

Scouting The Scholastic Scene

# Heartbreak Ridge Looms As Problem For Pennsbury

By Dick Dougherty

## Looking Over The Records

When you remember the Second World War you can't help but think of the battle of Iwo Jima. And discussions about the Korean Conflict always seem to center around Pork Chop Hill.

But when you talk about Lower Bucks County football battles there's no question about it! Many football teams have been dispatched to Heartbreak Ridge but few have conquered it.

Heartbreak Ridge is easily located. If you stand on Route 1 near Oakford and lift your eyes toward the west it hits you in the face as squarely



GORDON DAVIES  
... Ex-Bulldog mentor

AL MATUZA  
... ex-Falcons coach

as a Mack truck, Heartbreak Ridge is where the mighty Redskins of Neshaminy High School roam.

Neshaminy is always toughest when playing at home. Neshaminy's winning trend in football began in 1952 at the old Langhorne - Middletown High School on Cherry St. in Langhorne. Three clear-cut flags and a co-championship were manufactured at old Playwick Field.

In 1956 the Redskins moved to Heartbreak Ridge. From '56 until today, Neshaminy, powerhouse of Eastern Pennsylvania football, has played 63 home contests. And when one realizes the 'Skins have defeated 55 teams, lost four and tied four it appears incredible.

What is more earth-shaking is Neshaminy's near-perfect record against squads from Lower Bucks County. In the past decade the Redskins

have played host to 45 neighboring schools. Neshaminy has won 43 of those games, losing only to Pennsbury, (7-6) in 1957 and tying Morrisville (6-6) in 1958.

## Matuza Made The Grade

Pennsbury's stirring one-point conquest in 1957 was engineered by Coach Al Matuza. He was carried off the field by a cheering mob which saw only happiness for the Falcons. The joy was over a week later. William Tennent stunned Pennsbury, 12-8, and Neshaminy shared the football crown with the Falcons.

A year later it was Morrisville's turn to climb Heartbreak Ridge. Coach Gordon Davies waged a torrid battle with the Redskins but couldn't escape with the whole cake. Neshaminy, then under the reins of Harry Franks, salvaged a 6-6 deadlock and again had part of the title.

No team has been able to knock Neshaminy off its lofty perch since those days of yesteryear. Tennent tried to ambush the 'Skins in 1958 but fell one point short, 20-19, in a game played in Johnsville.

In 1963 Bishop Egan Catholic appeared on its way to pulling a stunning victory. Egan led at the half, 13-0, but Neshaminy, under the direction of John Petercuskie, wouldn't stand still. Neshaminy exploded like a volcano and made it home safe, 14-13.

Neshaminy had another brush with death in 1963. Pennsbury, bossed by Erle Baugher, turned the tables on the 'Skins and held a 20-14 edge late in the fourth period.

Neshaminy's patented "return from the galloos" was in full view when speedboy Tommy Dee reeled in a 27-yard pass from Bill Brundzo to knot the score. All-State fullback Bob Baxter's talented toe put the knife in Baugher. It ended 21-20.

## Here We Are Again

Last year Baugher felt he wouldn't be denied two years in-a-row. Pennsbury went against Neshaminy unbeaten in eight games and had the "edge" in most departments. The only category the Falcons didn't fill was in points. Neshaminy roared off to a 14-0 lead but had to hold its breath in winning, 14-13.

The stage is set again. Pennsbury is 6-1-1 and feels confident of tangling and beating Neshaminy on Friday night. Neshaminy's status never changes. The 'Skins are undefeated (8-0-1) and can't wait to meet the Falcons.

Pennsbury is in a strange position. The Falcons were the last team to hand Neshaminy a loss in the Lower Bucks County Football League. Fifty-three conference battles have been held since that night in 1957 and only Morrisville's tie is found on that long string.

Last week Pennsbury was caught in a wind storm created by Levittown's Woodrow Wilson. The game ended in a 0-0 tie and immediately Neshaminy fans started to shout. "Pennsbury doesn't have a chance now," is what has been blaring louder than a red-hot rock and roll band.

Baugher is taking all of this on in stride. He doesn't feel the stalemate with Wilson will bother his Falcons. "I imagine we'll be up for the game. I have a sneaky suspicion about it. And I guess Neshaminy will have something cooked up for us. And we'll cook up something too," he said with a chuckle.

The Falcon coach isn't worried about playing at Neshaminy either. "We're so close we'll dress at home. But I hope we don't have any trouble with the traffic with the detours and all that down there. But I know one thing for sure. They can't start the game until we get there."

## Heartbreak Ridge

Petercuskie, still flying high since Saturday night's 27-6 hammering of Altoona, king of scholastic football west of the Susquehanna, isn't taking the Pennsbury invasion lightly. "Pennsbury will be at its best. We just don't expect to walk onto the field and become the winner."

