

LOCAL SPORTS

Turnover brings sudden end to NP's hopes

LANGHORNE — The decision gnawed at Dick Beck like a bulldog on a postman's leg.

And try as he might, the North Penn coach simply couldn't shake it.

"I blew it," Beck said, wincing from the stabbing pain of regret after the Knights were punted by Neshaminy, 35-0, in a District One Class AAAA quarterfinal on Friday night.

"I was going to call a time out on that play. I should have called a time out. It was bad on my part. I blew it."

The No. 6-seeded Knights (9-3) were ushered out of the district playoffs rather easily by the No. 3-seeded Redskins (11-1). They were outplayed, 287-176, and were outplayed along both the offensive and defensive lines, where Neshaminy chewed up North Penn's fronts like a reaper through a wheat field.

"We felt we could control the game up front and we did," Neshaminy center Blair Gower said. "They're a good



Phil
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Commentary

team, but we're a better team. We're more physical. I think that was why we won by such a big score."

Yes, the Knights were throttled again by the Redskins, who battered them 31-7 a month ago.

But there was a moment midway through the third quarter when, after being dominated in the first half, North Penn appeared primed to claw its way back into the game.

Trailing 14-0, North Penn took the second-half kickoff to its own 35. A 31-yard pass to tight end Jarrett Brown from quarterback Anthony Taggart, who started for the second consecutive game for Justin Davey (shoulder), was the key play on the drive that

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— North Penn senior lineman Shaun Moore,

set the Knights up with a first-and-goal at the Neshaminy 10.

On first down, Taggart ran for 2 yards.

On second down, running back Tyler Smith bulled his way to the Redskins' 4.

After a North Penn time out, Smith gained another yard on third down.

Fourth-and-goal from the 3.

Three yards away from climbing back into the game.

But before the Knights could get the play off, their scoring chance was dealt a blow by a delay-of-game penalty that pushed them

sudden, they zoned up. It was a dumb call."

Beck fell quiet for a moment, his thoughts stuck in the traffic jam of defeat, before continuing.

"I think it would have worked until the penalty," he said. "I should have changed the play. I came up small on the goal line. It was a stupid call."

Neshaminy, which will play No. 2 seed Ridley in the semifinals next weekend, put the game away when senior tailback Jason Ulmer (26 rushed, 154 yards) scored one of his three rushing touchdowns from 2 yards out to make it 28-0 near the end of the third quarter.

"Everybody wants to win it all," North Penn senior lineman Shaun Moore said. "Unfortunately, it's not going to be us."

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SCORING SUMMARY

NP — Ulmer 13 pass from Kinsey (Jeffries kick)
NP — Ulmer 6 run (Jeffries kick)
NP — Renson 98 interception return (Jeffries kick)
NP — Ulmer 2 run (Jeffries kick)
NP — Ulmer 1 run (Jeffries kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

	NP	Ne
First Downs	10	16
Yards Rushing	137	245
Yards Passing	32	42
Total Offense	169	287
Comp. Passes, Int	2-10-1	3-4-0
Fumbles-lost	2-0	1-1
Penalties-yards	4-30	3-25
Punts-Avg.	3-38.3	1-37.0
Sacked-Yds. Lost	0-0	0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

North Penn
Rushing: Smith 9-48, Akos 11-48, Lewis 5-12, Smolinski 1-11, Taggart 6-11, Bennett 1-3, Katch 1-2, Stolt 1-1
Passing: Taggart 1-9-0, 1 yard; Smith 1-2-1, 31 yards
Receiving: Brown 1-31; Akos 1-8; Smith 0-7; Interceptions: None

Neshaminy

Rushing: Ulmer 25-154, 3 TD; Kinsey 5-48; Martell 1-20; Arnold 1-19; Stemme 1-6; Passing: Kinsey 3-4-0, 42 yards, 1 TD; Receiving: Boland 1-15; Steinberg 1-14; Ulmer 1-13, 1 TD; Interceptions: Renson.

Knights

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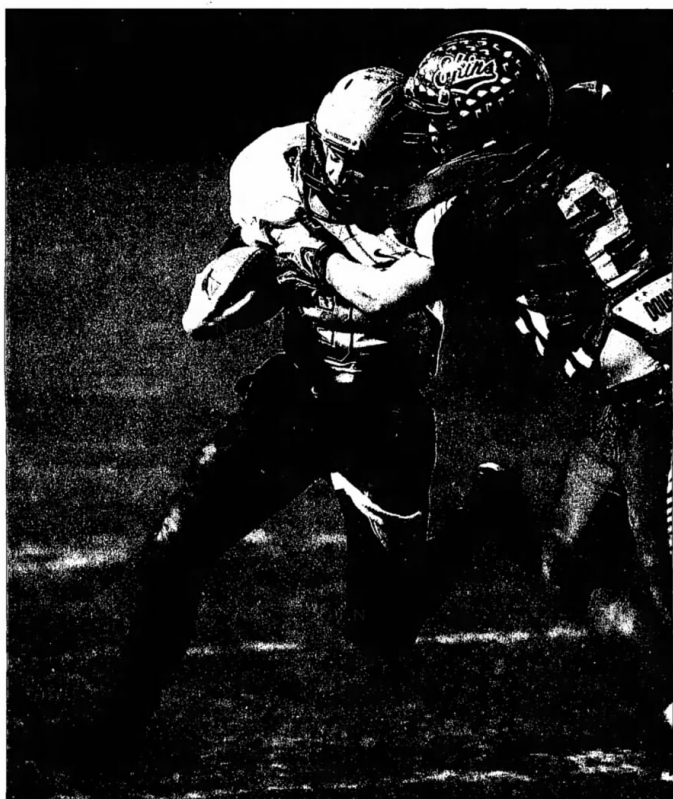
especially on the opening drive.

"Coach said we couldn't let the big one go," said North Penn's Kyle Harrell, who played a standout game at defensive tackle. "They went a long way to score, and (we made them) earn it all the way down the field ... we just kept our heads up. It was still in the first quarter and we still had three quarters of the game to play."

Beck had nothing but praise for the 5-foot-11, 250-pound senior.

"Kyle's been one of our outstanding (players)," the coach said. "He had an outstanding year, got injured a little bit a couple of weeks ago, but has been one of our better D-tacklers."

With the Redskins holding a 14-0 halftime lead, the Knights took the second-half kickoff and marched all the way down field to the Neshaminy 3. After a delay-of-game penalty on fourth-and-goal backed them up to the 8, Beck reached deep into his bag of tricks for a gadget



North Penn's Anthony Taggart (left) tries to get away from Neshaminy's Dave Daino during Friday night's playoff game at Neshaminy. Taggart had six rushes for 11 yards and was 1-for-9 passing for 1 yard. The Knights fell to the Redskins, 35-0.

play — a reverse pass, with running back Tyler Smith throwing back across the field to quarterback Anthony Taggart.

However, what could have been a huge touchdown that

would have put the Knights right back into the game instead went 98 yards the other way when Redskins defensive back Gary Renson stepped in front of Taggart,

picked off the pass and was gone. It amounted to a 14-point swing and, for all intents and purposes, made the rest of the contest academic. "That killed us," Harrell said. "If we had scored there,

we could have pulled to within seven, it would have been a whole (different) game. But that killed us."

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