

Redskins fall flat

By KEVIN COONEY
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SOUDERTON Derek Brown looked around with a sense of wonder. After all, he's been here as the program rose from afterthought to the threshold of contention.

But now, the junior running back/safety for Souderton was able to soak in the moment and understand what it meant in the bigger picture.

"We haven't gotten any respect over the years," Brown said. "We had done a lot of good things, but we didn't get any respect. You have to go out and earn it by beating the top teams and we hadn't beaten a team from the [Suburban One League] National Conference yet. So we knew that we had to do it in order to take that next step."

After years of knocking on the door, Souderton kicked the sucker in Friday night against the perennial kings of the National mountain.

The Indians made two touchdowns in the first half hold up, edging the Redskins by a 14-13 margin Friday night in the kickoff of the 2008 high school football season.

"It's just an awesome feeling," said Brown, who scored both Indians touchdowns. "We played against the best and we found the way to get the job done."

The question that had to be asked on Friday: Was this the best victory in the Ed Gallagher era?

"Absolutely," said Gallagher, who is entering his fifth year at Souderton. "This was a huge win and I'm happy with the way it happened for our kids and our coaches."

For Neshaminy, the shock of the moment wasn't that it lost to Souderton. It's the way that it happened. The Redskins were flat offensively, unable to use a size advantage along the line to open up some big holes.

"I was surprised by the way that we couldn't line up at times," Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt said. "Souderton came out and played a great football game and we knew they would. But we had opportunities to take advantage

of some things offensively and we just didn't get it done. And when you play against a good football team, you can't do that."

Schmidt's frustration was visible. When asked if he worried about a carryover affect next week against Hatboro-Horsham, Schmidt made a promise.

"It will be fixed next week," Schmidt said. "Trust me."

But when the Indians had chances, they took complete advantage of them. With the game scoreless midway through the second, Brown broke down the right sideline and was gone for a 43-yard score and a 7-09 lead.

After the next Neshaminy possession ended with a fumble that was recovered by the Indians on the Redskins' 5, Brown pounded the ball in three times for a score to make it 14-0 lead.

From there, Souderton was able to negate the Redskins' size advantage by blitzing and stunting on defense.

"I thought that they did some good things against us," Gallagher said. "But we managed to hold our own against them."

Neshaminy bounced back late in the first half on Quilan Arnold's 7-yard touchdown run. That was followed on the first possession of the second half by a 45-yard touchdown pass from Brian Titus to Rick Brebner. (Seth Jeffries' extra point sailed wide.)

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