

Redskins' Brian Titus toughs it out

By KEVIN COONEY

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LANGHORNE The reminder is always there in a yellow Livestrong bracelet wrapped around the left wrist of Brian Titus.

It serves as inspiration for days when the life of a starting quarterback may seem a little tough.

This has been a tough year for me because my family has struggled with cancer, said Titus, the junior signal caller at Neshaminy. I have a 14-year-old cousin who I'm really close to she's like a sister to me who is fighting it right now and its tough watching her go through it. But I look at this and it keeps me focused on doing the best I can out here.

That motivation has been evident in Titus play. After a somewhat sluggish start in his first season as starting quarterback, he has improved steadily as the Redskins head into the PIAA District One Class AAAA quarterfinal matchup against Ridley Friday night at Heartbreak Ridge on a 10-game winning streak.

Brian has kept improving every week and you can see the confidence build as the year has gone along, Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt said. Right now, he's doing an outstanding job for us.

Titus replaced Justin Kinney at the starting quarterback spot. There were some early nerves as he tried to grasp everything that is expected by Schmidt from his signal callers.

There was a little bit of nervousness, but I knew that I had a lot of confidence and that I could handle what was expected of me, Titus said. It was just a matter of getting experience and a little bit more of a feel for what was going on.

A strong running game has allowed Titus to find his groove and work through any early difficulties.

It's really great for any quarterback to have the kind of running game that we do, Titus said. Defenses tend to play up to try and stop them. When that happens, you try to take advantage of it and keep them a little bit honest.

The challenge against Ridley figures to be among the toughest that the Redskins will face throughout the entire season. The Green Raiders are allowing only 9.5 points per game this season third best of all the teams in District One.

They are a well-coached and tough football team, Schmidt said. They have experience in big games like this. They play with a lot of heart and they really get after you. We have to play our best football if we want to get past these guys.

The memories of last year's 27-7 loss to Ridley still sit with Titus and the Redskins.

That was a tough one for us, he said. We knew that they were a good football team, but having the season suddenly come to an end like that really hurt. I think we're going to try to use that for motivation.

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