

High School Sports **EXTRA**

Suburban One National:

North Penn 29, Neshaminy 7

Ervin leads payback win for Knights

The senior running back broke loose for 215 yards and three TDs on 20 carries in the romp.

By Jeff McLane

INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dick Beck was trekking in the mud back to his team, huddled together after the game.

As he neared his jubilant players, the North Penn coach picked up the pace, started cheering, jumped into the circle and was mobbed by his players.

"Trotting in slow-motion — the only time he would on the Knight's Crawford Stadium field — Tyrece Ervin was next.

But the senior running back casually joined the celebration with the same nonchalance in which he torched Neshaminy.

In a break-out performance, Ervin exploded for 215 yards and three touchdowns on 20 carries as North Penn unleashed a payback 29-7 win over rival Neshaminy last night in a pivotal Suburban One League National game.

In last season's regular-season meeting, Neshaminy slaughtered North Penn, 44-14. This time, the Knights were quicker, stronger and more efficient.

"This was a huge win for us," Beck said. "We're two wins away from winning the league

championship and that's our only focus right now."

North Penn (6-2 overall, 4-0 league), ranked sixth in *The Inquirer's* Southeastern Pennsylvania Top 10, now has a one-game lead over Pennsbury, a team it already beat three weeks ago. Only Truman and Central Bucks South stand in their way.

Ervin, a 5-foot-8, 175-pound burner, is a sure bet to give those two teams fits. He was in Neshaminy's hair and defensive backfield the entire game.

"I feel 100 percent now," said Ervin.

Ervin missed the first game of the season with a sprained ankle and played sparingly the next week, both surprising losses for the defending District 1 champions. But the Knights have now reeled off six straight.

"Tyrece is 100 percent healthy," said Beck, explaining the marked difference, "and our offensive line is much, much improved."

Indeed, the Knights' O-line bullied the Redskins up and down the field to the tune of 336 yards rushing. The front five consist of Shaun Moore, Kyle Tillger, Andrew Craig, Adam Solley and Jason Vollmar.

After a scoreless first quarter, Neshaminy had second-and-goal on North Penn's 5-yard line, but quarterback Andrew



North Penn quarterback Kyle Fesler (14, bottom) is buried under a pile of Neshaminy defenders in the first quarter of the showdown.

Flogel threw an interception in the end zone to Ervin, also a safety extraordinaire.

The Knights took that turnover and raced 80 yards in seven plays, capped by a 5-yard TD run by Ervin.

"That [interception] turned the whole game around," said Beck.

"I remembered last year's loss," Ervin said. "I took it personally."

Neshaminy	0	0	0	7	7
North Penn	0	14	15	0	29

NP: Ervin 88 run (McManus kick)
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 NP: Akiba 80 pass from Fesler (Swehlan pass from Lovato)
 N: Ulmer 3 run (Wieder kick)

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Fesler fakes a handoff to Tyrece Ervin (7) in the first quarter. Ervin had 215 yards and scored three TDs.

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