

Redskins rally for decisive win

By ED KRACZ

Bucks County Courier Times

There weren't any paint-peeling speeches or fire-and-brimstone oratories at halftime. Mark Schmidt simply stood before his Neshaminy Redskins and, as calmly as Schmidt is capable of being in the heat of battle, told them one thing: relax.

We can be guilty of caring too much, but when we settle down and play we can be pretty good, Schmidt said.

Pretty good became pretty excellent as the Redskins overcame a one-point halftime deficit against emotionally charged Pennridge to win going away, 49-15, in a Suburban One League National Conference game at Poppy Yoder Field on Friday night.

The come-from-behind blowout kept Neshaminy perfect on the season at 6-0 and kept the Rams from tasting victory for the first time this year as they thudded to 0-6.

The Rams could do no wrong in the first two quarters and didn't back down after the Redskins went ahead 6-0 on a 39-yard touchdown run by Joe Stemme with 8:07 to play in the first quarter.

Instead, Pennridge answered with a 19-play yes, 19 plays 80-yard drive, on which junior quarterback Brad Herrmann was 7-for-10 for 71 yards and the Rams converted all three fourth downs including a fourth-and-goal from the 3-yard line when Herrmann found 6-4 senior Jimmy Jefferson standing just across the goal line.

Nervous? asked Neshaminy senior lineman Adrian Kizewski. Never.

Not even after Pennridge again answered another Neshaminy score, this one a 74-yard bolt up the middle by Jason Ulmer (154 yards on 12 carries), as Herrmann tossed his second touchdown of the half, a 28-yard strike to senior tight end Brian Stephenson with 53 seconds left until halftime.

Instead of settling for a potential tying point after kick, Cuthbert called for a fake that led to Derek Kunkle finding Stephenson in the back of the end zone for a 15-14 Ram lead.

We had to settle down, Ulmer said. We knew we were the better team; we just had to settle down.

Oh, the Redskins did that all right. They recovered a fumble on the second-half kickoff and cashed that into points. They intercepted three Herrmann passes and turned those into 14 more points. And they got a 66-yard punt return for a TD from senior Gary Renson.

Pennridge played marvelous, Schmidt said. They really came after us.

Ed Kracz can be reached at **ekracz@phillyBurbs.com.**

October 6, 2007 7:36 AM