

Neshaminy 'wins' best team title

By JOE JONES

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LEVITTOWN — The computer has played the game and the best high school football team in Pennsylvania history is:

The 1971 Neshaminy Redskins.

Jack Swartz's undefeated Neshaminy squad recorded a 19-10 victory over the 1972 team of its fierce rival: Pennsbury, coached by Chuck Kane, in the first Hal Wilson Challenge.

The final of the 16-team, computerized tournament was played last week by the man who programmed the event, Tom Elling, who runs the Pennsylvania Football News Web site, where the tourney can also be found.

"Can you believe it came down to Pennsbury '72 and Neshaminy '71?," asked Bruce Traney, starting fullback on the 1971 Neshaminy team. "I think it's wonderful (Neshaminy won). It's a tribute to Neshaminy football, Bucks County and the type of programs and athletes they produce. It's neat and it's fun."

The game and the tournament concept was discussed recently on The Front Page Sports, a sports radio show featuring John Chester and Tim Koch that can be heard every Wednesday and Thursday night on 1490-AM WBCB.

Elling said the old computer boxing matches of great champions, the most notable being Rocky Marciano vs. Muhammad Ali, inspired him to put a program together that could determine the best high school

football team in the state.

Wilson is a longtime high school football historian in the state and he and Elling were able to compile what they believed were the 16 top teams. The earliest came from 1919. Joe Namath's 1960 Beaver Falls team made the cut as did the 1983 Berwick team, which was considered by many the top team in the country that year.

And the computer came up with an all-Lower Bucks final.

This is how the computer broke down the game.

Pete Cordelli threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to Dale Forchetti and then Forchetti connected on the PAT kick to give the Redskins a 7-0 lead, less than three minutes into the game.

The score would stay that way until the final play of the first half when a Pennsbury quarterback named Garrett (the actual backup quarterback on Pennsbury's team was Bobby Crouch), substituting for Gary Kutsmeda, who was injured late in the first quarter, had a pass tipped, intercepted and returned 22 yards for a touchdown by Joe Neky. The kick failed and the Redskins led, 13-0, at the half.

Forchetti boomed a 48-yard field goal off the upright and in to make it 16-0 just a shade over four minutes into the third quarter.

Pennsbury battled back, though. Kutsmeda, now back in the game, threw a 9-yard scoring strike to Bill Porter with 4:06 left in the third. John Giordano's kick made it 16-7.