

# Redskins edge Falcons for conference title

By DOM COSENTINO  
Staff Writer

LANGHORNE Quilan Arnold was asked to think back nine weeks, back to when the Neshaminy football team opened the season with a loss to Souderton.

One of our coaches, Arnold said, said this would be the best thing to happen to us or the worst thing to happen to us.

After Friday nights 16-13 win over rival Pennsbury in a well-played, physical matchup at Heartbreak Ridge, its rather obvious how things have turned out for the Redskins, no?

Neshaminy (9-1 overall, 7-0 SOL) wrapped up a second consecutive Suburban One League National Conference title. It concluded the regular season with nine consecutive victories. And it likely earned top-three seed in the upcoming PIAA District One Class AAAA playoffs, the pairings for which will be unveiled on Sunday.

Despite the loss, which ended its own six-game winning streak, Pennsbury (8-2, 6-1 SOL) will still likely still get first-round home game as a top-eight seed.

Neshaminy played well; they deserved the victory, said Galen Snyder, the Pennsbury coach. It was a good football game. I was hoping to come out on the other side of things.

Despite several injuries to its defense, Neshaminy did this by stifling Pennsbury's offense, limiting the Falcons to eight first downs and 159 total yards all on the ground, since Pennsbury attempted just two passes. Just 57 of those yards came in the second half.

The Redskins also got three field goals measuring 20, 21 and 31 yards from senior placekicker Seth Jeffries, who was playing despite having broken his nose in Wednesday nights upset soccer win over Lower Merion.

He was out here (Thursday) banging it around a little bit, and he was fussing he was kicking like a soccer player, said Mark Schmidt, the Neshaminy coach. I said, Would you put your nose over the ball like a football player? He said, Coach, just remind me. Ill be fine.

I went out there and said, Youre a football player today. He said, OK, coach, and he knocked it through.

Pennsbury scored first by marching 74 yards in 12 plays, with Jared Lollis scoring on a 7-yard run to make it 6-0.

After that, however, the Redskins defense buckled down, allowing Neshaminys offense to do all of its scoring in the second quarter, with Jeffries field goals combining with a 7-yard TD run by Bryan Dean to make it 16-6 at the half.

Im just so proud of the way our guys settled down and played well, Schmidt said.

The Falcons bounced back early in the third quarter after Scott Woodard returned a punt 46 yards to the Neshaminy 27-yard line. Five plays later, sophomore quarterback Brandon Pepper scored from two yards out to make it 16-13.

We hung around, Snyder said. We had a chance there.

Pennsbury's best chance after that came with 8 minutes, 22 seconds left in the fourth quarter, after Neshaminy muffed a punt at its own 45. But the Falcons went three-and-out and punted, pinning the Redskins at their own 5.

They never got the ball back.

Seven of Neshaminys next nine plays were runs by Arnold, who finished with a game-high 90 yards on 17 carries. The 5-foot-8, 175-pound Arnold helped the Redskins pick up four first downs to put the game away.

I trust my line 100 percent, every single play, Arnold said.

Q did a great job, Schmidt said. Qs a senior, hes worked so hard, and he deserved all the opportunity.

Just like all of the Redskins, who made the best of a bad situation nine weeks ago.

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