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BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIN

Defense triggers Neshaminy win

By Bill Kettelberger
Courier Times Sports Writer

TRENTON — Neshaminy High School's Dan Santhouse is not the type to brag. In fact, you'll find the junior defensive back criticizing his mistakes rather than basking in well-deserved glory.

"I don't think they should have scored," said Santhouse after the second-ranked Redskins (2-1) held off Trenton Central (0-2), 7-6, in a non-league battle Saturday. "It was all my fault. I'm supposed to contain the outside and I got sucked in and they shot out. I should have been there."

Santhouse was there when it counted.

It was the 5-9, 140-pounder's 48-yard punt return down the left sideline that set up the Redskins' only score. Running back Earl Brown dove in from two yards out for the score on the ensuing play.

It was Neshaminy's only scoring opportunity. In a disappointing offensive outing, the Redskins managed just four first downs (only one in the second half) with 110 total offensive yards.

The Neshaminy defense supplied the big plays in key situations while the wishbone offense continued to sputter.

Defensive end Sean Dugan was credited with a game-saving tackle. After Trenton's Darren Rhodes scored from five yards out, Dugan tackled quarterback Anthony Johnson in the backfield in a bid for a two-point conversion.

With Trenton driving on Neshaminy's 13-yard line, defensive back Phil Lange intercepted a pass in the end zone. Defensive tackle Joe Christy recorded a sack and a blocked pass during the threat.

Defensive end John Hemple forced a fumble, which was recovered by Dugan, with a heavy crunch against Johnson in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter.

Joe King and Santhouse, res-

pectively, ended the Tornados' last two series with interceptions.

"I'm pleased with their performance," said Neshaminy head coach Dick Bedesem. "It's tough coming over here on a Saturday afternoon without any spirit or people here. It's kind of flat like an afternoon practice. It's hard for the kids to generate a lot of spirit, zip and everything else.

"We knew they (Trenton) had a ton of talent, but just didn't think they could play as well as they did. Of course the penalties did hurt us. Everytime it looked like our offense was getting something going and we were moving the ball, we were hit with a penalty. That kills you."

It was never more evident than on Neshaminy's opening fourth quarter drive. After a successful fourth-and-three attempt on Trenton's 18-yard line, the Redskins were guilty of a clipping call. The flag moved Neshaminy back to the 30 with a fourth-and-19 situation. The drive vanished.

"I thought we were going to put points on the board, but we didn't do it," said Bedesem.

Although pleased, Bedesem was far from satisfied with the performance given one week prior to the Suburban One League opener against Bensalem Township.

"I feel very apprehensive," said Bedesem about the opener. "We need a lot of work. We need better execution and more aggressiveness before we enter the league. Otherwise we'll be in trouble."

GAME NOTES: Neshaminy senior tackle Doug Kohler (6-2, 245) left the game in the second quarter with a possible hyperextended knee.

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Villa Joseph Marie enjoyed its first Homecoming day as it upended Pennington Prep (N.J.), 3-0, in varsity girls soccer Saturday.

Lisa Kaiser, assisted by Sharon