

NL upsets Bishop Egan

By Charles Fried

Courier Times Special Writer

Only in Jim Weber's wildest dreams could he have imagined that his head football coaching career at Neshaminy Langhorne High School would get off to the rousing start that it did Friday night.

The crowd of nearly 4,000 hardly had a chance to settle in their seats in the Redskins' stadium when Langhorne running back Bob Thomas brought them to their feet again.

The 5-7, 155-pound Thomas hauled in the opening kickoff from Bishop Egan High School's Ted Blucas at the 15-yard line, shed a jersey-grabbing Eagle defender at about the 30 and blazed untouched to paydirt to put Langhorne on the scoreboard 12 seconds into the game.

The Redskins moved out to a two touchdown lead in the third quarter against the highly-touted Philadelphia Catholic League opponent, then withstood a late Egan rally to present Weber with a dream-come-true 14-7 win.

Happiest moment

"This is the happiest sporting moment in my life," said Weber. "We just hoped that we could stay on the field with them. A lot of individual guys came through for us at different times throughout the game."

Thomas credited Weber with giving a spirited pre-game talk which helped lift the Redskins of the Lower Bucks County League to their early and game long heroics.

"He (Weber) gave us a big speech and got us fired up," Thomas said. "That helped us turn it on from the start. I think only one or two people touched me on the kickoff. Our wedge blew 'em away. The blocking was beautiful."

The Redskins, ranked eighth in the Bucks County Courier Times pre-season poll for major schools, missed an opportunity to build a big lead just minutes into the game. On Egan's second play from scrimmage, Redskin defensive end Keith Reed intercepted a pass from quarterback John Nicolosi.

Drive stalled

Reed was brought down on Egan's 18-yard line and a first down offside penalty gave Langhorne the ball at the 13. The Redskins managed a first down at the five, but the drive stalled with the help of a delay of game penalty. Mark Cordelli's field goal attempt from the 19 was wide.

Late in the first quarter and through the early minutes of the second, Egan mounted a drive that brought it within 10 yards of the end zone, but a holding penalty and a delay of game whistle took the Eagles out of scoring range.

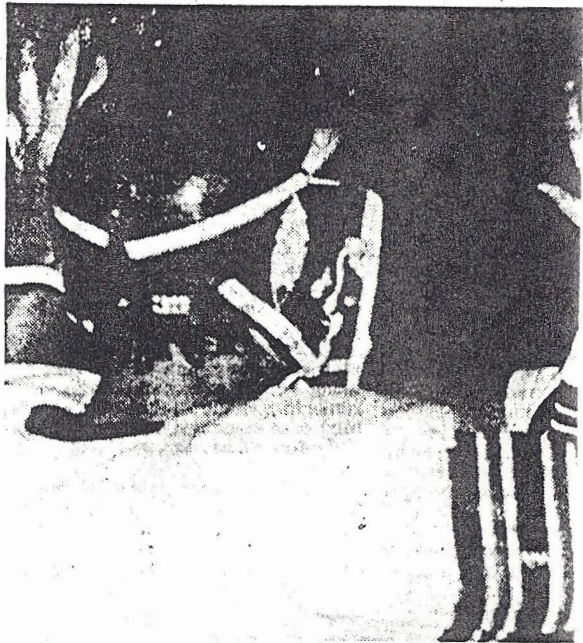
Over half of Langhorne's offensive production came on what proved to be the winning touchdown drive in the third quarter.

Following an Egan punt, the Redskins took possession on their own 21. On a second down play at the 35, Langhorne quarterback Dick Kirby completed his first pass of the evening, a 19-yarder over the middle to tight end Tom Magdelinskas.

Pass to Donahue

Three running plays brought the Redskins to the Egan 28. On second down, Kirby stepped back in the pocket and rifled a pass to wide receiver Pat Donahue on the left sideline who slipped past the Eagles' secondary and into the end zone.

Due to an injury to Cordelli who had booted the conversion following Thomas' touchdown, Magdelinskas



Neshaminy Langhorne's Pat Donahue (19) gets a do after scoring on a 28-yard pass in the third quarter du

stepped into the kicker's role and made it 14-0.

"We'll give them credit," said Bill Travers, head coach of fourth-ranked Bishop Egan. "In everybody's mind, they were decided underdogs and they could have folded up.

"If you feel you're the better team, one of the worst things you can do is what we did on the opening kickoff. Then when we start to make a move in the third quarter, they move 80 yards down field."

Stamina tested

The Eagles tested the stamina of the Redskins in the fourth quarter. To start the quarter, Egan marched from their own 18 to Langhorne's 10. On fourth-and-five, Redskin defensive back Jim Lorenz stepped in front of Eagle receiver Rick Burns at the goal line to intercept Nicolosi's pass.

Langhorne couldn't and was forced to punt. Magdelinskas' kick was the Eagles recovered on the line. This time Egan got the opportunity.

Nicolosi passed 11 yards to Donahue and Keith Arnall his way into the end zone. Arnall blasted up the middle, maintaining. Blucas added the point.

Pressure mounts

The pressure on the Redskins mounted when Thomas' ensuing kickoff to give the Langhorne 28. Thomas made the big play when he made a second down pass to Donahue for the Redskins.

Egan got the ball