

Kinney's interception, TD highlight a big win

By Rick O'Brien

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Justin Kinney usually displays his running skills while quarterbacking the Neshaminy football team.

In yesterday's Suburban One League National Conference showdown against visiting North Penn, Kinney's biggest run came as a defensive back. In dazzling fashion, he returned a late second-quarter interception 59 yards for a momentum-changing touchdown that helped catapult the Redskins to a convincing, 31-7 victory over the top-ranked Knights at Harry E. Franks Stadium.

Kinney picked off an errant pass at the Neshaminy 41-yard line and, with a wave of blockers in front of him, somehow zig-zagged his way past a swarm of would-be tacklers and into the end zone.

"I really don't know how I didn't get tackled," said Kinney, who was playing free safety, of the score that put Neshaminy ahead by 17-7 at halftime. "After I caught it, I saw nothing but red-colored jerseys. The guys in front of me did a great job."

The Redskins, ranked No. 5 in Southeastern Pennsylvania by The Inquirer, dominated the previously undefeated Knights on both sides of the ball. Neshaminy opened the game with a 10-play, 80-yard scoring drive.

Rebounding from a 26-21 loss to fourth-ranked Central Bucks South, the undefeated leader of the National Conference with two games to play, Neshaminy improved to 7-1 overall and 4-1 in the league. The Knights also stand 7-1 and 4-1.

"I think it all started when we got on the bus today," North Penn coach Dick Beck said. "The kids were joking around, laughing. We're not good enough to not play hard and battle guys."

The 5-foot-7, 180-pound Kinney completed 5-of-10 passes for 103 yards. In the third quarter, his 37-yard pass to wideout Gary Renson, who made an incredible diving catch along the right sideline, set up Kinney's 3-yard TD scamper.

On the scoring play, which upped Neshaminy's lead to 24-7, Kinney escaped a near-sack at the 9.

Kinney's older twin brothers, Jason and Jarred, played football at Neshaminy. Both 2006 graduates are playing for Temple, mostly on special teams. Jason is a wide receiver and Jarred is a running back.

"My brothers taught me pretty much everything I know," said Justin Kinney, a resident of Feasterville. "I can't say enough about what they mean to me. I have a lot of love for them."

Kinney's interception return for a TD was the first of his high school career. He has two interceptions this season and had three last year.

"Justin is a real winner," Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt said. "He really took [losing to C.B. South] personally. He shouldered it a lot."

Tailback Jason Ulmer (20 carries for 88 yards) accounted for the Redskins' other TDs, scoring from the 2 and 1.

Defensively, the Redskins were paced by linebackers Greg Martell (eight tackles) and Dave Daino (six), end Jay Colbert (five) and tackle Chris Gettis (five).

"Everyone out there did his job," Kinney said. "We watched a lot of film of North Penn during the week, and we knew what was coming."

North Penn 0 7 0 0 - 7

Neshaminy 10 7 7 7 - 31

N: Ulmer 2 run (Jeffries kick)

N: FG, Jeffries 19

NP: Katch 4 run (McManus kick)

N: Kinney 59 interception return (Jeffries kick)

N: Kinney 3 run (Jeffries kick)

N: Ulmer 1 run (Jeffries kick)