

SUBURBAN ONE LEAGUE

He's got the numbers — except for height



Quarterback Andrew Fogel's 5-foot-10 height, considered too short by major colleges, has not kept him from posting a 23-4 record.

By Rick O'Brien
INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

In two seasons as Neshaminy's starting quarterback, Andrew Fogel has passed for 2,147 yards and rushed for 1,072. Moreover, he has guided the Redskins to an impressive 23-4 record.

From those numbers, one would think at least one Division I-A college would have already offered Fogel, who begins his senior season tomorrow night against St. Joseph's Prep, a scholarship offer.

But when it comes to quarterbacks, most big-time college programs want a signal-caller who stands at least 6-foot-3. Division I-AA schools are not as picky, but likewise prefer a taller quarterback.

"It's huge," Council Rock North coach Mike Ortman said of the priority colleges put on size when it comes to QBs. "I think 6-3 or 6-4 is the magic number."

At 5-10 and 190 pounds, Fogel knows he is not even on the radar screen of schools like Penn State, Notre Dame and Miami. "It's definitely a disadvantage," the 18-year-old from Levittown said. "You just have to deal with it the best way you can."

Fogel is one of three highly talented but undersized senior quarterbacks in the Suburban One League. When it comes to recruiting, Plymouth Whitmarsh's Lance Wilson (6-0, 190) and Central Bucks South's Storm Miller

Neshaminy QB Andrew Fogel is a proven winner, but colleges aren't calling.

2005 Standings

SUBURBAN ONE LEAGUE			Overall	
National Conference	W	L	W	L
x-Neshaminy	7	0	10	2
North Penn	6	1	12	2
Pennsbury	5	2	8	3
Abington	3	4	7	5
Pennridge	3	4	7	5
Council Rock North	2	5	6	6
Harry S Truman	1	6	5	7
Berks	1	6	2	9
x-division champion				

Continental Conference			Overall	
W	L	W	L	
x-Central Bucks East	7	0	10	2
Souderton	5	2	9	3
William Tennant	4	3	7	4
Hatboro-Horsesham	4	3	6	6
Quakertown	3	4	4	8
Council Rock South	3	4	5	6
Northtown	2	5	6	5
Central Bucks South	0	7	1	9
x-division champion				

American Conference			Overall	
W	L	W	L	
x-Plymouth Whitmarsh	7	0	8	3
Washrick	5	2	6	4
Cheltenham	4	3	6	6
Upper Dublin	4	3	4	7
Upper Merion	3	4	6	5
Central Bucks West	3	4	3	7
Upper Merion	2	5	3	7
Metuchen	0	7	0	11
x-division champion				

(6-1, 180) face the same obstacles.

To get the most out of Fogel, a dangerous runner, Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt calls a lot of sprint-out and play-action passes.

"I'm not a 6-5 quarterback, so it's better to get me out on the edge," Fogel said. "There are more options if I roll out."

Last season, Fogel directed the Redskins to a 10-2 record. As a sophomore, he led the squad to a 13-2 mark and the PIAA Class AAAA state championship game.

"He's a winner," Schmidt said matter-of-factly. "He accepted the challenge to be our quarterback two years ago, and he's worked hard every day to get better."

Fogel, who also plays safety, has received interest from Rhode Island, Delaware, Temple and Holy Cross. "We'll see what happens," he said. "I'm not sure what position they want me to play."

Wilson, a lefthanded passer, is arguably the most athletic of this season's Suburban One League quarterbacks. Last year, in helping spark the Colonials to an 8-3 record and the Suburban One American Conference title, he passed for 1,000 yards and rushed for 400.

"He's one of the best quarterbacks I've ever coached," John Staudenmayer, Plymouth

Whitmarsh's first-year coach, said. "He has the complete package. He can run, pass. He's got savvy, and he's a good motivator. He really gets the kids going."

Wilson, 17, has received the most interest from Stony Brook and Wagner, both Division I-AA schools, and Division II West Chester.

"As far as my size goes, I can't dwell on what I don't have," said Wilson, a standout guard in basketball. "I have to focus on what I do have and make the most of my abilities."

For Central Bucks South, Miller passed for 1,000 yards and 10 TDs last season. The 17-year-old from Jamison participated in many camps over the summer, including ones at Boston College and Lafayette. His other stops included Harvard, Princeton, Penn and Delaware.

"I think I did well," he said. "But if you're not 6-4 or taller, a lot of Division I schools aren't interested in you as a quarterback. That's just the way it is."

But Miller pointed to Doug Flutie, the 5-10, 180-pound dynamo who starred at Boston College and had a long professional career.

"Yeah, he's a great example of a quarterback who overcame a lack of size," Miller said. "In the right situation, I know I could be successful."

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Andrew Fogel, Neshaminy quarterback