

Durable Rooney Helps Egan Down Neshaminy

By TED SILARY
Daily News Sports Writer

The calculator batteries had to squeeze out a little extra juice late last night, but overall it wasn't that hard to determine Chris Rooney's contribution, in yards, to Bishop Egan's 21-6 non-league football victory over reborn Neshaminy High.

They were 145 yards — including a scamper of 79 for a touchdown — on 25 carries and a screen-pass reception for 32 yards, moving the ball to the 3 and setting up the game's first score.

Now, if only it were that easy to compute the yardage Chris Rooney racked up during the summer.

"I'm not sure, but I must have walked 8 miles a day," said Rooney, who worked as an outdoor janitor (his term) at the Oxford Valley Mall. "It wasn't too thrilling a job, just walking around and making sure the grounds were in shape. But the pay was good and when you walk that much, sooner or later it has to start helping you."

Chris Rooney can consider himself helped, if his performance in Egan's mostly impressive, season-opening victory over an old rival (Langhorne and Maple Point have been melted down to re-form Neshaminy) can be used as a yardstick.

"I apologized to Chris afterward," said coach Bill Travers, laughing. "I told him, 'I'm sorry. You can run.'"

Actually, the 5-9, 180-pound Rooney proved all last year he could run, collecting 839 yards and 10 touchdowns on 223 rushes as the Eagles advanced to the Catholic League playoffs.

But since his yards-per-carry average was a mere 3.8 and he very rarely broke a long-gainer, Chris's speed and quickness were questioned more often than a husband who arrives home five times a week at 4 in the morning, almost always dehydrated.

This year, it would appear that people will have a right to question only one of the two.

"I still don't have speed, but I feel I'm a little bit quicker," Rooney said. "There is a difference, you know. Speed is what you show in the open field. Quickness is what helps you bang up into the hole. My time in the 40 is 4.85, recorded at Penn State's camp; isn't any better than last year, but I must admit, tonight I felt faster."

Coach Travers really broke out the quickness drills this year in pre-

season practice. He had us doing all kinds of drills. They helped tremendously. And I'm sure my legs were in better shape coming in because of the walking I did on the job."

Rooney got the call on seven consecutive second-quarter plays, but he's by no means the Eagles' lone weapon.

Quarterback Bob Zupcic ran for two TDs — the latter a 63-yard keeper that finalized the score with 1:35 left in the third quarter — and passed 4-for-10 for 83 yards. Lou Kuebler had two of those catches, good for 30 yards, and unleashed highlight-film blocks on the long scoring runs by Rooney and Zupcic.

Later, however, if Travers feels he needs to run Rooney 40 times total and maybe on 12 or 13 consecutive plays, he won't hesitate to ask.

"Chris would be the first to admit he doesn't have speed like [former stars] Shawn Passman or Keith Armstrong," Travers said, "but there's no doubt he's the most durable tailback we've had. He can take a hurtin'."

"And dish one out, while he's at it."
"This isn't to sound conceited," Chris said, "but if you want to tackle me, I have to make you pay. It has to be that way. If I twinkle-toe up to the line, I'm going to get cut in half."

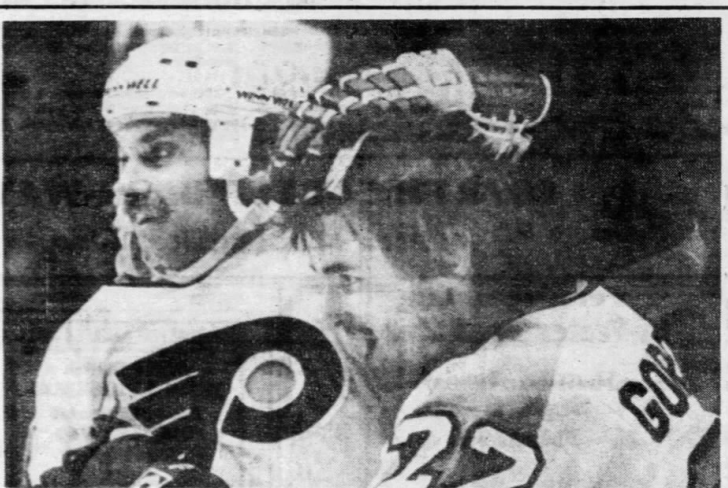
"A team like Neshaminy gang-tackles like crazy. You want to get any yardage, you have to break two or three tackles. And that's even with great blocking by our guys. I hurt my right shoulder in the Cardinal O'Hara scrimmage and, believe me, I felt it a few times tonight. Those guys were poppin'."

Meanwhile, it was a pop by Mike Muckin, and resulting fumble recovery by Greg Ratiu at the 8, that enabled Egan to keep Neshaminy from scoring early in the second quarter, after Bill Schmitt had blocked a punt. In the first quarter, a 52-yard scoring pass from Dave Duggan to Terry McDonald had been canceled by an ineligible receiver infraction.

"Neshaminy had a lot of enthusiasm, something that wasn't there when we played [Langhorne] last year," Rooney assessed. "On that alone, they're going to go a long way."

Ditto for Chris Rooney... although we'll make no guarantees on how speedily he'll get there.

ELSEWHERE: Brian Corrigan passed for two TDs and Brian Callan ran for another as Archbishop Carroll downed Downingtown, 20-6.



Tom Gorence (22) is congratulated by AI Hill during happier days with Flyers

Gorence Hartford Bound

By JAY GREENBERG
Daily News Sports Writer

With the aroma of meat and potatoes coming out of Bob McCammon's office oven yesterday, he served only cheese and crackers.

T.J. Gorence was sent off to the Hartford Whalers for a center-winger-defenseman goaltender named Future Considerations. Considerations is a much-travelled veteran who has done time with the Flyers before. Chances are he will be insignificant.

"Future considerations," intoned McCammon. "not necessarily a draft choice."

Gorence, who played five seasons with the Flyers, finished up at Maine last year. The 26-year-old right wing had a slim to no chance of making this year's team. So the Big Story, which McCammon had indicated might be announced yesterday, remains unbroken.

It is a major trade, quite possibly the much-rumored one that would send Darryl Sittler to Hartford for right wing Blaine Stoughton. It could still happen over the weekend. Or it might not happen at all.

"I've talked to the guy five times," said McCammon.

"And he was supposed to get back to me today. It's up to him now, whether it happens or not."

The Flyers new general manager was too open about his interest in Stoughton earlier this week not to believe he had had a good chance of making the deal. Since Sittler, due to his age, the Flyers' center glut, and Hartford's interest in his leadership qualities, is the most obvious bait, was McCammon simply preparing Darryl for the shock? Otherwise, there is no rationale for making a player and a person of Sittler's quality nervous.

Bob said a few teams showed an interest in T.J., who could just be the throw-in on the larger deal. A 24-goal scorer and an effective checker just three years ago, Gorence slumped to five goals in 1981-82. He had seven goals and seven assists in 53 games a year ago before being sent to Maine.

"Tommy lost some confidence and needed to play regularly to get it back," said McCammon. "I think this could extend his career a few more years."

It would be nice, but not necessary, for the larger deal to be made before the veterans begin training camp Monday morning.