

SCHOLASTIC SPORTS

BUCKSMONTSPORTSNOW.COM

YOUR COMPLETE SOURCE FOR BUCKS-MONT AREA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

TheIntelligencer

DISTRICT ONE CLASS AAAA FOOTBALL QUARTERFINAL: NORTH PENN 25, NESHAMINY 22

NP passes way to semis

PIAA SCOREBOARD

DISTRICT ONE

Class AAAA Quarterfinals

(8) Neshaminy22
(1) North Penn35

(5) Avon Grove35
 (4) Downingtown West21
 (15) Unionville0
(7) Ridley37

(14) Penncrest
 (11) Downingtown Eastlate

Class AAA Semifinals

Pottsgrove21
 WC Rustin14

Interboro33
 Owen J. Roberts19

DISTRICT 12

Class AAAA Championship

La Salle35
 St. Joseph's Prep28

Class AAA Championship
Archbishop Wood42
 Simon Gratz6

The Knights took control of game with 5 turnovers, air attack.

BY STUART LONDON

STAFF WRITER

FRANCONIA — Neshaminy knew it had to play a virtually flawless game to defeat North Penn on Friday night. As it turned out, Knights quarterback Todd Smolinsky had the almost perfect performance, which helped doom the Redskins.

Taking advantage of five turnovers and displaying a crisp passing attack, North Penn rolled to a 35-22 victory over Neshaminy in a PIAA District One Class AAAA quarterfinal football game played at Souderton High School.

The game was originally scheduled to be at North Penn's Crawford Stadium, but the field was ruled unplayable due to overnight rain. Around noon on

Friday, the decision was made to move the contest to the artificial surface at Souderton. Despite the late switch, about 3,000 fans were in attendance.

North Penn, the No. 1 seed, will now face No. 4 seed Avon Grove, a 35-21 winner over Downingtown West, next week in the semifinals.

Neshaminy, the No. 8 seed, finished the season with a 9-3 record.

The Redskins, who lost to North Penn in last year's District One final, had three different passers throw an interception. Neshaminy also lost two fumbles for a total of five turnovers. One of the fumbles occurred on the North Penn 1-yard-line in the third period.

"When we didn't make mistakes, we didn't look terrible," said Neshaminy coach Mark

Schmidt. "We obviously made sure they didn't take it to us inside, but they were able to hurt us on the perimeter with their passing. To their credit, they played exceedingly well.

"We had 10 new guys on defense this year and seven on offense. We have a good nucleus of young guys and we'll see what happens next year."

Although Knights senior running back Craig Needhammer scored all five of his team's touchdowns, it was the passing game that opened things up for the running game against a bigger Neshaminy defensive line.

"The (offensive) line was blocking great, and that made my job a lot easier," said Smolinsky, a senior in his first year as a starter.



RICK KINTZEL / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

North Penn's Craig Needhammer (left) and Ralphie Reeves (right) take down Neshaminy running back Bryan Dean for a short gain during the Knights' 35-22 victory Friday.

See KNIGHTS, Page L3