

# TALE OF THE TAPE: Pennridge at Neshaminy, 7 tonight

Two of the area's premier running backs, Pennridge's Ryan Greiser and Neshaminy's George Coleman, will showcase their talents in front of an expected overflow crowd at Neshaminy's Harry E. Franks Stadium. For one of these undefeated teams, it truly will be Heart-break Ridge.

## At stake

Pennridge, ranked No.1 in Southeastern Pennsylvania by *The Inquirer*, visits No. 5 Neshaminy in a key Suburban One League National Conference game. With a win, the Rams would all but clinch a top seeding in the PIAA District 1 Class AAAA playoffs. If the Redskins pull off the upset, only North Penn (Oct. 22) stands in the way of a league title.

## Records

Pennridge: 5-0, 2-0 Suburban One National Conference.  
Neshaminy: 5-0, 2-0.

## Coaches

Pennridge: Jeff Hollenbach (eighth year, 68-22 record);  
Neshaminy: Mark Schmidt (10th year, 59-39).

## Last year's meeting

In overtime, Pennridge beat Neshaminy, 24-21. The host Rams overcame a 14-0 halftime deficit.

## Prime-time players

**Pennridge:** Greiser, a speedy and powerful running back, has carried the ball 93 times for 1,039 yards (11.2 yards per



JERRY LODRIGUSS / Inquirer Staff Photographer

**Pennridge's Ryan Greiser** is tough on defense, here upending North Penn running back Shane Gallagher in a 35-27 Rams' win Sept. 23. But it is on offense where Greiser is the most dangerous.

carry) and 13 touchdowns. The 6-foot-1, 210-pound senior also has nine receptions for 145 yards and two scores.

**Neshaminy:** Coleman has rushed 98 times for 699 yards (7.1 yards per carry) and nine TDs. With his quickness, the 6-foot, 180-pound senior also is a dangerous return man. He has returned a kickoff (90 yards) and punt (65) for scores.

## Others to watch

**Pennridge:** The Rams, who average 33.6 points per game, also feature fullback Dave Cressman and halfback Dave Hollenbach. In his two starts at quarterback, junior Blake Hughes has shown a good

understanding of the wing-T offense.

**Neshaminy:** With a big-play offense, the Redskins average 35 points a game. Dominic Cundari, Josh Auerbach and Abe Brooks rotate at fullback. Quarterback Andrew Fogel throws quick slant passes to a handful of wideouts. Placekicker Kevin Kelly, a January I-A recruit, is a major weapon.

## Defenses

**Pennridge:** After allowing 31 points in the opener against Hatboro-Horsham, the Rams have played much better on defense. The leaders have been end Jon Small, tackle

Phil Godshall and outside linebacker Jared Virlinson. Teams have had difficulty blocking Greiser, a strong safety often positioned at the line of scrimmage.

**Neshaminy:** Eight of the 11 starters are juniors. The unit has yielded only seven points per game and notched two shutouts. Much of the success has been due to the front four. Tom McEowen and Scott Schiavo are the tackles; Auerbach and Chris Daino are the ends.

## Analysis

The key for Pennridge is to control the ball and the clock. Since Neshaminy has the strong tacklers needed to keep Greiser from rushing for 200-plus yards, the Rams likely will have to go to the air more. How Hughes responds to an increased role will be critical to the outcome. Neshaminy needs another big effort from Coleman. If the ground attack sputters at all, the heat will be on Fogel. And, against a powerful opponent, the Redskins do not want to rely heavily on a sophomore QB.

## The pick

Greiser scores three touchdowns and Pennridge wins, 28-17.

— Rick O'Brien

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