

# Whippets salvage pride in loss to strong Redskins

By Ray Doyle  
Special to The Inquirer

Downingtown lost another football game to an area powerhouse Friday night. But the Whippets salvaged their pride — a development that could prove to be the turning point of their season.

The Neshaminy Redskins, ranked No. 5 in The Inquirer Southeastern Pennsylvania Top 10, scored all their points in the first half to defeat the host Whippets, 32-14, in a nonleague game.

Downingtown was scoreless in the first half, and total disaster appeared imminent. Instead, the Whippets shut down the Redskins and scored twice in the second half. They also had a touchdown called back because of a penalty.

"Who knows how bad this could have been?" said Downingtown coach Bill Doyle. "But the kids sucked it up, got a couple of breaks and came back."

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## Neshaminy 32 Downingtown 14

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Leading the Whippets in the second half was sophomore running back Dwayne Miller, who rushed for 135 yards in the half on 12 carries.

"We've needed somebody to get us excited," said Doyle, "and Dwayne did that. I think we're starting to see what we can do as a team."

In the first half, it didn't appear that Downingtown was going to do much of anything. Three interceptions and a pair of lost fumbles set up four Neshaminy scores.

"We had another black-cloud first half, and Neshaminy took advantage of it," said Doyle.

The Redskins took the opening kickoff and drove 69 yards in five plays,

with Tom Knox going 14 yards down the right side for the score. Mike Doyle booted the extra point.

Late in the quarter Keith Moss intercepted a Mike Evangelista pass to set the 'Skins up at the Whippets' 30-yard line, and four plays later Jonathan Hall ran around left end for 5 yards to score. Knox ran for a 2-point conversion to make it 15-0.

In the second quarter, Mike Doyle booted a 31-yard field goal as the count mounted to 18-0.

With 1:56 left before intermission, quarterback Bill Vergantino, who completed 8 of 11 passes for 184 yards in the first half, connected with Hall on a 36-yard scoring strike. Dave Paino hit Hall with a pass for another 2-point conversion, making it 26-0.

With a minute remaining, Brian Moser intercepted another Evangelista pass, after it was tipped by three players, and the 'Skins took over at the Downingtown 25. Vergantino raced 21

yards on a keeper to the 4-yard line. The Whippets' defense pushed the 'Skins back to the 7-yard line, but on third down Vergantino went to the 2-yard line on a keeper and, when hit, lateraled the ball to Hall, who went over for his third touchdown of the game. The conversion kick failed.

Near the end of the third quarter, the Whippets drove 80 yards in 9 plays to score, with Evangelista hitting Matt Schmidt with a 10-yard pass for the touchdown with 8 seconds left.

Downingtown's John Steele recovered a fumble by 'Skins reserve quarterback Dan McClave on the first play of the fourth quarter. On the next play Miller raced 34 yards to score, and Lynn converted to make it 32-14. The Downingtown scores came 47 seconds apart. Midway in the fourth quarter Evangelista hit Steele with a 10-yard pass in the end zone, but the play was called back because Downingtown had an ineligible receiver downfield.

At the half, the 'Skins had outgained the Whippets in net yardage, 290-23. For the entire game, the difference was 370-215. Vergantino threw only 3 passes the second half, completing none and having one picked off by defensive lineman Tony Zeigler. Evangelista was 4 for 9 for 48 yards in the game. Miller was the leading rusher in the game with 167 yards on 15 carries. Knox had 128 yards on 18 attempts for the Redskins.

Neshaminy is now 3-0 on the season. Downingtown is 0-2 and is scheduled to play at Chester Saturday at 11 a.m.

Neshaminy	15	17	0	0	—	32
Downingtown	0	0	7	7	—	14

- N: Knox 14 run (Doyle kick)
- N: Hall 5 run (Knox run)
- N: FG 31 Doyle
- N: Hall 36 pass from Vergantino (Hall pass from Paino)
- N: Hall 2 run (kick failed)
- D: Schmidt 10 pass from Evangelista (Lynn kick)
- D: Miller 34 run (Lynn kick)