

FOOTBALL

Both teams play right into his hands

By Frank Bertucci
Special to The Inquirer

With six minutes played in Friday night's 18-14 Neshaminy win over Council Rock, the teams had thrown a combined total of four passes.

And Neshaminy's Bryan McGinty had caught all four — two from his own quarterback, David Welsh, for touchdowns, and two from Council Rock passers for interceptions.

"Right now he's [McGinty] playing as well as I've seen any high school kid play," said Neshaminy coach John Champ after his team, playing at home, improved to 3-0 overall and 1-0 in the Suburban One National Conference.

"We expected them to come out with a big play," McGinty said of his interception of Tommy Coleman's attempted halfback pass on the game's first play from scrimmage. "I saw the pass-pitch and watched where the end was going."

McGinty picked off that throw at Council Rock's 33-yard line, and six plays later he took in a 9-yard touchdown toss from Welsh. A botched extra-point attempt left the score 6-0, Neshaminy.

Two plays after the next kickoff, McGinty picked off another pass, this one from Rock quarterback Carl Albrecht, putting the Redskins on Rock's 22. On third down, Welsh again looked for McGinty in the end zone — touchdown, Neshaminy, 12-0.

"That's not the way you want to start," lamented Council Rock coach Mike Ortman.

But the Indians (1-2, 0-1) got on the board late in the first period, and led at halftime, 14-12.

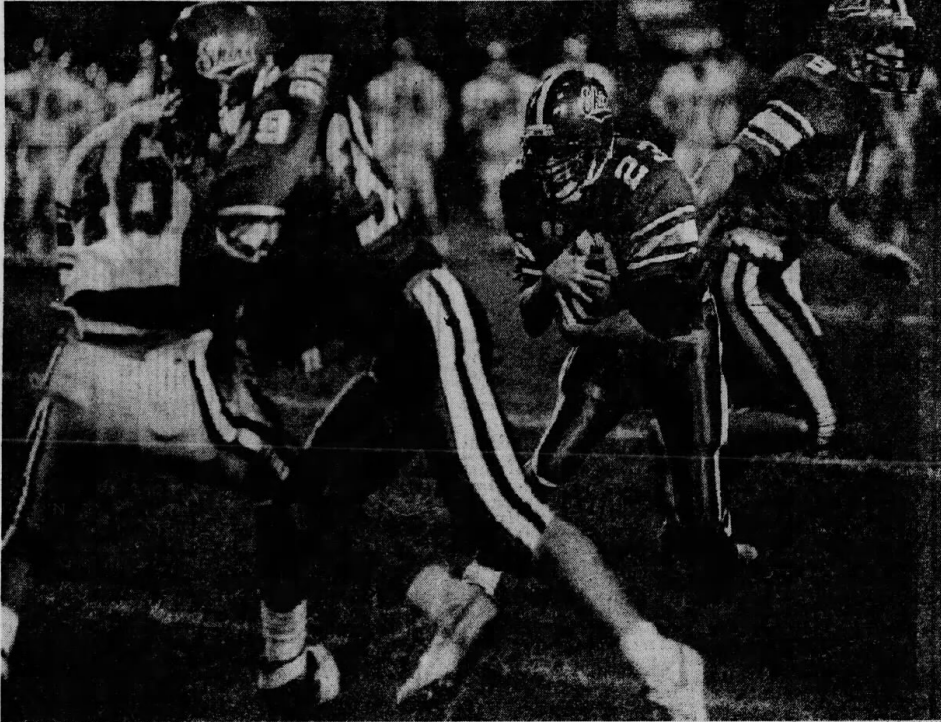
The first score came after a Neshaminy fumble, recovered by Rock's Jake Topakas at Neshaminy's 31.

The fumble, by Joe Gettis, came on the first play after Redskins' running back Rafael Wrigley was carried off the field on a stretcher with an injury to his lower left leg. He remained on the sidelines, on crutches, for the remainder of the game. X-rays showed ligament damage but no break.

The ankle was put into a cast, and it was uncertain when he would be able to return to the lineup.

Five plays after the fumble, Albrecht hit Erik Ekstrom with a 17-yard scoring pass.

"When Rafael got hurt, it definitely took the momentum from us,"



Special to The Inquirer / JON ADAMS

Rafael Wrigley of Neshaminy keeps a firm hold on the ball during the first quarter. Wrigley was injured later in the game.

Neshaminy 18 Council Rock 14

Champ said.

And they lost even more momentum with 3:14 to play in the half when Rock's Coleman, playing in his first game of the season after a separated shoulder sidelined him, took in a McGinty punt on his own 40 and snaked his way down the sideline 60

yards for the score. With Chuck Traber hitting the extra point after both touchdowns, Rock led at the half.

But the night belonged to Neshaminy's defense. Midway through the third period, Albrecht was sacked — for one of seven times in the game — and fumbled at his own 28, with Neshaminy's Paul Monck recovering. Six plays later, Gettis dove over for the 2-yard line for the winning points.

Neshaminy's defense held Council Rock to 111 yards of total offense,

and killed a last-chance Rock scoring drive midway through the fourth period when the Indians had a first-and-goal at Neshaminy's 2-yard line. McGinty made the big play when he dropped Coleman for a 9-yard loss on third down.

Council Rock's defense was not outplayed, either. Welsh completed just 5 of 18 passes, and Gettis could gain only 27 yards rushing on 18 carries (1.5 yards average per rush). In fact, the biggest gainers of the night were the officials, who marched off a total of 115 yards on 17

penalties called on both teams. After his furious start, McGinty could have gone home. He did not catch another pass from either team's quarterback in the game's last 42 minutes.

But then he already had a full game's worth of pass receptions.

Council Rock	7	7	0	0	—	14
Neshaminy	12	0	6	0	—	18

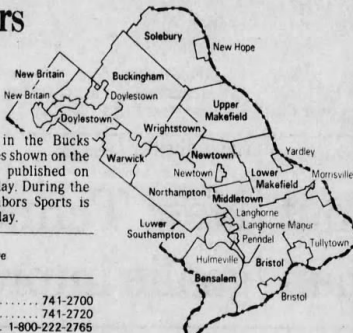
NE: McGinty 9 pass from Welsh (kick failed)
 NE: McGinty 24 pass from Welsh (pass failed)
 CR: Ekstrom 17 pass from Albrecht (Traber kick)
 CR: Coleman 60 punt return (Traber kick)
 NE: Gettis 2 run (pass failed)

Neighbors

Neighbors is a section of The Inquirer that provides news about people, events, schools and governments in the Bucks County communities shown on the map. Neighbors is published on Sunday and Thursday. During the school year, Neighbors Sports is published on Monday.

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Passes kept landing in the hands of Neshaminy's Bryan McGinty.