

Coach won't accept notion of mismatch

By Sam Carchidi
Special to The Inquirer

On paper, Saturday's Suburban One National Division game between unbeaten William Tennent and Neshaminy Langhorne is a classic mismatch. Just don't tell that to Bill Juzwiak.

Juzwiak is the coach of William Tennent (4-0 overall, 2-0 in the league), a team that has one of the area's most explosive offenses. Its scoring average — a staggering 34.25 points a game — is second only to Frankford's (36.25) in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Neshaminy (1-4, 1-1) is coming off an 18-0 loss to Council Rock.

So Tennent is the prohibitive favorite, right?

Not so fast, Juzwiak says. "They [Neshaminy] are better than their record shows," said Juzwiak, in his 11th year at Tennent. "When you look at the films, they're fundamentally sound. They hit. And they've played some decent teams and just come up short. They could very easily be 4-1 instead of 1-4.

"If their morale is up, we'll have a wildcat on our hands, because they'll be hungry."

William Tennent at Nesh. Langhorne

1:30 p.m. Saturday

The Tennent Panthers will also be hungry; with a victory Saturday, they can guarantee their eighth winning season in the last nine years.

"Will we be overconfident? I don't see how we can be," said Juzwiak, whose team is ranked second in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Dunkel Ratings. "We're constantly warning the kids that Neshaminy is a tough team with a tremendous tradition.

"We can't be overconfident. All we have to do is point to last year (an uncharacteristic 4-5-1 season). We want to erase that. It didn't feel good losing."

Translation: Tennent wants to clinch a winning season Saturday. Badly.

The Panthers last week scored a methodical 34-6 victory over Bensalem, the only team to lose to Neshaminy.

The high-powered Panther offense revolves around quarterback Jeff

Ferguson, who has passed for 392 yards this year, fullback Bob Baus and halfbacks Frank Gallagher and Kevin Mylett.

Each of the four backs has gained between 180 and 260 rushing yards this year; they account for most of the Panthers' 895 rushing yards.

Wide receiver Rich Kessler is another dangerous offensive threat.

Defensively, Juzwiak said Tennent would have its hands full trying to contain Neshaminy-Langhorne's Bob Thomas, a 5-foot-8, 165-pound halfback who earlier in the year scored on a 75-yard kickoff return against Archbishop Carroll.

Directing Neshaminy's wing-T offense will be Vince Nicastro (6-1,

175), a senior who hasn't played this year because of a broken hand he suffered in a preseason scrimmage against LaSalle. "He's quick and he can run," Neshaminy coach Jim Weber said. "He could be a big factor as to how successful we'll be the rest of the year."

The Redskins' top receiver is split end Pat Donahue, a sure-handed 5-8, 150-pounder who grabbed five passes for 110 yards from quarterback Dave Duggan last week. Duggan has a pinched nerve in his back and is not expected to play.

Neshaminy, which has been outscored 96-50 cumulatively, relies on nose tackle Howard Johnson (5-9, 190) to anchor its 5-2 defense.

Playing a mirror image

By Sam Carchidi
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Upper Dublin and Neshaminy-Maple Point — two teams that will square off in a Suburban One American Division game Saturday — have so many similarities, it's eerie.

Upper Dublin has a 1-4 record into

Neshaminy-Maple Pt. at Upper Dublin

1:30 p.m. Saturday
