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Neshaminy nips Abington with game's lone touchdown

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LANGHORNE, Pa. - The Neshaminy Redskins practice the play every day, but it never goes to Devon Reedel. It usually goes to Paul Carrezola, but when the game was on the line Reedel was the one who caught the game-winning touchdown pass from Brian Titus.

"We got in a situation where we had to make a play and we made a play. It's as simple as that," said Reedel. "In practice, Paul always gets the ball. I think that's the first time I ever got the ball."

With less than 20 seconds remaining in a scoreless slugfest against Abington last night, Neshaminy had the ball at the 4-yard line. With the Abington defense expecting a run after the Redskins had run the ball more than twice as much they had passed the ball, Neshaminy head coach Mark Schmidt called for a play-action bootleg.

Titus faked the handoff and rolled right, looking for Carrezola, who was being defended by two Galloping Ghosts. Behind Carrezola was a wide-open Reedel, who caught an easy pass from Titus for the only score of the game.

"My line gave me great time, my running back gave me a great fake, and I just saw Reedel in the end zone and I just hit him for six," said Titus, who finished 6-for-12 with 55 passing yards and the game-winning touchdown. "That's our goal-line bread-and-butter play right there. I couldn't have put in there any better and as soon as I threw it I knew he would catch it because he has the hands."

"We took a shot," said Schmidt. "We had 18 seconds. If it wasn't there, (Titus) was gonna throw it on the track but (Reedel) was wide open and he hit him. It was a good throw. I'm happy our guys hung in there and found a way to win. (Abington) played very well (on defense), but we had to execute."

That game-winning touchdown was really set up on the previous Neshaminy drive when punter Mike Wynne made a perfect 38-yard punt down to the 2-yard line.

Abington was unable to convert a first down and punter Anthony Hensley's punt traveled just 21 yards. Bryan Dean returned it to the 16-yard line with 1:45 left, setting up an easy opportunity for the Redskins to win the game.

Not so easy though. Neshaminy kicker Seth Jeffries missed a pair of 42-yard field goals earlier in the game. The senior with a big leg does a tremendous job on kickoffs, consistently kicking the ball into the end zone, but he also missed an extra point and a field goal in the team's loss to Souderton.

Now, Schmidt uses Jeffries for kicks when the ball is outside the 20-yard line and Keelan Adams when the ball is inside the 20. Luckily for Schmidt and the Redskins, they didn't have to worry about field goals again.

"There's nothing better than to throw a game-winning touchdown pass with 20 seconds to play," said Titus. "I'll always remember this. I gotta give all the credit to my offensive linemen. I'm taking them all out to a steak dinner after the season."

Neshaminy got to the 20-yard line twice in the first quarter. First, a false start penalty moved them back, and on the next possession Titus threw a screen pass to Jay Colbert that resulted in a 6-yard loss. Both possessions ended with the missed field goals.

The Redskins (3-1) were just 3-for-10 on third-down conversions. The Galloping Ghosts (3-1) were 6-for-12 on 3rd downs, including six of their first nine, but they never reached the Neshaminy 20-yard line.

They got to the 21-yard line once in the second quarter, but quarterback Sam Kind's pass was intercepted by Chris Boland. Kind did not have the kind of game he wanted to have, completing just nine of 24 pass attempts.

Schmidt continues to platoon Dean, a quick, relentless junior, and Quilan Arnold, a well-balanced senior who uses his blockers well, at running back.

Arnold was the man in the loss to Souderton, Dean was the man in the win over Hatboro-Horsham. Arnold carried the load in last week's win over Germantown, and both players shared the reps this week. Arnold had 12 carries for 81 yards, while Dean had 13 carries for 67 yards.