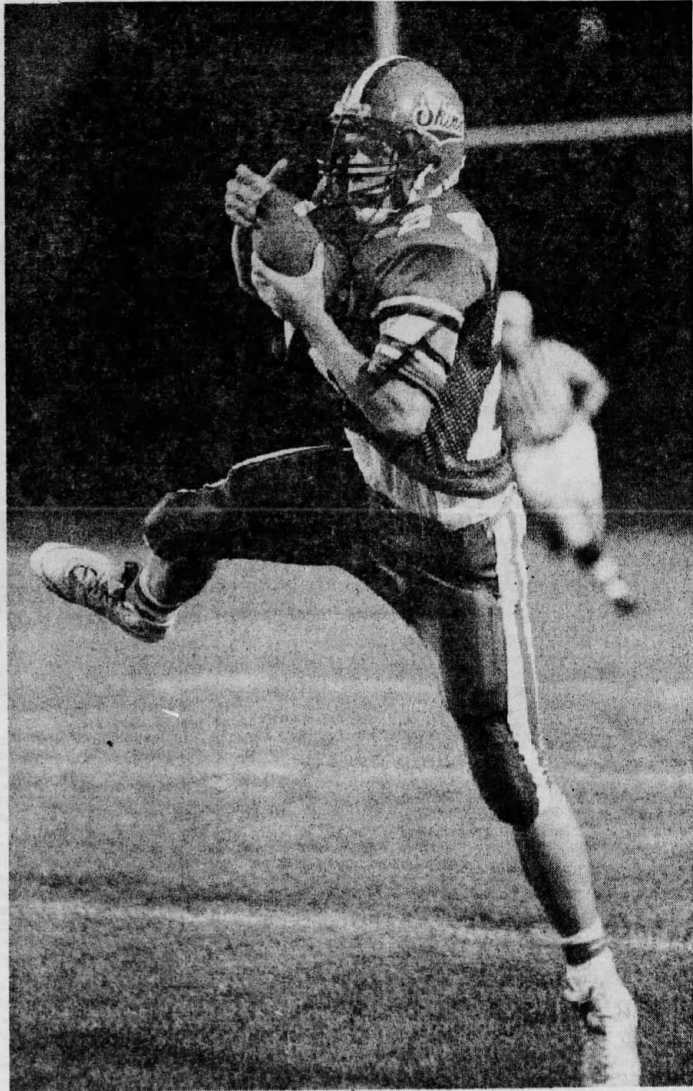




Neshaminy's Rafael Wrigley outruns Egan's Kris Krause to gain some yardage in first quarter.



Special to The Inquirer / JON ADAMS

Welsh-McGinty connection leads the Redskins

By Brian Freeman
Special to The Inquirer

The first time Neshaminy wide receiver Bryan McGinty and quarterback David Welsh met on a football field, they were on opposite sides of the ball.

McGinty played for Queen of the Universe and Welsh for the Pennell Wildcats, in the Eastern Junior Football Conference. Although they were on different teams, they started a close friendship that has lasted for many years.

They showed that friendship Friday night, when Welsh and McGinty teamed for 3 touchdown passes as the Redskins routed visiting Bishop Egan, 35-0, in a nonleague game before more than 6,000 fans at Harry E. Franks Stadium.

"We spent the whole summer working out together getting ready for this season," said the 6-foot, 2-inch, 175-pound McGinty. "We worked on our timing and fundamentals, and by the start of summer practice, we were totally in sync."

When McGinty and Welsh first met, neither played his current position. McGinty played every position except wide receiver for Queen of the Universe, and Welsh was a linebacker for the Wildcats.

Neshaminy 35 Bishop Egan 0

They did team up at quarterback and receiver at Carl Sandburg Junior High, winning the season title in ninth grade.

But in high school, the combination was put on hold until now.

Last year, Welsh played linebacker for the Redskins and McGinty was a receiver. They knew after last season that their senior years would be when they could prove that years of friendship would pay off on the gridiron.

"During the summer, we worked hard together and we felt confident that we would have a good season," Welsh said. "This is a great way to start the year for us."

Less than two minutes into the game, the duo went to work. Welsh hit McGinty with a 33-yard pass to give the Redskins the lead. Jared Stewart's extra point made it 7-0.

On the first play of the second quarter, Neshaminy (1-0) capped an 88-yard drive when Welsh tossed a 15-yard pass to McGinty. Stewart's

conversion made it 14-0.

And with just 19 seconds left in the first half, Welsh threw a Hail Mary pass that McGinty grabbed over two Egan defenders. He raced 51 yards after the catch to give the Redskins a 21-0 halftime lead.

"McGinty is a great player," said Jack Techtmann, whose Egan coaching debut was spoiled by the Redskins. "We had him double-teamed most of the time, and he still hurt us. We knew coming in we had to stop him, but we didn't."

In the second half, the Neshaminy defense held the Eagles to 24 yards of total offense, and the offense reeled off two more touchdowns.

Senior running back Frank Homer scored on an 8-yard run and Welsh

hit senior tight end Brad Bethke with a 12-yard pass to end the scoring.

Welsh went 13 for 21 for 247 yards and 4 touchdowns. McGinty caught 7 passes for 159 yards and 3 scores.

"Brian caught everything that was thrown to him tonight, and David played an outstanding game," said Neshaminy coach John Champ.

Although the Redskins thoroughly dominated the rebuilding Eagles to win the season opener for both squads, Champ wasn't overly excited about the victory.

"It's a great start to win like we did tonight, but we still have a lot of improving to do to compete in the Suburban One National," he said. "Even though the score was 35-0, we

didn't do a lot of things well on offense and defense."

The Eagles ended up with just 87 yards of total offense and lost 4 fumbles to Neshaminy.

"We are starting a sophomore at quarterback (Jesse Carpenter) and we only have half of our offensive package in at this point," Techtmann said. "We are very young and inexperienced at every position."

"The kids have a good attitude and are learning quickly, but it'll take some time."

Bishop Egan	0	0	0	0	—	0
Neshaminy	7	14	0	14	—	35
N: McGinty 33 pass from Welsh (Stewart kick)						
N: McGinty 15 pass from Welsh (Stewart kick)						
N: McGinty 51 pass from Welsh (Stewart kick)						
N: Homer 8 run (Stewart kick)						
N: Bethke 12 pass from Welsh (Stewart kick)						