

Dean has hot hand on cold night

CONCORDVILLE The snow that had fallen on the artificial turf had placed a shine throughout the entire artificial playing surface.

But the sparkle from the snow couldn't match the gleam that was coming from Bryan Dean's smile. Oh sure, those teeth were chattering in the 28-degree cold. But it was the jubilation of the moment not the impending frostbite from the temperatures that had the Neshaminy running back not feeling a thing.

This is an incredible moment, Dean said. We came out and we played as a team. And to be here in this moment is something I can't describe.

On an evening of extreme cold, Dean and the Redskins have a warm memory they can carry for the rest of their lives.

Dean had to carry the entire rushing load on this night, rushing 31 times for 104 yards as the Redskins edged out previously undefeated Garnet Valley by a 21-14 margin Friday night in Delaware County.

After an entire season of being a part of a two-headed monster with Quilan Arnold, Dean had to shoulder the burden because Arnold was sidelined due to a tight hamstring suffered in last week's victory over Ridley.

Arnold tried all week to get the hamstring loose and ready. But there was no way that he could answer the bell.

It was tight and the cold didn't help it, Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt said.

For one week, I felt like Jason Ulmer, Dean said.

Dean looked like Ulmer because he became a horse running back running behind a powerful offensive line on Friday night.

After falling behind by a 14-0 score early thanks to two early turnovers and two big facemask calls, Neshaminy went back to basics and turned the momentum around.

It was a great effort by a good bunch of kids, Schmidt said. They kept going at it against a really good football team. I mean, they have gone 26-2 over the last two years. You can't really appreciate how good that is until you see them play. And I'm proud of our guys because of the way they played.

But when they stopped treating the football like it was a ticking time bomb, Neshaminy was the superior team. The Jaguars are a good football team, but they couldn't handle the power game that the Redskins came through with.

And it was such a radical difference from the way the season started for the Redskins back at Souderton on Labor Day weekend. They fell behind 14-0 on that night as well in the heat and never seemed to get into the flow after that.

Even when they fell behind early on Friday night, you had a sense that Neshaminy wasn't just going to go quietly into that cold night. Too much has happened this season and this team has grown since that point to let it all collapse at that point.

I think we have grown a lot from that game, Dean said. We have confidence in everybody here that we can get the job done.

Now, the job gets a whole lot tougher. Next week, its a battle against the lone remaining Class AAAA in District One North Penn for the title on Friday night, likely at William Tennent High School. (That will be determined today.)

On paper, Neshaminy would appear to be a heavy underdog against a strong Knights team that has a world of speed and fresh off a commanding 51-21 victory over Downingtown West.

But at this point, the Redskins don't seem to carry any fear with them.

I know that were excited to get to play against a team like North Penn, Dean said. It's going to be a tough game and were going to have to be ready for them.

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