

Redskins roll to title game

By DOM COSENTINO
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CONCORDVILLE There was a long kickoff return, punctuated for good measure with a facemask penalty.

That eventually led to a quick touchdown.

Then there was a fumble on a kickoff return of their own. And another fumble on their second possession that was soon followed by another facemask call.

That, too, paved the way for another score, and suddenly they were looking at a two-touchdown deficit.

We stuck with it, Brian Titus said, and knew that we could get back in this ballgame.

The Neshaminy Redskins did more than that, of course.

First, they capitalized on a series of Garnet Valleys mistakes to quickly tie the game. Then they took over especially up front, most especially on third down to pull ahead and pull out a 21-14 victory on a frigid, frosty Friday night in the PIAA District One Class AAAA semifinals.

Now, the third-seeded Redskins (12-1), winners of 12 straight since a season-opening loss to Souderton, get to play in the district final for the first time since their 2004 run to the state championship game.

They will meet top-seeded North Penn (13-0), a familiar former conference rival and a 51-21 winner over No. 4 Downingtown West in the other semifinal, next weekend at a site and time to be determined.

Our guys battled their [bleep] off they played great, said Mark Schmidt, the Redskins coach, who admitted he was worried after spotting the second-seeded Jaguars (12-1) a 14-0 lead.

I thought they were going to run the table on us. I thought it was going to get pretty ugly they're a good football team. But we settled down.

The Redskins got their first break when Garnet Valley fumbled a pitch on its own 27 early in the second quarter, which pushed the Jaguars back to the 12 for a third-and-21.

Bryan Dean, who had to rush 31 times for 104 yards because of the absence of Quilan Arnold (hamstring), returned the ensuing punt 11 yards to the 36. Neshaminy needed just six plays to score to make it 14-7, with Jay Colbert barreling in from a yard out.

Garnet Valleys Tim Keyser then slipped upon catching the following kickoff, and the Jaguars had to start from their own 8. Neshaminy held, took over at the 50 and took 10 plays to find the end zone a second time, with Colbert again scoring from a yard out.

But Titus, who finished 10-for-16 for 91 yards and a TD, completed a pair of passes on third down to keep the drive going.

How about some of the throws? Schmidt said.

The Skins were a remarkable 13-for-17 for the game on third down, and that includes a knee taken as time was expiring.

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