

Pennsbury hosts Neshaminy

By BRUCE J. INSON
Staff Writer

The matchups are natural. Bitter, neighboring rivals.

Neshaminy at Pennsbury.

Trenton at Swing

At stake in the former is the Suburban One National Division title.

At stake in the latter is remaining alive in the Colonial Valley Conference's Colonial Division and in the chase for an NJSIAA playoff berth.

Let's take a look at those two games, plus several other key matchups in the Delaware Valley:

Neshaminy at Pennsbury (tomorrow, 1:30): In addition to, arguably, the top two marching units in the Delaware Valley, this is the Nos. 1 and 3 teams in The Times' rankings.

Pennsbury (9-0) figured to be good. The Falcons returned Division I types like Galen Snyder, Andy Anderson, Bob Burns, Marc Freeman, Dave Harrison, plus smaller school probables like Scott LaBrecque, Bob Filotei, Todd Ortman and others from last year's No. 1 team.

Neshaminy was 7-3 a year ago, its first year under coach Dick Bedesem. But the 'Skins were loaded with seniors. No problem. They were also loaded with quality coaches, guys who knew how to teach winning football.

"There's a whole new attitude around here now," said Dan Weissenberg, after blocking a punt to set up one touchdown and intercepting a pass in Neshaminy's 28-0 win over Abington last Friday night. "It's winning. We don't think about losing. Before, we'd just go and play. Now we go out to win."

It's been working. The 'Skins are 14-5 under Bedesem, who brought in a new coaching staff and a new offense — the Wishbone.

"People said a high school team couldn't run the Wishbone," said senior quarterback Tim Ford, "but I guess we're proving them wrong."

Bedesem's first choice for quarterback in the 'Bone was Mickey Ford. But Tim's older brother was injured in a scrimmaged before last year's opener, so the pressure fell on the younger son of Brian Ford, Bordentown High's veteran basketball coach.

FORD OWNS a 3.75 grade average in school and might be headed to Army or Navy for college ("I'd love to play for Army, but I don't know if I want to put in five years after graduation"), but reading books is one thing, reading defenses for the Wishbone is another.

"It's not just me," Ford said, "it's the coaching staff. They're incredible. They prepare us so well, I don't see how we can do wrong."

Ford proved he is not only a magician with the handoffs but that



Tim Ford
... Neshaminy quarterback

against Abington, the 'Skins marched the length of the field, Ford hitting Jim Dougherty for the touchdown.

"We work on our two-minute drill a lot in practice," Ford said. "The coach has a clock and we try to use our timeouts. 'Doc' made two nice catches, the linemen, like Terry Murphy, kept 'em off me and we scored."

Abington, of course, is not Pennsbury, a fact that is not lost on Ford.

"We'll have to play at the top of our game to beat them," he said. "But we've played good teams before. Playing teams like (Central Bucks) West, North Penn (Neshaminy's losses), Norristown, Council Rock, that helped get us ready for Pennsbury."

"It's gonna be a war."