

Neshaminy registers 28-0 victory

By Bob Weaver
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Dick Bedesem has not become a successful coach by throwing caution to the wind. He and his staff knew there was a possibility his team would be overconfident against an Abington team which hadn't won a Suburban One League National Conference game this season. He knew there was a possibility his Redskins would be looking past the Ghosts toward next Saturday's big showdown with Pennsbury.

"The only way to stop overconfidence is to work the kids hard. We had some real good practices this week. We didn't want to give the kids time to think about anything else," said Bedesem.

The Redskins offered living proof of the value of hard work Friday evening, as they easily dispatched Abington, 28-0, before 3,000 fans on Hall of Fame night at newly renamed Harry E. Franks Stadium.

Second-ranked Neshaminy won its sixth game in a row and now stands 7-2 (6-0) overall. Abington, on the other hand, lost its fifth straight game (all shutouts) and dropped to 2-6-1 (0-5-1).

Thus, in his second year at the helm of the Redskins, Bedesem finds himself again heading into the last SOL game with the championship at stake. Top-ranked Pennsbury and Neshaminy go into the big game with identical 6-0 league records.

"Last year we had high hopes, we felt we had a good shot. It was a great year, a great situation (playing for the championship on the last game of the season), only the results (Pennsbury won, 12-0) were bad.

"This year was a lot different. We lost a lot of kids through graduation. We lost two of our first three games. A lot of people wrote us off. But these kids are real dedicated and have worked hard to get where they are."

Against Abington, it didn't take much more than a minute for the Redskins to light up the scoreboard, and their offense had yet to set foot on the field.

Abington opened the game with two pass incompletions and a completion which lost six yards. Thus, the Abington punter's number was called early. Dan Helm took the snap, brought his leg up, and his leg, the ball, and Neshaminy's Dan Weissenberg arrived at the same

point at about the same time.

"I'm the flyer," said Weissenberg. "We've worked on this play all season. This is the first time we've done it (blocked a punt), although we've come close a couple of times."

The ball bounced toward the end zone where Redskin defensive back Kenny Kemp pounced on it for six points. Tom Waterbor's point-after was good and, with 10:47 still remaining in the first quarter, Neshaminy had a quick 7-0 lead.

Neshaminy added two more scores in the second quarter to pretty much decide the issue. At the 11:46 mark, John Rizzo ran it in from 7 yards out while, with just 17 seconds to go, Jim Dougherty snared a Tim Ford aerial and turned it into a 6-yard scoring play. Waterbor added both points after for a 21-0 halftime advantage.

"We started five sophomores. It wasn't for lack of effort that we lost, they were just a good team. We dropped a couple of passes, (or) it could have easily been 14-7 at halftime," said a frustrated Doug Moister of Abington.

Outside of an 85-yard drive for its second score, the Redskin offense was anything but efficient. They were forced to punt five times and had two other possessions ended by fumbles.

"We were experimenting out there. The one drive was a good one. Most of the second half, we didn't have our best kids in. We had enough points, so it was time to give the other kids a chance to play," said Bedesem.

At the 6:38 mark of the third quarter, Neshaminy got its final score on a Dougherty 9-yard scamper. Abington, meanwhile, had two promising drives in the fourth quarter. The first was snuffed by a Weissenberg interception, while the second saw the Ghosts run out of downs.

GAME NOTES: The Neshaminy Football Hall of Fame honored its first 10 inductees at halftime. They were former coaches Harry Franks and John Petercuskie and former standout performers Wayne (Inky) Schneider, Bob Baxter, Jim Colbert, Harry Schuh, Don Cameron, Steve Cloak, Jack Stricker, and John Carber....Neshaminy's Tim Ford won the annual Robert Hurst award as the most courageous Redskin....Both the senior footballers and senior cheerleaders were recognized as they appeared in their last home game.