










FOOTBALL

YOUR GUIDE TO THIS WEEKEND'S HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ACTION

FEARLESS FORECASTERS

Head Coach	Team	Opponent	Time	Location
	Arch. Wood	North Penn	7:30	North Penn
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Friday
Neshaminy at North Penn, 7:30

Saturday
Arch. Wood vs. Simon Gratz, 4
Susquehanna at Delhi, noon
Kent State at Temple, 1
Penn State at Michigan State, 3:30

Sunday
Eagles at Chicago, 6:20

a- at Northeast High

Familiar foes meet tonight

If it's November, it must be time for Neshaminy and North Penn meet in the playoffs.

Tonight at 7:30, the Redskins and Knights will meet in the postseason for the third consecutive year, this time in a District One Class AAAA quarterfinal at NP's Crawford Stadium.

Until last season, Neshaminy-NP had been a date worth circling on the Suburban One League National Championship calendar. But when the SOL realigned largely based on geographic regions, they were separated to different conferences and the game was nowhere to be found — at least in the regular season.

That said, this will nonetheless be their 12th meeting in this decade, and the fourth time they've met in the playoffs since 2004. Neshaminy is 7-4 against NP during the 2000s, and the Redskins are 2-1 in their playoff matchups, though the Knights pitched a 28-0 shutout in last year's district final.

It's also obvious that these have been the two premier programs in all eastern Pennsylvania during the last 10 years. Both won PIAA titles in this decade — Neshaminy's came in 2001, NP's in 2003 — and they've combined to win six of the decade's nine district championships, with Neshaminy and NP having won in 2001 and 2004, and NP's in 2002, 2003 and 2008.

The last two years, we haven't played each other in the regular season, so it's nice to get an opportunity to play them in the playoffs," said Dick Beck, the North Penn coach. "I think it's a good rivalry between both schools, but it's also a respectful one — I think both teams have respect for each other."

"It's usually a great game, and you won't see a lot of the trash-talking and jumping around like you usually see." Interestingly, since their last 30 epic back on Oct. 22, 2004, when Beck's decision to go for two after the Knights scored in overtime paid off, the last time meetings between Neshaminy and NP have not been close at all. In fact, the narrowest margin of victory since then came in a little more than a half-century when the Redskins won, 51-14, in the 2004 district final.

Since Beck's winning margin has been 28, 22, 34, 35 and 28. And three of those wins were Neshaminy's, two were NP's.

Trivia question: North Penn is trying to become just the fifth Class AAAA team to win a PIAA title. Who are the other four? The answer appears below.

Because of an incident starting kick-off Geoff DeLan, Quakertown senior girls soccer standout Rachel Dolly has handled the Panther's extra points in recent weeks. She made four extra points against Central Bucks West on Oct. 30, three against Susquehanna on Oct. 23, and one in last week's playoff loss to Avon Grove.

For the season, Dolly had made 11 extra points.

The PIAA has finished crunching the statistical numbers for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 enrollment years, and there are some changes afoot.

Lansdale Catholic, which won a Class AA state title in 2004 and reached the state semifinals in 2007 before moving to Class AAA in the last two seasons, will be eligible to compete for a BHSAA District One and New Hope-Solebury, which only resumed playing football this year after a 61-year hiatus and which will be eligible to compete for a BHSAA District One after moving up to Class AAAA.

Six Class AAA schools in District One are moving up to Class AAAA: Henderson, Rustin, Kennet, Great Valley, Lower Merion and Owen J. Roberts. One Class AAAA is moving down: Penncrest. The district will have 44 Class AAAA football schools for the next two seasons.

Trivia answer: McKeesport (1994, 2005), Upper St. Clair (1988, 2006), Pittsburgh Central Catholic (1988, 2004, 2007) and Central Bucks West (1991, 1997, 1999, 1999) are the only other schools to win more than one Class AAAA state title.

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DOM COSENTINO'S TWO-MINUTE DRILL

Why North Penn will win

NP's speed will trump Neshaminy's size

Neshaminy's size will be a disadvantage in this game. The Redskins' offense is built on the run, and they will have a hard time moving the ball against North Penn's defense. The Knights' defense is built on the pass, and they will have a hard time stopping North Penn's offense. The game will be a tactical battle between the two teams.



