Area High School
Football Teams
Featured Inside**

InterCounty Newspaper Group • www.AllAroundPhilly.com

The Advance • Yardley News • New Hope Gazette • Doylestown Patriot • Pennington Post • Bristol Pilot

NESHAMINY

Life on Neshaminy Gridiron Without Coleman, Kelly



Photo by JOHN GLEESON

Jarred Kinney led the Redskins to a 48-0 win over CB South in week three, compiling 230 yards rushing on 9 carries, reaching the end zone three times in the process.

Can Redskins get back to state title game?

By Steve Sherman
Sports Editor

While they may have lost their first string All Suburban One League (SOL) starting tailback, Neshaminy has the luxury of having their quarterback returning to the starting lineup for a second consecutive season.

While tailback George Coleman who amassed over 2,200 yards for the Redskins last year has moved on to the playing fields at Temple, quarterback Andrew Fogel is back calling the signals for the 'skins for yet another year.

In the dozen years that head coach Mark Schmidt has been at Neshaminy, that's only happened twice - in 1996-97 with Jimmy Deitz running the offense and in 2001-02 with Jason Whiter at the helm.

In 2004, Fogel completed more than 51 percent of the passes he threw last season (71-137) while having only seven of those balls picked off by the opponent.

"We're real excited to have a returning starter at quarterback," said Neshaminy assistant coach Steve Wilmot. "It's great having someone back there who's been battle-tested for 15 games."

Fogel passed the ball for over 990 yards last year, averaging nearly 14 yards per completion while striking the end zone 13 times.

Coleman accounted for 24 of Neshaminy's touchdowns last season while keeping the ball on the ground.

"George was a great back for us last year. As a player, he had a lot of different dimensions," explained Wilmot. "I won't say that it's not going to be difficult to replace him but we do have a plan in place.

"We have running backs, receivers and other types of backs that can do a lot of different things. We're look-

ing forward to utilizing them in our offense."

In replacing Coleman, Schmidt, Wilmot and company may have to look no further than Jared Kinney. Last season, Kinney posted 233 yards rushing on 20 carries for an average of 11.6 yards per carry.

While Kinney was penciled in as the starter before the commencement of the 2005 season, he faced stiff competition for that role from juniors Kit Anderson and Mike Eilershaw.

Another huge hole to fill this season for Neshaminy is at kicker. Former PK Kevin Kelly has moved on to Penn State. Kelly was 10-for-17 on field goals last year, including a couple of kicks that were game winners. On extra points, he was perfect, making all 58 PATs. Fifty of his 80 kickoffs (62.5%) for the 'skins went for touchbacks.

Taking Kelly's place at kicker this year is senior Dennis Curran. Wilmot believes the 12th-grader will do well at the position. "Dennis had a great season last year at the JV level; that's almost unheard of," said Wilmot. "He's improved his skills since last year. We think he'll be ready to go."

The Redskins are coming off their best season since 2001 when they captured the PIAA Class 4A state football championship.

After going 9-1 (SOL: 6-1) during the regular season, Neshaminy came within a whisker of taking the SOL-National crown. Only an October overtime loss to North Penn prevented them from winning what is considered the league's toughest conference.

In the postseason, Neshaminy posted hard fought district playoff wins over CB West and Coatesville. A 16-yard scamper by Coleman capped off a 38-34 win over the Bucks. Dominic Cundari's 1-yard plunge was the game-winner in a 20-point comeback victory over the Red Raiders.

They'd face defending state champion North Penn in the district finale. Surely, the Knights, with a year's experience of playoff football under their belts, would unravel the Neshaminy faithful's hopes of returning the state crown to Langhorne.

Facing a North Penn squad that was missing starting quarterback Adam Hearn and seven defensive starters, suspended from playing for their involvement in a summertime brawl with members of the CB West football team, the 'skins went out and dismantled the Knights in a wild and woolly contest, 51-34.

"I'd have to say the coaches were not surprised that we did as well as we did [in the postseason] last year," stated Wilmot. "We knew we had some weapons going in. We preached to the kids the need to get better each week. To their credit the kids did get better each week as the season went along."

The semifinal win over Easton was another wild affair. The Red Rovers tied the battle at 14-apiece with only 3:12 remaining. Neshaminy responded with a 24-yard TD pass from Fogel to Coleman. The 'skins needed a goal line interception from Cundari to preserve the win.

Neshaminy was annihilated in the state finale with Pittsburgh Central Catholic, the No. 6 ranked team in the nation. The Vikings posted 35-0 lead in the first

SCHEDULE

Neshaminy Football 2005 Redskins

2004 Record: 13-2

Fri., Sept. 2: St. Joe's Prep: L (28-14)

Fri., Sept. 9: Archbishop Ryan: W (47-18)

Fri., Sept. 16: Central Bucks South: W (48-0)

Fri., Sept. 23: at Abington

Fri., Sept. 30: Truman 7 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 7: at Pennridge 7 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 14: at Council Rock North 7 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 22: North Penn* 2 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 28: Bensalem 7 p.m.

Fri., Nov. 4: at Pennsbury** 7 p.m.

* Homecoming

** Senior Night

half, on their way to a 49-14 victory and an unbeaten season (16-0).

While Pittsburgh had been there before, losing to North Penn in the state finale the previous year, Neshaminy started 15 underclassmen in the contest.

With that experience under their belts, the Redskins are hoping the knowledge gained from their state playoff run last season pays dividends in 2005 as they attempt to make another run to gridiron glory.



Photo by JOHN GLEESON

Kit Anderson sweeps around the end for big yardage. Neshaminy will look to Anderson to supplement the territory gained by fellow halfback Jarred Kinney.