Petercuskie has been in too many free-for-alls to shrug off any game. His memory is sharp and deeply imbedded in his mind are 21-20 and 14-13 wins over Pennsbury. He figures it to be a whale of a game.

One thing, however, is making Petercuskie smile when no one is looking. The game will be played on Heartbreak Ridge, the battleground where many teams have attacked but few have lived to tell about it.

# Lower Bucks H. S. Scores & Schedules

BENSLEM TOWNSHIP			PENNSBURY		
Date	Opponent	Time	Date	Opponent	Time
8	Castlesville	8	26	Altoona	28
7	Central Bucks	8	25	William Allen	14
7	Pennsbury	26	26	Bensalem	7
33	Council Rock	28	26	Daroff	6
29	Morrisville	12	30	Chambersburg	13
12	Bristol	12	21	Easton	19
6	Milville, N. J.	7	9	Wilson	0
26	Lower Moreland	7	Nov. 12	at Neshaminy	8:15 p.m.
Nov. 12	at Woodrow Wilson	8:15 p.m.	Coach: Erle Baugher		
Nov. 20	at William Tennent	2:00 p.m.			
Coach: Robert Shoop			WILLIAM TENNENT		
Date	Opponent	Time	Date	Opponent	Time
7	Media	25	19	U. Moreland	4
13	Lower Moreland	7	13	Hatboro-Morsham	19
7	Filadelfia	7	6	Liberty	13
12	Lansdale Catholic	7	19	Morrisville	28
12	Bensalem	27	9	Neshaminy	39
24	St. Anthony's	9	Nov. 12	Norristown	2:00 p.m.
21	Council Rock	7	Nov. 25	Bensalem	2:00 p.m.
Nov. 12	Pope Plus X	8:15 p.m.	Nov. 25	Council Rock	2:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Morrisville	10:30 a.m.	Coach: Jack Harrington		
Coach: Ted Kewal			WOODROW WILSON		
Date	Opponent	Time	Date	Opponent	Time
9	Downingtown	24	7	Bishop Egan	20
23	Archbishop Wood	36	8	Daroff	0
16	Bensalem	4	28	Tennent	7
7	Lower Moreland	21	21	Haxleton	0
20	Ewing	21	24	Lower Merion	14
41	Morrisville	4	6	Upper Merion	4
7	Bristol	12	6	Pennsbury	0
Nov. 13	Lansdale Catholic	8:15 p.m.	Nov. 12	Bensalem	8:15 p.m.
Nov. 19	Upper Dublin	8:15 p.m.	Nov. 19	Neshaminy	8:15 p.m.
Nov. 23	at William Tennent	2:00 p.m.	Coach: Lou Sorrentino		
Coach: George Elmerger			BISHOP EGAN		
Date	Opponent	Time	Date	Opponent	Time
4	Springfield (M.)	19	25	Neshaminy	41
41	Bridgeton	6	26	Wilson	7
7	Bristol	12	13	St. James	0
32	Council Rock	25	6	Card. Dougherty	12
7	Pottsgrove	26	23	Father Judge	12
30	Lansdale Catholic	34	20	Bishop McDevitt	2
Nov. 13	Jenkintown	1:30 p.m.	7	LaSalle	7
Coach: Andy Tryens			Nov. 13	North Catholic	4
			Nov. 13	Bergen Catholic	14
			Nov. 13	Bishop Kenrick	8:00 p.m.
			Nov. 20	at Notre Dame	2:00 p.m.
			Coach: Dick Sedesem		
MORRISVILLE			GEORGE SCHOOL		
Date	Opponent	Time	Date	Opponent	Time
12	Archbishop Wood	7	13	Solebury School	14
12	Wilson (West Lawn)	8	6	Perkiomen School	19
13	Plus X	33	12	Friends Central School	0
25	Lower Moreland	0	26	Germanstown Friends	7
12	Bensalem	29	12	Pennsboro School	4
19	Tennent	19	Nov. 13	at High School	2:15 p.m.
4	Council Rock	41	Nov. 20	Bryn Athyn	2:30 p.m.
23	N. Burlington Regional	0	Academy	2:30 p.m.	
Nov. 13	at St. Anthony's	2:00 p.m.	Coach: Bob Geisinger		
Nov. 27	Bristol	10:30 a.m.			
Coach: Harry Holihan			ARCHBISHOP WOOD		
Date	Opponent	Time	Date	Opponent	Time
41	Bishop Egan	0	4	Lansdale Catholic	20
7	LaSalle	0	6	Council Rock	23
23	Easton	27	0	Malvern Prep	26
19	Allen	7	0	Valley Forge	33
			0	Bishop McDevitt	12