

The Bucks' victory is a real team effort

By Gary Miles
Inquirer Staff Writer

After the Central Bucks West Bucks defeated the Neshaminy Redskins, 25-0, Friday night at Neshaminy to stretch their unbeaten streak to 38 consecutive games, the Neshaminy coaches felt sorrier for West's future opponents than they did for themselves.

"If that team is No. 2 in the country, I'd hate to play No. 1," said one assistant.

"Are they on our schedule next year?" asked another.

"I'm happy we were put in a position to play them, but I'm glad it's over," said a third.

For West coach Mike Pettine, it's the same old story.

Just as it was before the Downingtown, West Chester Henderson and Council Rock games this season, the pregame hype failed to capture the determination of his team to win. Sure, West and Neshaminy both have great players and both entered the game with 5-0 overall records and 2-0 league marks. But nobody ever expected the Bucks to blow out what many considered the third best team in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Not even Pettine.

"I thought there was more pressure on us in this game than any other all year," Pettine said. "Neshaminy has so many weapons that we went over quite a bit at practice all week. We gave the kids a lot of things to work on, a lot to study. I thought we gave them too much. But after seeing them play tonight, I guess not."

Fortunately for Pettine, football, unlike ice hockey, does not limit the recognition of its stars to the top three players. For if any Bucks victory all season should be called a total team effort, this was it.

Senior quarterback Randy Cuthbert was superb at three positions. He gained 85 rushing yards and scored two touchdowns from his quarterback and running back positions, passed for 134 yards and one touchdown and intercepted a Bill Vergantino pass in the fourth quarter from his defensive back spot.

Senior running back Anthony Ventresca gained 86 rushing yards on nine carries, 121 yards and one touch-

Central Bucks West 25 Neshaminy 0

down on four pass receptions and returned the first Neshaminy punt 24 yards to the West 43.

Defensively, the Bucks (6-0 overall, 3-0 in the Suburban One National Conference Colonial Division) were just as outstanding against Neshaminy (5-1, 2-1 Suburban One National Conference Patriot Division). They held the vaunted Redskins' wishbone offense to 142 yards and harried Vergantino, one of the most respected quarterbacks in the area, to a 1-of-6 passing night. Junior back Chris Pelczarski even thwarted a Redskins' scoring drive with an interception in the end zone in the first quarter.

After Neshaminy's Mike Doyle missed a 35-yard field-goal attempt on the Redskins' second drive of the night, West scored when Ventresca turned a screen pass on the right side into a 79-yard touchdown run that Pettine called "the greatest run I have ever seen."

Ventresca not only eluded a host of Neshaminy tacklers as he zigzagged his way down the sideline, but he kept his balance twice by using his hand as a crutch.

The Bucks made it 14-0 with 4 minutes, 57 seconds to play in the second quarter when Cuthbert capped a four-play, 57-yard drive with a 20-yard touchdown run. Senior kicker Chris Angell connected on a 32-yard field goal on the last play of the first half, and Cuthbert scored on a 1-yard run early in the third period.

"What really got us going was the T-shirts they were wearing," Pettine said of the Neshaminy fans. "They said '37-1'. They call this place Heartbreak Ridge, and it was. But not the way they expected."

Central Bucks West	7	10	8	0	—	25
Neshaminy	0	0	0	0	—	0

CBW: Ventresca 79 pass from Cuthbert (Angell kick)

CBW: Cuthbert 20 run (Angell kick)

CBW: FG 33 Angell

CBW: Cuthbert 1 run (Cuthbert run)