

Speaking of streaks, it is generally assumed that Ridley's is now the third-longest unbeaten string in the five-county Philadelphia area history, behind West Catholic (42 from 1940-45) and Neshaminy (51 from 1961-65). But **S. Graeme Taylor**, of Swarthmore, sent us a letter questioning the claims of both schools. As it turns out, West Catholic's was a league streak, not an overall unbeaten streak. The Burrs lost the City Title game in 1940 (13-0 to Frankford) and '44 (13-7 to Southern), and also were beaten by West Philadelphia on Thanksgiving Day in 1944, 40-6. So the best the Burrs could have done was go 20 games in a row without a loss.

Neshaminy, on the other hand, was a trickier matter. The Redskins did indeed put together that imposing string (in fact, if not for a loss to Easton in 1961 the streak would have reached 70, dating back to '59). Trouble was, following the 1962 season in which Neshaminy went 10-0, it discovered that an ineligible reserve player had been used in seven games, all blow-outs. So months after the season was over, Neshaminy offered to forfeit those games, although the school is still listed as the Lower Bucks champion.

Colleague **Ted Silary** and I feel that upon weighing the evidence, Neshaminy should be given credit for what it accomplished, even if some folks might feel it needs an asterisk.

Although the PIAA keeps no official records, the acknowledged state record of 52 is held by Homestead, near Pittsburgh, in the late 1950s.

"The player in question had transferred in from a private school and was with us from camp on," said former Neshaminy coach **John Petercuskie**, now a special teams coach with the Cleveland Browns. "We made a technical mistake, pure and simple. He didn't make a difference in any games. So I guess you can view it as you want to, but we did win those games."

But it all ended with a thud. In 1966, after Petercuskie accepted an assistant's position at Dartmouth, the Redskins fell to Bishop Egan in the opener, 41-0, en route to a 1-6-2 season.