

The Colbert report

By KEVIN COONEY
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LANGHORNE It didn't take any Kryptonite for Jay Colbert to discover that he wasn't Superman out there on the football field.

Watching a few game films and sitting down with his head coach early in the season did the trick for the senior fullback/defensive end for Neshaminy.

I was too worried about getting out there and trying to help out everyone else, Colbert said. We just sat down and talked about what was going on. He said I was trying too hard, and I knew I wasn't doing my job. So I sat myself down from being a captain because I had to get myself together.

From that point onward, Colbert has been a re-born football player and the Redskins have become a dominant football team.

Tonight, Colbert and the Redskins can move on to the District One Class AAAA championship game with a road victory over Garnet Valley in Delaware County.

They are a tough team with a lot of good skill position players, Colbert said. They get after it big-time with their lineman. I mean, Pennsbury's a really good football team, and they did a good job of coming off the ball against them.

Neshaminy has won 11 straight since an opening night loss to Souderton and has the best statistical defense among Class AAAA teams in District One, yielding only 7.6 points a game in 12 contests. The Jaguars are next on that list, allowing 11.0 per game.

He has been just a huge guy for us, Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt said. He's played incredibly well for us, and he brings a lot of energy to all the guys.

Colbert's impact has been felt on both sides of the football. At the defensive end spot, he has played a big role in getting pressure on the quarterback and maintaining a strong presence against the run. At fullback, he's been significant in opening up holes for Quilan Arnold and Bryan Dean.

If there's a common thread through both of his positions, it's the amount of contact that he dishes out. Colbert's hits are teeth-rattlers.

That's why most people play football, Colbert said. Scoring is fun and offense is great, but getting a big hit out there gives you a different kind of a rush. That's what makes the game intense.

That intensity almost proved costly. Colbert suffered a dislocated left kneecap during a game against Council Rock North with three weeks left in the regular season. At the time, there were people within the Neshaminy program concerned that the injury could have been season-ending.

Colbert had no such concerns.

A few things went through my head before I went to the doctor, but I knew I would be back, Colbert said. I saw that the kneecap went back into place, but I knew that I was going to make it back at some point because there was no way I was going to miss it.

His legs were in such good condition that they prevented the kneecap from getting out and tearing a ligament, Schmidt said. A lot of the credit goes to Jay for the amount of work he does in the weight room and to our coaches for getting our guys in shape to avoid having those things end up being worse.

Colbert is being recruited by some FCS schools in the Atlantic 10 and could draw more interest as the Redskins advance in the tournament.

But right now, he's only thinking about enjoying this postseason ride.

We are just taking things a game at a time, but we're playing well and having fun, Colbert said. I don't think any of us wants it to end.

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