

Pennsbury tops Neshaminy to take title, 14-7

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As expected, Pennsbury High captured its second straight Suburban One National championship yesterday with a tumultuous 14-7 victory over backyard rival Neshaminy before an estimated 7,500 fans at Pennsbury.

The game was a rematch of last year's title game, which Pennsbury won, 12-0.

But wait a minute. Was that a mirage, or was that really Dave Fisher lofting a 67-yard touchdown pass to Bob Filotei for the winning margin late in the fourth quarter? Tradition-bound Pennsbury passing instead of running to glory?

"We had real balance this year — the run and the pass," said Pennsbury coach Jim Dundala, whose top offensive threat this season has been 1,000-yard rusher Scott LeBrecque.

Strange but true. The unexpected was required against Neshaminy, which had tied the score at 7-7 in the third quarter and had every intention of taking the lead.

Dundala said, "Today we went back to our motto: 'Whatever it takes.'"

So when Tom Waterbor's 42-yard field-goal attempt into a swirling wind fluttered short and to the left, Pennsbury, No. 2 in the Inquirer coaches' poll, made certain the final 5 minutes, 46 seconds would be a time to remember.

However, it took a holding call on an incomplete pass on third down to maintain the drive — a penalty that prompted Neshaminy coach Dick Bedesem and his assistants to rage at certain officials after the game.

"I can't believe the holding call," Bedesem said. "You can print it. They take the game away from the kids. They bust their backs out there and they took it away from them."

The next play, Pennsbury quarterback Fisher, taking advantage of a stout wind at his back, drilled a perfect pass to Filotei, who completed the exciting pass-and-run sequence, untouched.

"We put that play in this week," Dundala said. "It sure looked good in practice and it felt real good to pull the trigger in the game."

Filotei, who also made a twisting 13-yard catch to elongate a third quarter drive, said he perked up when he heard "17 bootleg pass" called in the huddle.

"Even in the huddle, Dave (Fisher) and I just looked at each other and I knew the ball was going to me," Filotei said. "Once it was called, I knew if I caught it, it was going for a touchdown."

Pennsbury (10-0 overall and 7-0 in league play) made it 7-0 on a 5-yard run by LeBrecque (16 carries, 57

How they fared

How the teams in The Inquirer's Southeastern Pennsylvania Top 10 fared this weekend.

No. 1 **Central Bucks West** defeated Upper Perkiomen, 46-14. No. 2 **Pennsbury** defeated Neshaminy, 14-7. No. 3 **Downingtown** defeated Phoenixville, 35-13. No. 4 **Ridley** defeated Radnor, 23-0. No. 5 **Bishop McDevitt** plays Archbishop Wood today.

No. 6 **North Penn** lost to Souderton, 27-10. No. 7 **Archbishop Ryan** defeated Cardinal Dougherty, 23-0. No. 8 **Neshaminy** lost to Pennsbury, 14-7. No. 9 **Plymouth-Whitemarsh** defeated Wissahickon, 23-13. No. 10 **Academy Park** lost to Sun Valley, 9-6.

yards) early in the second quarter. Defensive back Todd Stefan made it all possible with an interception of a Tim Ford pass and 35-yard return to the Neshaminy 26.

The Neshaminy wishbone offense, denied all but air to breathe in the first half (21 carries, 57 yards), came back with a vengeance. The Redskins pounded out 132 yards rushing, including 66 in a sparkling third-quarter drive that concluded with Tim McCleave's 1-yard TD run.

Neshaminy (7-3, 6-1), No. 8 in the coaches' poll, had another impressive drive to start the fourth quarter as fullback Bill Clemens (15 carries, 58 yards) ran through large holes in the Pennsbury defense.

"We knew what they were doing," Dundala said, "but their fullback, Clemens, did a great job. He's 6-foot-2, 225 pounds, he got the ball on the line of scrimmage and he ran."

But the Redskins hit a snag deep in Pennsbury territory when Jim Dougherty was tackled for a loss. On fourth down at the 25, Waterbor attempted his ill-fated kick.

"It's determination," said Pennsbury linebacker Galen Snyder. "That's the whole key, I guess. We're both great teams, but we were determined not to let them get that second touchdown."

From there, Pennsbury just did what came naturally — even if didn't follow the usual game plan.

"This one was sweet because Neshaminy played us so tough," said Snyder. "If we hadn't played at the top of our game, we probably would have lost."

Neshaminy	0	0	7	0	—	7
Pennsbury	0	7	0	7	—	14

P: LeBrecque 5 run (Kiefer kick)
N: McCleave 1 run (Waterbor kick)
P: Filotei 67 pass from Fisher (Kiefer kick)