

Redskins' Coleman has star support

By Rick O'Brien

INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

Last season, when he played wide receiver for Neshaminy High, George Coleman got valuable tips from someone whose primary job is to shut down receivers. And he's quite good at it.

Coleman and Champ Bailey, a cornerback for the Denver Broncos and a sixth-year NFL player, are second cousins.

"He told me how important it is to keep a defensive back from jamming you at the line of scrimmage," Coleman said. "You have to be the one to get the early advantage."

The 6-foot-2, 190-pound Bailey played with the Washington Redskins for five seasons before being traded to Denver for running back Clinton Portis. Coleman attended three games at FedEx Field last year.

"Champ is a great player," Coleman said. "He's not as tall or big as most of the receivers he plays against, but he can stick with all of them."

For Neshaminy (3-0), Coleman has switched to running back this season. The 6-foot-180-pound senior carried the ball 18

times for 187 yards and two touchdowns as the Redskins topped visiting Central Bucks South, 28-7, Friday in a non-league contest.

Coleman scored on runs of 45 and 3 yards. "He's quick, but he's also not afraid to go in there and mix it up," Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt said. "He'll put his shoulder down and break some tackles."

Through three games, Coleman has rushed 64 times for 433 yards (6.8 yards per carry) and four TDs. In the season-opening win against Father Judge, he returned the opening kickoff 90 yards for a score.

Coleman, who earned second-team all-league honors as a receiver last season, was a running back in youth leagues and for Carl Sandburg Middle School in Levittown. "I'm most comfortable playing running back," he said. "It's the position I've played most of my life."

Coleman, a three-year varsity member, has received recruiting interest from Rutgers, Temple, Delaware and Hofstra. Schmidt can see the 17-year-old senior slot receiver at the next

Southeastern Pennsylvania Football Top 10

Team	Record	Comment
1. Penndridge	3-0	Free safety/kick returner Shane Tobin has played a leading role.
2. Cardinal O'Hara	3-0	The Lions made a big statement by beating North Penn in overtime.
3. North Penn	2-1	Can the Knights rebound and beat Penndridge on three days' rest?
4. Conestoga	3-0	With a strong air attack, the Pioneers average 38 points a game.
5. George Washington	2-0	Jerry Butler has averaged 7.3 yards per carry and scored three TDs.
6. Ridley	3-0	The Green Raiders' defense has yielded just eight points per game.
7. Coatesville	3-0	The Red Raiders have been sparked by speedy tailback C.J. Gray.
8. St. Joseph's Prep	1-2	Receiver/linebacker Steve Quinn has orally committed to Penn St.
9. Neshaminy	3-0	Juniors Tom McEowen and Chris Daino lead the front four.
10. Downingtown East	3-0	Pat Devlin passed for 267 yards in an easy win over Elizabethtown.

Under consideration (listed alphabetically): Abington (2-1), Hatboro-Horsham (2-1), Malvern Prep (1-0), West Catholic (3-0), West Chester East (2-1).

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level. "He knows how to make something happen after catching the ball," the coach said.

Showdown. Penndridge, ranked No. 1 in Southeastern Pennsylvania by The Inquirer, will host third-ranked North Penn on Thursday. The squads are expected to vie for the Suburban One National Conference title.

The Rams (3-0) easily beat visiting Monsignor Bonner, 35-13, on Friday; the Knights (2-1) were nipped by second-ranked Cardinal O'Hara, 21-20, in overtime yesterday.

North Penn, which had a 17-game winning streak snapped by the Lions, has allowed nine points a game.

"Defensively, they're really

coach Jeff Hollenbach said.

The Rams are led on offense by senior halfback Ryan Greiser. Against Bonner, he carried 20 times for 295 yards and four touchdowns.

Greiser became the school's all-time leading rusher in Friday's win. His career total is 2,651. Jason Rhoades (Class of 2001) held the mark of 2,495.

Also, the 295 yards he piled up against Bonner was a school single-game record. The old mark of 280 was set in 1953 by Ken Hager.

North Penn spreads the ball around on offense, using up to six running backs. Quarterback Adam Hearn and tailback Shane Gallagher lead the attack.

Said Hollenbach: "Their phis-

you off the ball and play power football. We're going to try to beat them with our quickness."

Messy loss. Haverford School turned the ball over four times on botched center-to-quarterback exchanges and lost to visiting Chestnut Hill Academy, 6-0, in a nonleague game Saturday.

"The rain was a factor, but you can't let that happen," third-year coach Rob Allman said. "The four fumbles killed us."

The Fords (1-1) controlled the ball for most of the third quarter, but could not score. The Blue Devils (1-1) made a first-quarter score stand up.

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