

It's been a blood-boiling few weeks for Pennridge

Comment

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touchdown pass on fourth-and-10 in the final minute — clearly showed that Dunn had ventured over the line of scrimmage.

But wait! Further viewing of the game film shows a West lineman clearly downfield on Dunn's winning TD pass to Eric Matje.

But wait! The same film shows that Ryan Greiser stepped out of bounds before time had run out after taking a long pass from Blair Dameron, meaning that the Rams should have gotten one last crack at pulling out a win.

The guys in Pennridge green were still seeing red a week later, so much in fact, that they have filed a protest with the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, sending a letter, a Power Point

presentation and a video to the PIAA powers-that-be.

What does Pennridge coach Jeff Hollenbach expect will come of his school's decision? Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

"At this point, what it is is a formal protest by the principle [Tom Creeden] to the PIAA," Hollenbach said. "Really, in the bigger picture, as far as I'm concerned, it's water over the dam."

While the first two snafus would have given the Rams a third straight win over West, Hollenbach admitted that his kids weren't quite sharp enough — not as sharp, certainly, as they had been in a season-opening 33-6 drubbing of C.B. East.

"We should have put the game away earlier," he confessed. "We definitely should

have done that, no question about it."

If nothing else, the West debacle got Pennridge mad. I'm not sure if that was Hollenbach's primary purpose for the protest, but it served his cause well, because the Rams went out and obliterated previously-unbeaten Pennsbury, 28-7, on the Falcons' home turf.

"For them to take the hour bus down there and play as well as they did against a really explosive, very fast team like that was huge," Hollenbach said. "The kids played really well. I'm very proud of them."

Which brings us to this week's home game with Neshaminy, which is probably Pennridge's fourth "game of the year" in as many weeks.

A year ago, the Redskins were the defending state

champs and were playing at home. Pennridge stunned them which ended the state's longest 4A win streak.

If you're thinking Neshaminy is focusing on paybacks, you're not alone.

But in perfect harmony in an already mixed-up Ram football season, nothing is as simple as it seems.

Neshaminy, after all, might have been caught looking ahead. Bad career move, because unheralded Abington shocked the 'Skins in 28-21 fashion last week. At the time, Neshaminy was ranked third in the state by the Harrisburg Patriot-News.

Beyond that, Neshaminy football coach Mark Schmidt has been handed a three-week suspension without pay by the district for unspecified conduct

concerning the team.

A win this Friday would give Pennridge a 3-1 mark going into the season's toughest test, a Sept. 25 meeting with top-rated North Penn.

Then again, who knows? Neshaminy may come in seeking revenge for last year and for last week, or the Redskins may buckle without Schmidt on the sidelines.

"There are no guarantees," Hollenbach said. "I reminded our kids about last year. They certainly have a lot of paybacks in mind. We're just challenging our kids to look at it as a playoff game."

Which makes it about the fourth in the first four weeks of what is already a wacky 2003 grid season.

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Another week, another issue. If nothing else, the current football season hasn't been boring at Pennridge.

Less than a week ago, the Rams were still stinging from a tight loss to Central Bucks West, a defeat that Pennridge maintained was as much due to poor officiating as it was to improved play by the host Bucks.

Leading most of the way, the Rams watched as West rallied for a last-minute 26-21 victory.

But wait! Game film of the final play — a Kevin Dunn