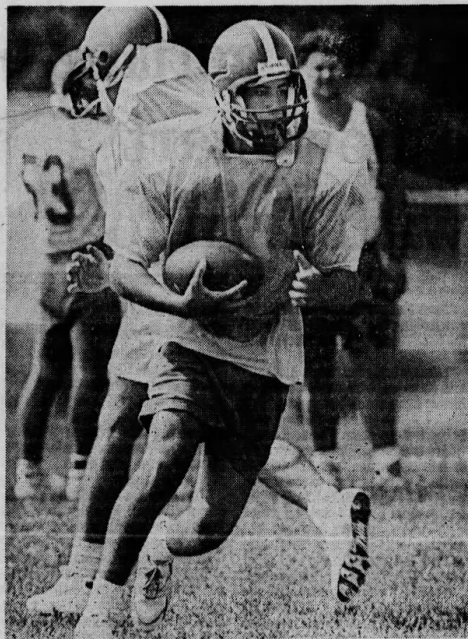


FOOTBALL PREVIEW



Tom Irwin (left) and Bill Silk take part in a blocking drill. The Redskins were 5-6 last season.



Special to The Inquirer / H. RUMPH JR.

Gabriel Wrigley runs with the ball after taking a handoff.

Redskins put emphasis on special-teams play

By John McBride
Special to The Inquirer

Mention the term *special teams* around John Chaump, and the Neshaminy football coach is likely to start muttering under his breath. Last year, the Redskins' not-so-special teams led directly to three losses, making major gaffes near the end of games. A fumble on a punt return led to a 12-7 loss to Bensalem. A roughing-the-kicker penalty produced a 18-15 setback to Abington. Another fumble was instrumental in a 12-7 defeat at the hands of North Penn.

This season, though, Chaump and his coaching staff are out to create better special teams. They are having the squad practice special-teams play for one hour each day.

"We started working on them in the first practice," Chaump said. "We definitely don't want more mistakes, especially when the other team is punting the ball."

Coaching. Chaump begins his fifth year with the Redskins. He starts his 17th year overall as a head coach with a 65-61 record. He is assisted by Tom Magdelinskas, quarterbacks; Colin Trickett, running backs; John McGintley and Joe Chamberlain, offensive line; Rob Weiser, wide receivers; Ed Place, inside linebacker.

Schedule

- Sep. 6 Bishop Egan, 7:30 p.m.
- Sep. 13 Father Judge, 7:30 p.m.
- Sep. 27 West Cecil Rock, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 4 C.B. West, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 11 at Norristown, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 19 at William Tennent, 1:30 p.m.
- Oct. 26 Abington, 1:30 p.m.
- Nov. 1 at North Penn, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 8 C.B. East, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 15 Bensalem, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 23 at Pennsbury, 1:30 p.m.

Neshaminy

ers; Bob Wilsley, defensive line; Bill Zoldi, defensive backs, and Tom Martin and Denny Cox, outside linebackers.

Last year, Neshaminy struggled to a 5-6 mark overall last year, 2-6 in the now-disbanded Suburban One National Patriot Division.

"It was a funny year," Chaump said, not laughing. "I thought we had some good talent. If we could have those plays back, I think we would have had three more wins."

Lettermen lost (6). Quarterback

Corny White, who played for 1,874 yards last season, went on to Hargrove Military Prep. Wide receiver Neil Plaskos, center Chris Rogers and defensive back Doug Roskos — all first-team Patriot selections — also graduated, as did defensive back Steve McIlwain.

Lettermen returning (7). Chaump is happy to welcome back three starters from the offensive line. Guard Bill Silk, tackle Jeremy Sweeney and tight end Ross Gay average 6-foot-4, 233 pounds. Also returning are wide receiver/safety Bryan McGinty and tailbacks Joe Gettis and Raphael Wrigley. Dave Walsh, who started at linebacker last year, will be the quarterback.

New players. Among the new-

comers who could make an impact are seniors Mike Rizzo and Frank Homer and junior Jack Dunkley, all of whom will see action at fullback and inside linebacker. Center Tony Rudy, who bench-presses more than 300 pounds, will anchor the offensive line. Seniors Scott Huebner, Mark Griffin and Mark Stinson were vying for playing time at split end.

Seniors Wendell Buck and Tom Irwin will help along the offensive line. Other seniors who will see action are defensive tackle Paul Monck and linebackers Keith Krajinkovich, Greg Webber and Brad Bethke.

Special teams. The placekicking job was up in the air, but McGinty will probably handle the punting chores.

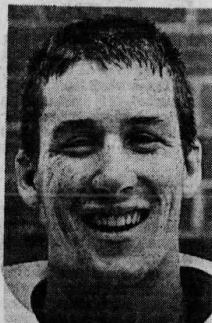
Outlook. The improvement on special teams will help greatly. But the new league alignment means a tougher league schedule, with the addition of C. B. West, Norristown, C. B. East and Abington, among others.

"There's no weak sisters in the Suburban One this year," Chaump said. "It's going to be one of the toughest leagues in the entire state. If a team goes unbeaten, they've got to be world-class."

"I think it will come down to depth. It might be a war of attrition."

Season opener. Bishop Egan at home, 7:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Player to Watch



Bryan McGinty

Every summer, Bryan McGinty is faced with a dilemma.

It seems that each summer, the baseball coaches of the Levittown Western American Legion team want McGinty to play center field for their club. McGinty did bat .311 in the spring with the Neshaminy baseball squad.

But as the end of the school year approaches, McGinty sets his sights on the preparation he must make for football season, his first love. Hence, no time for Legion baseball.

"American Legion coaches were begging him to play," Neshaminy football coach John Chaump said. "But he's spent the last two summers concentrating on football."

McGinty thinks that his dual role as a wide receiver/safety forced

him to pay extra attention to his off-season program this summer. He caught 26 passes for more than 500 yards last season.

"I worked a lot on my legs this summer," McGinty said. "I was running regularly."

"Last year, I saw that I was going to be playing both ways. I knew I had to do whatever I could do to make us win. I found myself getting a little tired at the end of last season."

McGinty's summer sessions have paid off. The senior lowered his 40-yard dash time to 4.6 seconds. Also, in a scrimmage earlier this preseason, McGinty played 40 consecutive plays and did not find himself winded.

Last season, McGinty was one of

the Redskins' go-to guys. He had big receptions against Pennsbury and Bensalem. Neshaminy, which lost four games by a combined 16 points last year, likely will need more excellent efforts from McGinty if it expects to improve on a 5-6 overall record.

"I think we're going to have a better record than last year," McGinty said.

Chaump hopes the rest of his team follows McGinty's lead.

"He's a big-play fellow," Chaump said. "He'll come up with the interception, the long pass, a first-down reception."

"He's the kind of kid you would like to build a team around."

By John McBride