

Neshaminy bears watching again in '85

By Bob Weaver

Dick Bedesem returned to the local scholastic football scene with a bang last year. The Neshaminy High School program was in a shambles and in dire need of a major tune-up.

So Bedesem installed the Wishbone, instilled some pride, and the Redskins became an instantaneous hit. In finishing with a 7-3 record overall, Neshaminy posted its best season since 1977 (7-4-0 under coach Charlie Schmidt) and was in contention for the Suburban One League National Division title until the last game.

"I think it was very, very important," said Bedesem about last season. "You know you're coming in, and I don't want to sound egotistical by any stretch, with a so-called reputation and having coached in college and everybody's looking at the program to see what changes are being made.

"To come in and win is important only from the standpoint of having the youngsters believe in the program. Winning and losing is important in any program, but I think it was very important for us because we made believers out of the youngsters who are the future of our program."

Bedesem had some quality performers to help the Redskins regain some respect. Graduation took Courier Times Golden 28 first team performers Earl Brown, Mike Downs and Joe Christy. The Redskins may be hard pressed to equal last year's achievements. In addition, Neshaminy loses another valuable ally from last year — the element of surprise.

"I think the fact that we had taken over a program that was really down, in terms of winning, had some teams early in the season looking past us. I think we jumped on some people who weren't expecting it. It's going to be tougher (this year)," said Bedesem.

Despite the graduation losses, the Neshaminy cupboard was not left bare.

NESHAMINY

Sept. 6	— Bishop Egan	7:30 Home
Sept. 13	— North Penn	8:00 Away
Sept. 20	— C. Bucks West	7:30 Home
Sept. 27	— Bensalem Twp.	7:30 Home
Oct. 4	— Council Rock	7:30 Home
Oct. 12	— William Tennent	1:30 Away
Oct. 19	— Harry S Truman	1:30 Home
Oct. 25	— Norristown	7:30 Away
Nov. 1	— Abington	7:30 Home
Nov. 9	— Pennsbury	1:30 Away
Nov. 16	— Methacton	1:30 Away

Coach — Dick Bedesem

Senior Tim Ford (5-10, 170) returns to call the signals and is the key figure in the Wishbone. Last year, Ford completed 26 of 64 passes for 650 yards and seven touchdowns. In addition, he ran for 53 yards and three TDs.

"There's no doubt our quarterback situation is excellent," said Bedesem. "Timmy Ford got a lot of experience last year and he has so much confidence in running the offense. The Wishbone is a quarterback offense and you depend so much on him. He has displayed an awful lot of character and poise and it's a pleasure to work with him."

Bedesem counts returning senior Terry Murphy (6-5, 245) as a definite plus.

"I think Terry is simply one of the most outstanding football players around," said Bedesem. "He played all last year as a starter at offensive tackle and played some defense. This year we're going to ask him to continue to play offense and do more on defense. He has been absolutely sensational in terms of work habits and getting into the weight room."

Bedesem is concerned with "lack of experience, not so much any one particular area, although I have to say right now our down line situation on defense is our weakest point in terms of experi-

ence."

Joining Ford in the backfield will be senior Bobby Spain (5-10, 190) and junior Jimmy Dougherty (5-10, 165). Last year Spain carried eight times for 42 yards, while Dougherty gained 22 on 11 carries. Rocky Spaddaccino (6-1, 180) will play wide receiver.

Up front on offense will be Murphy, junior center Chuck Gettis (6-2, 220), senior guard Pat O'Brien (5-9, 210), senior John Allen (5-11, 250), junior tight end Bill Magdalinskas (6-1, 185), and senior Chris Gettis (6-1, 205).

"Our strength defensively appears to be in our secondary," said Bedesem. "We have three returning starters and a fourth who's looked real good in the pre-season."

Primary in the secondary will be senior Dan Santhouse (5-7, 145). Santhouse was a member of the first team defense on the Courier Times Golden 28 last year and, according to Bedesem, hits like a Mack Truck despite his size.

Joining Santhouse are senior lettermen Butch Lang (6-0, 175) and Dan Weissenberg (5-11, 160), as well as senior Kenny Kemp (6-0, 170).

"Up front, it's a situation where we have so many bodies and so many youngsters, in terms of experience," said Bedesem. "Our linebackers are more experienced at this point. We have senior Bill Cimochimsky (5-7, 185), senior John Hemple (6-2, 220), and Jimmy Bolson (5-7, 180), who is also a senior."

On the defensive line, only junior Chris Sloan (6-3, 215) and junior Ralph Taylor (5-10, 185) have won jobs. The Neshaminy kicking game will probably be in the feet of Taylor (punting) and Pat Jaegers (place-kicking).

"Our main goal is to improve every day and come along as quickly as we possibly can," said Bedesem. "But we don't want to advance so fast that we forget the fundamentals. We set a goal for our ballclub to get that everyday improvement and let the chips fall where they may."



Dan Santhouse

