Neshaminy Redskins make a statement

By KEVIN COONEY
Bucks County Courier Times

CALN He's been a featured back in a top-flight high school offense for two seasons now.

Still, there's no odometer turning in Jason Ulmer's head, keeping track of his rushing totals.

Really, I don't worry about that, said Ulmer, a senior at Neshaminy. When you are running out there, you are concentrating on carrying the football and following your blocks and helping your team find a way to win. If you are focused on those individual numbers, there's no way you are doing what the team needs you to do.

On a night when his team desperately needed an offensive spark, Ulmer's individual rushing numbers sealed a very gratifying season-opening win for the Redskins.

Ulmer rushed 16 times for 208 yards and a touchdown on Friday, and Neshaminy enjoyed the long ride home after a 19-13 win over Coatesville.

There are people who don't believe that we have a good football team here, but we do, Ulmer said. And we wanted to prove that tonight.

The victory didn't come without a few skipped heartbeats. The matter wasn't settled until Ian Capanna's interception of a Charles Green pass at the Neshaminy 6-yard line with 1:29 left to play.

This was good because we saw how tough our kids were, Redskins coach Mark Schmidt said. Our defense was great when we needed it to be. Jason really helped our offense.

We have some things to work on, but this was a good step, especially since we did it on the road.

This was an unusual spot for the Redskins, who haven't played an opening game away from Heartbreak Ridge since 1995, when they traveled to Allentown-Dieruff. And there were questions about how they would bounce back from missing the playoffs last season.

Ulmer who rushed for 612 yards in 2006 after top running back Kitt Anderson went down with a foot injury answered those questions.

It was Ulmer who got a lagging Redskins offense going late in the first half with an 83-yard touchdown run down the right sideline to bring Neshaminy back within 7-6. (The extra point was blocked.)

Then, after fumbling on the opening drive of the second half, Ulmer broke free for 40 yards and sprinted to the Coatesville 1-yard-line. Joe Stemme dove into the end zone from there, and the Redskins took a 12-10 lead late in the third.

That run showed me a lot about the kid that Ulmer is, Schmidt said. He could have beat up on himself and gotten down, but he kept fighting. He wanted the ball, and he wasn't going to let up until he made amends.

The final Neshaminy score came on a Justin Kinney 34-yard touchdown pass over the middle to a wide open Kevin Steinberg on a post route.

For Coatesville, Green finished with 100 yards on 24 carries.

September 1, 2007 4:45 AM