

Redskins push Green Raiders around

By JOE JONES
Staff Writer

LANGHORNE Wherever Dan Shirey was on the field Friday night at Harry Franks Stadium, any Ridley player in the vicinity was being pushed several yards backward.

Shirey, a senior offensive and defensive linemen for Neshaminy, could sometimes be found plowing a pair of Ridley players and there were other times when he was in the Ridley backfield throwing a Green Raider skill position player for a loss.

Shirey and his Neshaminy linemates controlled the game on both sides of the ball. It shouldn't then be very surprising that the Redskins recorded a resounding 31-3 win in a PIAA District One Class AAAA quarterfinal football game.

I feel very proud of the team, said Shirey, an imposing 6-foot-3, 275-pounder. We played real hard. Beating a good team like that, they're very powerful and very strong.

Neshaminy (11-1) won its 11th consecutive game in exacting some revenge from last year's 27-7 loss to the Green Raiders in the district semifinals.

The Redskins move on to next week's district semifinal, where they, as the third seed, will need to travel to Delaware County to play No. 2 Garnet Valley (12-0), a 14-12 winner over visiting Pennsbury Friday night.

Neshaminy rushed for 283 yards, boosted by a pair of 100-yard performances. Bryan Dean gained 111 yards and scored three touchdowns while Quilan Arnold gained exactly 100 yards and scored Neshaminy's first touchdown.

Our offensive line is starting to come together, Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt said. They were able to keep a very athletic Ridley defensive line under control.

And while Ridley did gain 219 yards offensively, the Redskins defense held the Green Raiders (9-3) to just a field goal and just about every yard Ridley gained, it paid for with physical hits from the Neshaminy defense.

The Redskins sacked Ridley quarterback Andrew Pidgeon four times and on 11 plays (not including incompletions) threw the Green Raiders for a loss or no gain.

That was very important, Shirey said. When you hit them hard, you might get them to not run as hard. I thought they kept on running. They're a good football team.

You would think the way Shirey was knocking around Ridley offensive linemen and skill players all night that he would enjoy defense more than offense.

I like blocking on offense, Shirey said.

Given the holes the Redskins were running through all night, its clear Shirey and his friends love their job.

We just come up on offense and create holes for Q[uilan Arnold] and Dean, Shirey said. Theyre both phenomenal.

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<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/110-11152008-1621940.html>