

# C.B. East edges Neshaminy

The Patriots needed overtime and a new trick play to post the win over the Redskins, 19-16.

By Rick O'Brien

INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

A new play that worked to perfection and a surprise development highlighted yesterday's football matchup between Central Bucks East and Neshaminy.

For East, a play that coaches installed into the offense just last week proved to be the difference in the thrilling Suburban One League Patriot Division opener for both teams.

Bill McDonnell, the starting quarterback, caught an 8-yard touchdown pass from running back James Bowes as the visiting Patriots topped the Redskins, 19-16, in overtime at Harry E. Franks Stadium.

The winning call: "Bill-left-67 fade."

Operating out of the shotgun, Bowes was the quarterback on both of East's overtime plays. On the first, he ran for a 2-yard gain. Then, with McDonnell flanked to the left, Bowes lobbed the winning pass to the lanky junior.

"We just put in that play this week," said McDonnell, who completed 7 of 11 passes for 91 yards and a touchdown. "I'm glad we got to use it."

McDonnell, 6-foot-4 and 190 pounds, outreached cornerback Taylor Sammy, a 5-8, 150-pounder.

"James put a good ball up there, and I had the size advantage on the defender," McDonnell said.

Following a 33-6 defeat to Pennridge in its opener, East has reeled off five straight victories. With a 5-1 record, the Patriots are in position to earn a berth in the PIAA Class AAAA sub-regional playoffs.

"After that first loss, we couldn't do anything but get better," said East coach Larry Greene, whose squad went 3-7



LAURENCE KESTERSON / Inquirer Suburban Staff

Neshaminy's George Coleman is dragged down by Central Bucks East's Bryan Reilly in the second quarter. Nine of Neshaminy's points came on field goals by Kevin Kelly, including a 52-yarder.

overall and 1-3 in the Patriot Division last season.

Surprisingly, Mark Schmidt returned as Neshaminy's coach after a two-game absence. Suspended by the school district for an undisclosed reason, Schmidt said last month that he expected to miss three games.

Neshaminy athletic director Sheila Murphy said that the suspension was for "15 working days" and, since it began on Sept. 15, Schmidt — who is a physical education teacher at the high school — was eligible to coach yesterday.

"It was three weeks of teaching," Murphy said of the suspension. "So it was over on Friday."

Even with their fiery leader,

the Redskins (3-3, 0-1) lost their second overtime game of the season and are now a long shot to qualify for the playoffs for a third straight year.

Though frustrated by the costly defeat, Schmidt said: "It was great being around the kids again. I'm thrilled to be back."

Thanks to an 8-yard touchdown pass from McDonnell to Bowes and a 26-yard field goal by Brian Trymbiski, the Patriots had a 10-0 lead midway through the second quarter.

Neshaminy battled back, tying the game early in the third quarter on Dominic Cundari's 1-yard TD plunge.

East appeared to have a victory in hand when Trymbiski

drilled a 22-yard field goal with one minute, 16 seconds to play. But with pass completions of 20 and 19 yards, the Redskins gave Kevin Kelly, their strong-legged kicker, a chance to tie the contest with 12 seconds left. The junior delivered from 52 yards out.

|                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Central Bucks East | 7 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 6 | — | 19 |
| Neshaminy          | 0 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 3 | — | 16 |

O/C: Bowes 8 pass from McDonnell (Trymbiski) 26

O/C: FG Trymbiski 22

N FG-Kelly 40

N Cundari 1 run (Kelly kick)

O/C: FG Trymbiski 22

N FG-Kelly 52

N FG-Kelly 22

O/C: McDonnell 8 pass from Bowes (no attempt)

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Mark Schmidt was back on the sidelines for Neshaminy.