Neshaminy's Bryan Dean dives and is tackled by North Penn's Joe Godo during the District One Class AAAA championship game last season. North Penn won, 28-0.

One of the wrinkles the Knights often use defensively is to bring in an extra linebacker, but with more than six minutes, NP would up blocking a field goal to end the threat. Because what NP lacks in size, it more than makes up for in speed. One of the wrinkles the Knights often use offensively is to bring in an extra linebacker, but with more than six minutes, NP would up blocking a field goal to end the threat. Because what NP lacks in size, it more than makes up for in speed. One of the wrinkles the Knights often use offensively is to bring in an extra linebacker, but with more than six minutes, NP would up blocking a field goal to end the threat. Because what NP lacks in size, it more than makes up for in speed.

"I think it's a classic battle of size versus speed," said Dick Beck, the North Penn coach. "I don't think that we're real big up front, but we have some athletic guys. And (Neshaminy is) very big up front." "If we can stop them from running inside the tackle, and they can keep us from getting on the clear and getting the big plays it'll be a battle." North Penn's starting offensive line — Steve Tomkins, Will Syc, J.D. Ditzko, Kevin Harrell, Tyin Scherer — averages 245 pounds. And its starting defensive line — Dave Jackson, Chuck Kover, Marcus McGraw, Andre Poe — averages just over 200 pounds. Neshaminy's offense is projected to start an offensive line that averages about 260 pounds, and a defensive front that averages 248 pounds. "If they're controlling the ball and controlling the clock... and we're not getting in the open field, it could be a long night for us," Beck said.

Very little. Simon Gratz is playing in its first Philadelphia city title game since 1949, which happens to be the only other time it was Philadelphia Public League champion.

And, OK. The city-title game stopped being played after 1979, only to be revived last year in Class AA, AA and AAAA form. And this one is technically for the District 12 Class AAA championship. The Bulldogs, who won the Pub's Class AAA title, are 7-4, and they have already averaged two of their losses — to Rensselaer and Murrell Dobbins Tech — with wins in the Pub playoffs. But Wood, which last week won its fifth PCL championship in seven years, is different. The Vikings 0-2 have allowed just two of their last nine opponents to score more than eight points. Last week, they limited North Catholic to 73 total yards in the PCL Class AAA title game.

Liberty last year. PIAA Class AAAA champion, was eliminated last week by East Stroudsburg State in the first round of the District 11 playoffs, 49-21.

FANTASTIC

North Penn	55 (1)
Archbishop Wood	44
Quakertown	33
Souderton	22
Upper Merland	6

OTHER RECEIVING VOTES:
Pike Township, 4; Balfour-Herkert 1

Make Yours count for the youth for a full-page ad for the weekend, then this week, too. For the weekend, then this week, too.

(Put place votes in parentheses)

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Intelligencer High School Football Stats Leaders

Name, school	TD	XP	FG	PTS	Player, Team	Carries	Yards	Avg.
Chris Neeshammer, NP	20	*1	0	122	James Starnell, PA	204	1444	7.1
Ory Latronica, Q	19	*1	0	116	Juany White, CBE	183	1394	7.8
Derek Brown, S	15	0	0	90	Chris Latronica, Q	173	1279	7.4
James Starnell, PA	15	0	0	90	Craig Neeshammer, NP	141	1251	8.9
Chris Smallwood, UM	13	*1	0	80	Thy Smallwood, UM	195	1155	5.9

Player, Team	Comp	Att	Yards	TD	INT	Player, Team	Rec	Yards	Avg.
Ward Udinski, CSW	110	198	1445	8	11	Romye Demers, UM	38	604	17.5
Todd Smolinsky, NP	67	153	1331	18	4	Josh Parisi, PA	36	652	18.6
Adam Hardy, PA	86	160	1294	12	6	Dom Taggart, NP	29	501	17.3
Connor Brokenshire, SA	70	143	1133	9	8	Jamett Shugart, CBW	34	470	13.8
Jeff Rihall, AV	54	101	925	12	7	Jake Bell, GA	24	414	17.2

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