

Prep bounces Neshaminy, 16-6

The larger Hawks controlled the line of scrimmage and gave Redskins QB Fogel fits.

By Jeff McLane
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The hurricane known as St. Joseph's Prep swept into "Heart-break Ridge" yesterday and tossed the undersized Neshaminy Redskins around like uprooted saplings.

At a soaked Neshaminy's Harry Franks Stadium, the Hawks stormed the Redskins and their quarterback Andrew Fogel, 16-6, in a game much more lopsided than the score indicates.

Pushed up 5½ hours to avoid tropical depression Ernesto, yesterday's season opener between two area powerhouses was played as if it were in a whirlwind.

Penalties, fumbles and interceptions marred what was otherwise a commanding performance by the Prep (1-0), The Inquirer's No. 1-ranked team.

The Hawks' offensive line ripped open holes for speedy running back Jamir Livingston (126 yards on 23 carries), while its defensive front harassed Fogel into one of his lesser outings.

The senior quarterback was sacked six times, threw two interceptions — one returned for a touchdown — and fumbled once. With starting tailback Kitt Anderson out with a sore foot, Fogel took the brunt. His numbers: 18 carries for 20 yards and 4-of-9 passing for 52 yards.

"He's a warrior," said Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt. "He was battling till the last play."

As was Neshaminy (0-1), The Inquirer's No. 4-ranked team, despite its youth and inferior size. The Hawks' offensive line averages 260 pounds a player, while the Redskins are around 220 per player.



St. Joseph's Prep's Jamir Livingston (26) squirts through the line for a gain in the first half. Livingston gained 126 yards on 23 carries. HIRSH SCHUMAN / Inquirer/Suzanne Staff

"We're not so big," Schmidt said. "We're tough, but we were overmatched up front."

The Prep front four, led by senior Jeff Battipaglia (two sacks, a tackle for a loss and a fumble recovery) almost never allowed the option-loving Fogel to escape the backfield. And when he did, Prep linebacker Neil Doogan ran him down.

"We got a lot of penetration," said Doogan, who was used as a spy on Fogel. "We have some big boys up front. That opens up a lot for us as linebackers."

The game began and ended with a steady drizzle, but a hard rain fell on the Redskins when Prep quarterback Chris Whitney escaped a few would-be tacklers and tossed a strike to Brian Brinkman for a 60-yard touchdown in the second quarter.

"It was originally a fly, but Brinkman broke his route off and came back," said Whitney, who also had an interception at safety.

Neshaminy had done a fine job of containing Whitney to

that point and did so for most of the game, but Livingston torched the Redskins. He did the bulk of carrying (7 for 32 yards) on a field goal-producing drive before the half.

The Prep extended its lead to 16-0 early in the third quarter, when tackle Ryan Haber pressured Fogel into dumping a pass right into the hands of Ryan McGinn, who returned the pick 16 yards for a TD.

On Neshaminy's lone scoring drive, a personal-foul penalty by the Hawks — 1 of 9 on the

day — opened the way for Mike Ellerstab's 55-yard TD jaunt.

With more than 10 minutes still remaining, there was some light/life, but the Prep milked a drive, and the Redskins could never get their offense motorizing on their last possession.

St. Joseph's Prep	8	10	0	0	—	18
Neshaminy	0	0	0	6	—	6
S.J. Brinkman 60 yard pass from Whitney (Edger kick)						
S.J. Fog 32						
S.J. McGinn 16 yard interception return (Edger kick)						
N Ellerstab 55 yard run (Donnan kick)						

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