

Bucks' defense puts a muzzle on the Redskins

By Brian Freeman
Special to The Inquirer

All week long in practice, Roman Fitzmartin kept hearing the same name barked at him over and over again.

Bryan McGinty. McGinty . . . McGinty . . . McGinty . . . McGinty. The person doing the barking was Central Bucks West coach Mike Pettine.

The Bucks were preparing for a showdown with Suburban One National foe Neshaminy and McGinty.

McGinty entered the contest with 13 receptions for 210 yards and five touchdowns. The man responsible for covering him would be Fitzmartin.

"Coach [Pettine] just kept yelling 'McGinty, McGinty' at me all week," said the 6-foot, 2-inch senior defensive back. "By the end of the week, I couldn't wait to go out and cover him."

On the first offensive series for the Redskins, McGinty caught a 10-yard pass from quarterback David Welsh.

That was the last catch he would make on offense all game as the visiting Bucks shut out the Redskins 27-0 Friday night before more than 6,000 fans at Harry E. Franks Stadium.

Fitzmartin made two interceptions, had a third called back because of a penalty and also caught two passes for 54 yards from his split end spot.

"This really feels great to play such

Cent. Bucks West 27 Neshaminy 0

a big part in such a big win," said Fitzmartin, who has recorded five interceptions this season. "Give a lot of the credit to Steve DeLuca."

When the Bucks (4-0, 2-0) were lined up in a 4-4 defense, DeLuca would bump McGinty as he went off the line. This would take McGinty off his route and Fitzmartin was ready to pounce.

It was the third shutout in four games for the Bucks, as they held Neshaminy (3-1, 1-1) to just 98 yards of total offense.

"Defensively, we are very pleased," Pettine said. "Give Mike Carey [defensive coordinator] credit for putting together a good game plan."

Offensively, Central Bucks West churned out 232 yards on the ground and 135 yards through the air.

Senior quarterback Greg Moylan was 9 of 15 for 135 yards, and he also rushed eight times for 72 yards. Senior Chris Fassbender ground out 20 yards on just four carries and senior fullback Dave Binder chugged for 25 yards on just four carries. Running back Chris Cleland gained 18 yards on just three carries before leaving the game with a bruised right thigh.

But the highlight film was provided by 5-6, 150-pound senior wing-



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C.B. West's Matt Soncini accelerates upfield as Neshaminy defenders give chase; Soncini

scored one of the Bucks' four TDs on a 24-yard pass from Greg Moylan in the third quarter.

back Matt Soncini, who caught four passes for 46 yards and gained 60 on the ground on just seven carries.

"All week long, Chris said he was fine and today he said he'd be ready to play," said Soncini. "I really don't care who gets the ball as long as we win."

With Cleland out, Soncini got his number called more often by Moylan, and the results were excellent.

He scored the Bucks' third touchdown when he took a toss from Moy-

lan in the flat, scooted down the center of the field and then took on several Redskin defenders as he dove over the goal line.

"Matt showed that he's everything people have said about him," Pettine said. "We have many individual goals, but team goals come first. Remember, we only have one ball to go around."

The only bright spot of the evening for Neshaminy was a McGinty interception in the fourth quarter as well

as some booming punts from the senior receiver.

"Central Bucks West is just an outstanding football team," said Neshaminy coach John Champ. "They just played a great game."

Central Bucks West	7	7	7	6	—	27
Neshaminy	0	0	0	0	—	0

CW: Cleland 3 run (Patterson kick)
CW: Binder 2 run (Patterson kick)

CW: Soncini 25 pass from Moylan (Patterson kick)
CW: Swett 7 pass from Moylan (run failed)

At C.B. West, the defense slams the door shut

It was during the first half that Joe Matza, football coach of Washington High in the early 1970s, said of Central Bucks West: "They're some team. Can you imagine playing them in the Public League?"

What he and about 8,000 other people were witnessing Friday night was the dismantling of a very good Neshaminy football team, 27-0.

Only a team the caliber of Central Bucks West could do something like that.

Mike Pettine's Bucks (4-0) were nothing short of intimidating. They held the Redskins to 24 offensive yards in the second half and 98 yards in the entire game.

"That is a very, very good defense," said Redskins coach John Champ. For Pettine, it was his club's third shutout in four games.

Fact is, West's defense has not given up a point this season. The seven points yielded against Cardinal O'Hara were scored against the special teams.

"I'm not surprised in the least that we could do this," said Mike Carey, the Bucks' defensive coordinator. "We know what we're capable of do-

By TIM PANACCIO



ing." Domination, embarrassment and punishing all come to mind.

"We knew that if we shut down their passing game, we had it won because they are a very one-faceted team," Carey said. "We doubled on McGinty, and that was it."

Bryan McGinty is Neshaminy's jack-of-all-trades: a receiver on offense, a safety on defense, a punter on special teams.

McGinty does each job equally well. But it so happens that as a wideout, he is the man most likely to burn clubs with the big play on offense.

So Carey's 44 defense had the linebackers pinching at the line, doubled on McGinty on most downs and disguised double-coverage on others.

McGinty had one reception for a harmless 10 yards in the game.

Coincidentally, the fade pass intended for him deep in Bucks territory in the first half never got there. It was intercepted by Roman Fitzmartin, who picked off three passes but had one called back because of a penalty.

That one play is critical because it was Neshaminy's best drive of the game, as the Redskins were moving the ball up the middle on West.

And then, disaster. Quarterback David Welsh tried the fade to McGinty on the left sideline, just 37 yards from the goal line.

Neshaminy would get no closer to scoring the rest of the evening.

"The plan was to make it look like single coverage on McGinty," Pettine said. "We almost got burned on that fade, but Fitzmartin was there."

The Bucks' defense was there all game, as Welsh completed just 7 of 19 passes for 23 yards and three interceptions.

"They have a great defense," said Champ, whose Redskins were 3-0 until this meeting. "It's pretty hard to get less than 98 yards, and we did. I

can't remember the last time we got shut out."

Carey's clan takes great pride in the shutout. Especially a shutout on Neshaminy's turf.

"I had to explain to the second unit what it meant to shut out a team like Neshaminy," Carey said.

No one had to explain it to Champ. "You hate getting shut out, but what difference would it have made if we scored anyway?" Champ said. "We were soundly beaten."

As good as West's defense was, it was easy to overlook the offense.

Quarterback Greg Moylan was remarkable, completing 9 of 17 passes for 125 yards and 2 touchdowns. He also threw an interception.

"Their offense is what got them ahead and forced us to play catchup," Champ said.

The Bucks' offense was one short, too, as running back Chris Cleland had a hip flexor injury and missed the second half.

No problem. There is always The Flea — wingback Matt Soncini. At 150 pounds, he is the fastest receiver in the county. He has been that way for two years now.

Soncini had four receptions for 46 yards and one touchdown. He also had a 40-yard run in the first half in which he threw a few juke moves and cut back across the grain.

His 25-yard scoring reception in the third quarter more or less typified what makes Soncini a bonafide all-star.

He ran a quick inside pattern over the middle, caught the ball at the 10, then stutter-stepped two tackles and dove into the end zone.

It gave Pettine a scare, too, because Soncini would have been mashed had Neshaminy's two linebackers not missed sandwiching him at the goal line.

"That kid is fearless," Pettine said. "Now he wants to take on the linebacker. I had to hold my breath to see if he'd get up."

As for Neshaminy, it was never in the game. And this was the last of the unbeaten in Suburban One (except for West, of course).

Makes you wonder whether there is any team out there in Suburban One that will give West a fair game. Or even score a point.