

# The Intelligencer

## Knighmare

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As Dick Beck saw it, North Penn was beaten by Neshaminy, 31-7, before the Knights even arrived at Harry E. Franks Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

I think it all started when we got on the bus today, said Beck, the NP football coach. Guys are laughing I had to tell them three times on the bus on the way over here to shut up.

Everybody wants to joke around no emotion. I would have expected my team to play tough when things got rough.

Instead, the previously undefeated Knights (7-1 overall, 4-1 SOL National), the No. 1-ranked Class AAAA team in the PIAA, according to PASPORTSfever.com, were flatter than week-old soda.

They allowed Neshaminy (7-1, 4-1 SOL National) to hit them for an 80-yard touchdown drive on the game's first possession. Then the Knights had a bad shotgun snap on third down, a play that allowed the Redskins to get good field position to extend the lead to 10-0.

And then, after they had climbed back to within 10-7, an interception the Redskins' Justin Kinney took back 59 yards for a TD with just 23 seconds left in the first half seemed to deflate NP completely, turning this much-anticipated matchup of Suburban One League National Conference powers into a rout.

Beck visibly angry in the post-game huddle, and his words were to the point an interview immediately afterward.

We throw that interception at the end of the half, he said, and then everybody goes down hanging their heads at halftime. No one says anything everybody's just sitting there, like a zombie, no emotion.

I've told everybody, "We're not good enough not to play hard and play tough and (not) battle guys.' We just let them give it to us and they gave it to us good.

Neshaminy, by contrast, practiced all week and played on Saturday with a fire that coach Mark Schmidt said was a direct result of last week's loss to Central Bucks South (8-0, 5-0 SOL National), which is now in first place in the SOL National all by itself and which hosts NP in the regular-season finale Nov. 2.

We really didn't play our kind of football (against South), Schmidt said. That wasn't us. We let CB South dictate to us what they wanted to do. I think our guys, if they bull their neck and get after it a little bit, they can answer that challenge.

NP came in with a plus-10 turnover margin. On Saturday, it turned it over three times and had zero takeaways. And the Knights were only able to rush for 109 yards on 35 carries, an average of just 3.1 yards per attempt.

On the first possession of the second half, after driving to the Redskins' 41, NP was unable to get any penetration to pick up a first down on a straight ahead run by fullback Mike Katch, who scored the Knights' only TD on a 4-yard run that concluded a 16-play, eight-minute drive in the second quarter.

I feel like this is a good reality check for us, said Tyler Smith, an NP junior running back/safety. We thought we were really good, but these guys came and beat us real bad, offensively and defensively.

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