

# Hatters' defense makes Redskins work hard for tough win

By DREW MARKOL  
The Intelligencer

HORSHAM This one was about two defenses that bent at times, but never truly broke.

For Neshaminy, coming off an opening-night loss to Souderton, Friday night's 24-14 victory over host Hatboro-Horsham was a learning experience.

The Redskins learned their defense can stifle a good ground game and that they have another tailback in their stable in junior Bryan Dean.

The Hatters asked their defense to stay on the field most of the game, and they still made Neshaminy earn every yard.

I saw their game from last week on film and they played a lot better tonight, Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt said of H-H. That's a credit to them because they were ready for this game.

It looked that way early after Hatters senior Alex Myers fell on a fumble by Quilan Arnold on the second play of the game, giving H-H the ball on Neshaminy's 44-yard line. Two plays after that, H-H senior Dan Schandain covered the 44 yards, thanks to a nifty cutback against the grain to give the hosts the lead.

Neshaminy, though, after turning to Dean to carry the load, put together a scoring drive to tie the game, then used a Dean punt return down to the H-H 1 (which he finished off with another score) to take the lead.

After we scored, they came back and scored and it seemed like it was just an uphill battle, H-H coach Tom Butts said. We stopped them on the goal line a couple times, but we could never match their big plays.

The Hatters quickly answered to knot the score again when sophomore quarterback Matt Hollenbeck found senior Dave Lorenzo down the left side for a 55-yard score.

Neshaminy didn't flinch as it rode Dean to the Redskins' third score of the half, this one coming on a 13-yard run midway through the second quarter.

I didn't think I would get that many reps, said Dean, who rushed 30 times for 132 yards. The coach told me I was staying in and I was just trying to run as hard as I could.

The second half was much tamer scoring-wise, as the only points came on a 27-yard field goal by Neshaminy's Keelan Adams early in the fourth quarter.

Neshaminy did get to the H-H 6-yard line on one drive before an interception by junior Brett Saverio ended that threat. The Redskins were also held out of the end zone after a first-and-goal on the H-H 4.

It was a matter of execution and we didn't do that very well, Schmidt said. That's also a credit to Hatboro-Horsham's defense. And our defense did a nice job. Our execution was just a problem for us that we have to work on.

**Drew Markol can be reached at [dmarkol@phillyBurbs.com](mailto:dmarkol@phillyBurbs.com).**