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N. Penn's Jim Williams is hit by Neshaminy's Jeremy Sweeney.

# Knights use their muscle to wrest win from Redskins

By Scott Huff  
Special to The Inquirer

North Penn coach Bill Travers had his offensive linemen seated in folding chairs for a postgame news conference after the host Knights had pounded Neshaminy, 39-12, in a Suburban One National Conference game Friday night.

"What would you say was the key to the game?" Travers asked his offensive linemen, including seniors Jon Held, Adam Beach, Eric Fuchs and Alex Walsh. "Why do you think we were able to win the football game?"

Almost in unison, the five players responded with a single thought.

"We had to play very physical," the group said.

North Penn used a punishing ground attack to control the contest despite holding a scant 14-12 lead at halftime. The Knights rushed the ball 50 times for 334 yards, and the most basic of running plays was the most effective against an overmatched Redskins defense.

"The off-tackle plays killed us," Neshaminy coach John Chaump said. "There were situations in the game where we were forced to play a 10-man front, and North Penn was able to break some big plays once they got beyond the line of scrimmage."

The first time that the Knights exploited the 10-man front came on their first offensive series. North Penn moved 48 yards to the Neshaminy 30-yard line, but was faced with

## North Penn 39 Neshaminy 12

a fourth-and-3.

North Penn senior tailback Jim Williams followed a lead block by Beach and Walsh to run 30 yards for the touchdown, and sophomore Andrew Parke's extra point made the score 7-0 with 7 minutes, 57 seconds left in the first period.

Williams gained 161 yards on 19 carries. He also caught a pass for 2 yards, and added 131 more yards on kickoff and punt returns to finish with 294 all-purpose yards.

"Their offensive line did a very nice job opening holes," Chaump said. "And Williams has the speed to make the gains big ones."

Neshaminy had its biggest play on the ensuing kickoff, as senior Joe Gettis returned the kick 86 yards for a touchdown. The point-after sailed wide left, and Neshaminy was as close as it would get the rest of the game, at 7-6.

"Our special teams have been a negative all season," Travers said. "But, other than that return, I thought our special teams did a pretty nice job."

North Penn took the ensuing kickoff and drove 65 yards on 8 plays for its second touchdown. Senior Spencer Reynolds scored on a 29-yard quarterback sweep after making a

terrific fake to Williams off-tackle. Parke's placement made the score 14-6.

The Redskins put together their most impressive drive in the second period to close within 14-12. Neshaminy moved the ball 74 yards on 11 plays and consumed 4:51 of the period. The score came with 4:08 left in the half when fullback Mike Rizzo scored on an 8-yard run.

North Penn then turned the game into a rout with 25 unanswered second-half points.

The Knights scored on a 3-yard run by Williams with 6:56 left in the third period, and on a 14-yard dash by Williams at the 4:48 mark of the third period.

North Penn added to the lead on its first possession of the fourth quarter when Reynolds threw a 39-yard scoring pass to Ian Wilson. The final Knights scoring drive came with the junior-varsity backfield in the game. Sophomore tailback Jeff Yeakel capped a 4-play, 44-yard drive with a 38-yard touchdown run.

"This was a great night for us," Travers said. "We felt that this was a team that we wanted to go right at, and the players did just that."

|            |    |   |    |    |   |    |
|------------|----|---|----|----|---|----|
| Neshaminy  | 6  | 6 | 0  | 0  | — | 12 |
| North Penn | 14 | 0 | 12 | 13 | — | 39 |

- NP: Williams 30 run (Parke kick)
- NE: Gettis 86 kickoff return (kick failed)
- NP: Reynolds 29 run (Parke kick)
- NE: Rizzo 8 run (pass failed)
- NP: Williams 3 run (kick blocked)
- NP: Williams 14 run (pass failed)
- NP: Wilson 39 pass from Reynolds (Parke kick)
- NP: Yeakel 38 run (kick blocked)