

# Redskins overtake the Ghosts in the 4th quarter

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It took Abington only one play and 16 seconds to take the lead against Neshaminy at the start of its Suburban One National Conference Colonial Division opener at Neshaminy Monday night.

So it must have seemed like slow torture to the Galloping Ghosts when, in the fourth quarter, Neshaminy took 17 plays and nearly 8 minutes to drive to the touchdown and 2-point conversion that enabled it to come from behind and win, 21-20, in a battle between two undefeated teams.

Led by halfback Tom Knox, who gained 136 yards rushing, fullback John Rizzo and halfback Chris Craig, Neshaminy methodically moved the

## Neshaminy 21 Abington 20

ball down the field after an Abington field-goal attempt went wide with 8:32 left in the game. However, it was Neshaminy quarterback Bill Vergantino who did the real damage.

Facing a fourth-and-5 at the Abington 22, Vergantino was flushed out of the pocket by the Abington defense. Vergantino looked to pass, then scrambled left, diving for the first down at the Abington 17. The Neshaminy quarterback then carried the next three

times, finally stopped for no gain by Abington linebacker Jamie Wagner at the 6 on first down.

However, it was a short-lived reprieve. Knox carried to the 4, where he was stopped by tackle Erik Farish, but Vergantino called his own number one last time. Vergantino went off left tackle for the score with 40 seconds left in the game. The Redskins (4-0, 1-0 Patriot Division) still trailed by 20-19, but Neshaminy coach John Chaump decided to go for the win. Vergantino pitched out to Knox on the right side, who went in for the 2-point conversion.

Chaump said that he and his coaches had talked of going for the tie if the situation came up, but went for the win in the heat of the moment.

"You put it on the line, you let them go for it and if they make it, great. If they don't make it, it was a hell of a try and it's still great."

Neshaminy's comeback took the luster off an equally impressive comeback by Abington (3-1, 1-1 league).

After Marshall Roberts opened the game with a 95-yard kickoff return, Neshaminy built a 13-6 lead midway through the third quarter. Abington had not shown much life to that point. However, quarterback Jeff Hack, who passed for 109 yards, threw a 47-yard completion to Ted Ferguson at the Neshaminy 19 to spark the Ghosts.

Three plays later, Hack scored on a keeper. Another pass to Ferguson for 2 points gave Abington the lead, 14-13,

with 2:37 left in the third quarter. A minute later, Dave Roatch intercepted his first of two Vergantino passes to give Abington the ball at the Neshaminy 36. After an incomplete pass, Hack again hooked up with Ferguson. Ferguson beat Jim Patella to the end zone, giving the Ghosts a 20-13 lead.

"They're class all the way," Abington coach Doug Moister said of his team. "I think we'll be back, back with a vengeance. I know I will be."

Abington	6	0	14	0	—	20
Neshaminy	0	7	6	8	—	21

A: Roberts 95 kickoff return (kick failed)

N: Knox 6 run (Doyle kick)

N: Craig 3 pass from Vergantino (kick failed)

A: Hack 1 run (Ferguson pass from Hack)

A: Ferguson 36 pass from Hack (kick failed)

N: Vergantino 4 run (Knox run)