
FOOTBALL

Neshaminy 20
William Tennent 12

Panthers bested by Redskins

By Matt Schuman

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With six minutes to play and his team trailing host Neshaminy by 8 points in Friday night's Suburban One National Patriot Division game, it was decision time for William Tennent coach Mark Collins.

Faced with a fourth-and-4 from his own 26-yard line, Collins, without hesitation, elected to go for the first down rather than punt. But Tennent quarterback Kevin Czapor neither put the ball in the air nor ran a play in the direction of either sideline. Instead, half-back Tim Tolen took the ball right into the guts of the Neshaminy defense and was hauled down after a 1-yard gain.

Neshaminy (3-3 league, 6-3 overall) took over at the Tennent 27, scored a few minutes later to move ahead, 20-6, and came away with a 20-12 victory.

"I didn't punt because we needed two scores to win. Period," Collins told reporters while leaving the field. "We'd been throwing the ball a lot, so we thought we'd sneak a draw in. The draw didn't get it done, so it wasn't a good call."

Said Neshaminy coach Dick Bedesem: "He knows what his kids are capable of, so you can't criticize the call. The guy plays to win, and he'll do what he feels he has to do in order to win."

Although points came at a premium, it was a long night for both defenses. Each offense used a productive running game to put together strings of time-consuming drives, especially in the first half. Each side had the ball just twice before the intermission, but the only points came when Neshaminy fullback John Rizzo capped a 16-play, 84-yard march with a one-yard TD run. Pat Jagers added the PAT.

Halfway through the third quarter, Redskins' tailback Tom Knox (118 yards on 10 carries) weaved 35 yards for a touchdown, and Jagers' kick made it 14-0.

Tennent's best offensive display of the night followed, as the Panthers (2-4, 4-5) put together a 15-play, 75-yard drive that concluded when 6-foot, 4-inch, 240-pound Joe Nelk forced his way into the end zone from the 5. Collins opted to go for a 2-point conversion, but it failed, leaving the score 14-6 and setting the stage for the Tennent coach's white-knuckle decision a few minutes later.

Rizzo's second touchdown, a 5-yard run, and a 1-yard sneak by Czapor in the final 11 seconds rounded out the scoring.

"Tennent hangs right in there with you," Bedesem said. "And from a coaching standpoint, that scares you to death."

William Tennent	0	0	0	12	—	12
Neshaminy	0	7	7	6	—	20

N: Rizzo 1 run (Jagers kick)

N: Knox 35 run (Jagers kick)

WT: Nelk 5 run (run failed)

N: Rizzo 5 run (kick failed)

WT: Czapor 1 run (run failed)