Baxter Ruins Canary Hopes

Nesh aminy Fights Off AHS, 21-20

Allen's Upset Bid Falls Short

STATISTICS

	AC	H
First downs	8	12
Rushing yardage	112	227
Passing yardage	72	57
Passes	6-14	4-9
Passes intercepted by	0	0
Punts	5-31	4-35
Fumbles lost	1	1
Yards penalized	5	40

By JOHN KUNDA
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Nesh aminy Hall had the first two games, Allen did itself proud the night — and a thrilling finish.

The Canaries bowed to unbeaten Neshaminy, 21-20, but not before they had the Lower Bucks County powerhouse fighting for everything it got. And at that it took an all - star performance by a bruising runner, Bob Baxter, to turn back the skyhigh Canaries.

Baxter, rated as Pennsylvania's top collegiate prospect, scored all of Neshaminy's points. His three touchdowns were responsible for sewing up the least. He stunned the AHS stadium crowd of 6,500 with a 78-yard kickoff return, a 61 - yard punt return and finally a 30-yard dash.

Baxter's 78 - yard kickoff run came late in the third period after Neshaminy had marched down to cash a 13-0 lead. The 6-1, 195 - pound senior, who had also was a first team all - state selection in football last year, broke a final period to erase what looked like scholastic football's major upset.

The Canaries, who themselves turned loose a couple of fine, speedy backs in Jimmy Ban and Greg Nesbitt, dominated the game statistically. They wound up with 331 yards on the ground while Neshaminy picked up 112 from its vaunted rushing offense. In first downs alone, AHS led, 12-8.

Kicks Extra Points

But in the end it was Baxter who not only won it with the touchdowns but with the three extra points. The left-footed senior added the extra point after touchdown with the poise a veteran coach of professional teams.

The costly one point Allen lost came after it had been tied with 20 seconds left in the half. Jimmy Ban had set up the touchdown scoring march with a plunge for 11 yards and a first down. It was sent wide of the goal.

Neshaminy spotted the Canaries another touchdown — with 4:30 of the third quarter — when Baxter gained 61 yards as Newhard scored for AHS from the 1. The Canaries made it a one point game by running for their own 40 in five plays.

The picture-play in that series was Jerry Nagy's pass which soared to end Bob Fullweiler which carried AHS deep into Neshaminy territory. Ban's try dig to the 4. Fullweiler nearly made a one - hand catch but slipped up by defensive back Bill Bell.

Then just as if he got a signal from Ban, Baxter, Neshaminy Ban's kickoff and with the speed of a deer, and the elusiveness of a halfback, he shot up the middle of the field. He cut through practically the whole Allen team and at the 40 he had to and from two tacklers and raced safely.

Go-Ahead Touchdown

That was just the beginning for Baxter. Shortly after the fourth period started, he took a short punt from Funk at the 39, picked up his blocks on the right side and then scooted to his left where he found another opening and was on the way into the endzone for the go-ahead and game - winning touchdown.

The Canaries had the ball for only one other series before Baxter put the game out of reach with his final touchdown. He got his chance when Funk punted out on a fourth-and-eight situation on the AHS 35. It was just beginning to develop and Funk lost three yards on the Canaries' lost football.

But Brundo, Baxter's running mate, got a yard to the 32. On the next play Baxter took over charge of pace to scamper the distance.

From the way the game started, it would be the wild passer-catcher duo of Nagy and Fullweiler who would never give Neshaminy a chance to get set. But it was the Canaries lost three fumbles, two of which came on possession of the ball.

The Canary defense had its troubles, mainly early in the game, too. After another fumble on a Neshaminy punt, the Indians went to the air and hit at the end zone.

They moved the ball to the 3 on a Brundo-to-Ban pass before Dennis Auckland pass which broke up if might have scored. Then on three cracks at the Allen line, got to the 3, and then, on its last chance, Allen linebacker Jack Perilla, playing his first game since he broke his nose, intercepted for a 3-yard loss at the 4.

SUMMARY

Neshaminy	0	0	13	8 — 21
Allen	0	0	0	20 — 20

Touchdowns — Baxter 2, Newhard. Points after touchdown — Baxter 3 (kicks). Substitutions — Neshaminy: Bell, Ban, Brundo, Baxter, Nagy, Fullweiler, Auckland, Yerks, Jenkins, Tarpley, Tarpley, Tarpley