

1982

Council Rock's air game stymies Langhorne, 18-0

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To the ever growing list of nicknames ranging from the current passing fancy, Air Coryell and all the rest, there is the addition to add Air Snyder.

So, coach Walt Snyder's Council Rock Indians attempted 27 passes yesterday in a triumph over Neshaminy Langhorne before 2,000 fans in Newtown, and completed even for 175 yards and a touchdown.

But there was a lot more to the Indians' triumph than passing, and Snyder isn't about to make the running game for an all out aerial bombardment.

"We just found that we're having more success passing the ball than running," said Snyder after his team (1-1, 2-2-1) finished fifth-ranked in the Courier Times poll, and took down fifth-ranked Langhorne (1-1, 1-4) in the Suburban One League National Division showdown.

"We knew coming in that we wanted to win the ball against this team," he added.

"Langhorne will sometimes play eight or nine men close to the line of scrimmage and only two or three back, so what they did dictated what we did. I still like to have a good balance and would like to get a consistent running game going, which we haven't done thus far."

All but two of Council Rock's attempts, and all its completions, came from the arm of 5-11, 155-pound junior quarterback Jeff Sager. His 45-yard touchdown pass to junior running back Steve Tilsner midway through the first quarter, and two-point conversion pass to the same man, gave the Indians an 11-0 lead and it turned out to be the last scoring until late in the final stanza.

"The pass to Steve was just a corner pattern along the left sideline," Sager said. "We drew some defenders up from their zone and that area was left open. I wasn't happy with my completion percentage today. Seven out of 25 wasn't too great. But fortunately we hit a big one early and had enough long gainers here and there to keep them off balance."

"I had great protection all day and should have completed more. I can't remember too many times when I was pressured much at all. The offensive line (led by Jeff Decker and John Cassidy) did a great job."

Opened scoring

Council Rock opened the scoring about four minutes into the game when, after a 36-yard drive, junior Howard Gurwood connected on a 26-yard field goal. A short later came the bomb to Tilsner.

Langhorne's best scoring opportunity came about halfway through the second quarter. With a second down and goal at the eight-yard line, Redskin halfback Bob Thomas couldn't handle a high snap from the shotgun position. The ball bounded off his hands back toward the line and was recovered on the eight by Council Rock linebacker Vince Bedesem.

After the Indians' initial outburst, the Langhorne defense toughened. Keyed by Thomas, defensive back Pat Donahue (who intercepted a pass later in the game)

and lineman Howard Johnson, Langhorne held the Indians to 29 yards rushing.

The problem for coach Jim Weber's squad was penalties and sacks. Langhorne was marked off 11 times for 80 yards while starting quarterback Dave Duggan and backup Joe King recorded minus 49 yards in rushing yardage. Council Rock defensive end George Kay got three individual sacks, and was helped throughout the day by Bedesem, end Fred Flor and defensive back Rich Chase.

Flor also boomed a tremendous 66-yard punt early in the fourth quarter after Langhorne had backed the Indians up to their nine-yard line. His kick put the Redskins on their 28.

Council Rock finished the scoring with only 1:25 to go when senior defensive back Matt Hynoski, a three-year starter at running back and in the secondary, stepped in front of a King aerial and romped 30 yards down the sideline for a touchdown.

"Their first touchdown was a mistake," explained Weber. "Our man came too far up in his zone and left the deep area uncov-

ered. I was basically happy with the defense after the first quarter. On offense, we just suffered from a basic lack of execution. Their line did a lot of looping which might have confused some of our kids."

"We didn't execute and they did. They played a good game and deserved the win."

EXTRA POINTS: Duggan, a 5-140-pound junior, injured his back in the fourth quarter and had to be taken off the field in an ambulance. He was taken to Holy Redeemer Hospital in Meadowbrook where he will be examined by team physician Dr. Tony Salem. Weber was uncertain about his status for next week's game against William Tennent (Saturday at Langhorne, 1:30 p.m.)...Aside from Hynoski, Council Rock's Chase and Mike Brown intercepted Langhorne passes...Donahue also a wide receiver, caught five Duggan passes for 110 yards, including a fine over-the-shoulder grab for 51 yards in the first quarter...Council Rock travels to Northtown Friday night to meet the undefeated Eagles (2-0, 6-0).