



LINDA JOHNSON / Inquirer Suburban Staff

Pennridge's David Cressman (left) finds his path blocked by Neshaminy's Marty Potoczny. Cressman's 14-yard touchdown run in the fourth period pulled the Rams ahead briefly before Neshaminy tied it and sent the game to overtime.

Pennridge wins on clutch FG

Jason Friel's 21-yard kick in OT lifted the Rams to a comeback victory over Neshaminy, 24-21.

By Rick O'Brien

INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

Whether it's trying to stop a penalty kick in soccer or attempting a game-winning field goal, Jason Friel says he is not the type to get overly nervous.

"I live for pressure. I have no problem with it," said Friel, a senior and first-year member of the Pennridge football squad.

One of his teammates told a slightly different story shortly after Friel drilled a 21-yard field goal in overtime to lift the Rams past Neshaminy, 24-21, yesterday at Poppy Yoder Field.

"He told me he was shaking before he kicked it," Tom Cressman said. "But he got it through. That's [what] matters."

Friel, a goalkeeper and captain in soccer, sent his kick into the right upright and the Rams began celebrating a come-from-behind win. Pennridge trailed, 14-0, at halftime of the Suburban One League National Conference cross-division thriller.

"This is one of the best comeback wins we've had in the seven years I've been here," Pennridge coach Jeff Hollenbach said.

Neshaminy, ranked No. 8 in Southeastern Pennsylvania by The Inquirer, nearly triumphed without head coach Mark Schmidt. The fiery leader was suspended for three games last week by the school district for an undisclosed reason.

Showing support for Schmidt, many Neshaminy players had white tape wrapped around their left or right wrist, with "Coach Schmidt" or "Coach" written in black.

"He's helped shape the lives of these kids," Neshaminy assistant Steve Wilmot said. "They miss him."

Wilmot, normally the offensive line coach, handled many on-field decisions. He was assisted by Jay Weidenbaugh, John Quina, Roger Grove and Eric Deitz, among others.

Wilmot said he and Schmidt met at Wilmot's house Friday to discuss the game plan. Schmidt cannot attend practices or games, but is allowed to commu-



Neshaminy running back Rodney Davis, who had an 80-yard TD run on the second play of the game, is caught from behind by Pennridge's Tom Cressman. Neshaminy's Andy Marino (72) follows the play.

nicate with his assistants.

On the second play of the game, Neshaminy tailback Rodney Davis (154 yards on 19 carries) escaped for an 80-yard touchdown. Then, just before the first quarter ended, quarterback Stu Madden hit wideout George Coleman with a short pass over the middle. Coleman turned it into a 63-yard score.

It was a different Pennridge team after intermission. The Rams (3-1), produced three straight TDs to take a 21-14 lead with 2 minutes, 11 seconds left.

Cressman, a senior halfback and safety, tied the game at 14 early in the fourth quarter

when he faked a run to the left and tossed a 24-yard pass to wideout Kevin White.

David Cressman, a sophomore halfback and Tom's brother, scored the go-ahead TD on a 14-yard rumble through the heart of Neshaminy's defense.

With junior halfback Ryan Greiser sidelined because of a shoulder injury, senior fullback Ryan Shoultes rushed 11 times for 117 yards. The Cressman brothers combined for 49 yards on 23 carries.

Led by Madden (15 for 23, 260 yards), the Redskins (2-2) forced overtime with 28 seconds left in the fourth quarter. Madden and

wideout Cyrus Wesley hooked up for a 47-yard score.

Neshaminy had possession first in overtime. But the Rams, sacking Madden and recovering a fumble on a third-and-goal play from the 20-yard line, kept the visitors from scoring.

Neshaminy	14	0	7	0	—	21	
Pennridge	0	0	7	14	3	—	24
N. Davis 80 run (Kelly kick)							
N. Coleman 63 pass from Madden (Kelly kick)							
P. Shoultes 20 pass from Madden (Friel kick)							
P. Abble 24 pass from T. Cressman (Friel kick)							
P. D. Cressman 14 run (Friel kick)							
N. Wesley 47 pass from Madden (Kelly kick)							
P. Friel FG 21							

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