

Redskins' Ulmer runs past Ghosts

By Rick O'Brien

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Neshaminy's Bob Reece (5) leaps high to block a punt by Abington's Anthony Hensley (16) in the second quarter. Neshaminy recovered the ball and went on to kick a field goal.

For Neshaminy's Jason Ulmer, a major commitment to off-season training is paying big dividends.

Ulmer, a 6-foot, 185-pound senior tailback, ran track and field last spring, competing in the 100- and 200-yard dash events. He also spent time with Steve Wilmont, the football program's strength and conditioning coach.

"I was lifting weights, doing agility drills," Ulmer said. "It definitely helped me. I feel a lot stronger."

Ulmer showed his increased strength and improved speed in last night's Suburban One League National Conference opener against Abington. He rushed 28 times for a season-high 211 yards and three touchdowns as the visiting Redskins downed the Ghosts, 38-26, at Schwarzman Stadium.

"He made a decision to be 'the guy' this year," Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt said of Ulmer. "He set some pretty big goals, and he's achieved them all."

The Redskins, ranked No. 2 in Southeastern Pennsylvania by The Inquirer, improved to 4-0 overall. Abington, which last season made a surprise run to the semifinal round of the PIAA District 1 Class AAAA playoffs, slipped to 2-2.

Ulmer has rushed 86 times this season for 746 yards, an average of 8.7 yards per carry. He has scored six touchdowns. The 17-year-old from Feasterville ran for 208 yards in the season-opening win at Coatesville.

Quarterback Justin Kinney also played a key role in last night's victory. He completed 12 of 16 passes for 149 yards and two scores.

Neshaminy took a commanding 24-7 lead midway through the third quarter. Kinney delivered a 27-yard TD pass to wideout Kevin Steinberg.

Abington's top two offensive threats, quarterback Kevin Morton and tailback Khalil Pittman, combined for 305 yards. Morton connected on 14 of 25 passes for 220 yards, including a pair of scoring strikes to wideout Keith Jones. Pittman rushed 14 times for 85 yards and two TDs.

"Abington is a good football team," Schmidt said. "I think they're going to win a lot of games this year."

The Ghosts scored on their first series. Jones got behind two defenders and caught a 20-yard TD pass from Morton.

On Neshaminy's next play from scrimmage, Ulmer went around right end and sprinted 70 yards to the end zone. A blocked punt deep in Abington territory set up the Redskins' next score, a 20-yard Jeffries field goal.

Neshaminy went 80 yards on six plays to go ahead, 17-7, with just over a minute remaining in the first half. Kinney, who completed three passes for 71 yards on the drive, lofted a ball over a defensive back's head and into the hands of 6-4, 240-pound tight end Paul Carrezola for a 26-yard scoring strike.

Neshaminy 00 17 07 14 - 38

Abington 00 07 07 12 - 26

A: Jones 20 pass from Morton (I. MacMillan kick)

N: Ulmer 70 run (Jeffries kick)

N: FG Jeffries 20

N: Carrezola 26 pass from Kinney (Jeffries kick)

N: Steinberg 27 pass from Kinney (Jeffries kick)

A: Pittman 4 run (I. MacMillan kick)

N: Ulmer 24 run (Jeffries kick)

A: Pittman 10 run (kick failed)

N: Ulmer 3 run (Jeffries kick)

A: Jones 25 pass from Morton (pass failed)