

FOOTBALL

Coach sees hope for next season after Owls' win

By Frank Bertucci
Special to The Inquirer

At the start of the season, Bensalem coach Jack Klebe had a lot of holes to fill on a team that had won 14 games the previous two seasons.

There were holes at quarterback, running back, offensive line . . .

"We had defensive linemen back," Klebe said, recalling what was not on his shopping list in August.

Now he cannot wait for next season to start after his young Owls crushed Neshaminy, 41-12, Friday night at Neshaminy. It was the most points Bensalem has scored in Klebe's four years as head coach.

Klebe's enthusiasm starts in his offensive backfield, where junior Brian Locke became the starting quarterback in the second game of the season and where sophomore Robbsawne Little showed his prowess from the first game.

Against Neshaminy, Locke ran for one touchdown and passed for another, rushing for 39 yards and completing 4 of 8 passes for 93 yards. Little had 2 touchdowns and gained 35 yards on 7 carries. For the season, Locke completed 54 of 113 pass attempts for 1,018 yards and 8 touchdowns. Little gained 613 yards on the ground, averaging 5.4 yards a carry, and scored 8 touchdowns.

"Locke certainly came of age," Klebe said. "We can look at getting people to build around him and Little. Now we have a little balance and won't have so many holes to fill."

The Owls (6-5, 4-5 Suburban One National Conference) wasted no time in putting the Indians away. Locke went 1 yard to end an eight-play drive for a score after the open-

Bensalem 41 Neshaminy 12

ing kickoff. Three plays later, Bensalem recovered a Neshaminy fumble, with Little's 12-yard scoring dash culminating a short drive.

The score was 21-0 at halftime after Little went 2 yards for a touchdown in the second period and reached 35-0 late in the third period before Neshaminy could get on the board. First, Rasheen Robinson went 2 yards for a touchdown, then Locke connected with Quincy Conner for a 37-yard scoring pass. Mark Gruber was successful on the extra-point attempt after each Bensalem touchdown.

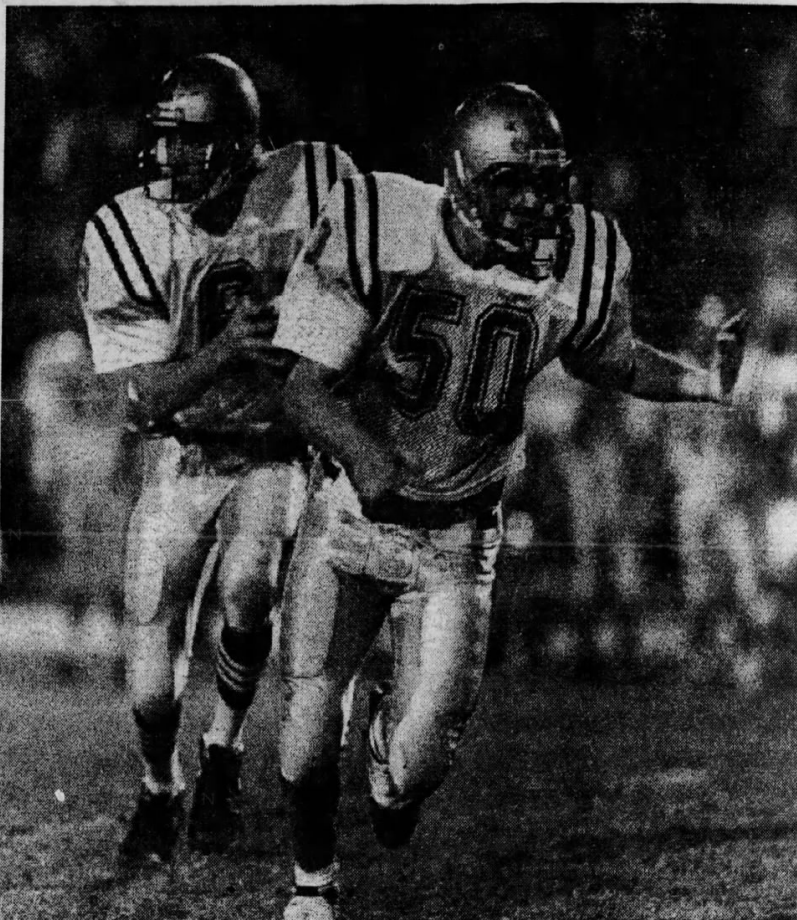
Neshaminy's (3-7, 2-6) only points came when sophomore Joe Mormello got into the game. First he hit Joe Gettis on an 82-yard touchdown pass in the third period, then ran 4 yards for another score in the fourth period.

Conner ended the scoring on the game's last play, intercepting a Mormello pass and returning it 57 yards for the score. Time had expired, so the game officials decided no extra-point attempt would be tried.

Bensalem's total domination of the game showed in the fact that Neshaminy finished with minus 11 yards rushing and two other pass interceptions besides Conner's.

"When it got to 35-0, we put in a lot of our second-stringers; and they got some yardage then," Klebe said.

The win guaranteed Bensalem a



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Bensalem's Jeff Reis makes room for quarterback Brian Locke, who helped score 2 touchdowns.

third consecutive winning season under Klebe. Neshaminy, losers of six of its last seven games, will finish its season Saturday afternoon at Pennsbury.

Bensalem	14	7	14	6	-	41
Neshaminy	0	0	6	6	-	12

BE: Locke 1 run (Gruber kick)
BE: Little 12 run (Gruber kick)
BE: Little 2 run (Gruber kick)

BE: Robinson 2 run (Gruber kick)
BE: Conner 37 pass from Locke (Gruber kick)
NE: Gettis 82 pass from Mormello (pass failed)
NE: Mormello 4 run (pass failed)
BE: Conner 57 interception return (no PAT attempt)