

# Redskins-Indians: Offenses face off

Neshaminy's starting quarterback and top rusher graduated, but the focus for Souderton coach Ed Gallagher in tonight's nonleague opener is to keep the Redskins' offense off the field as much as possible.

"They have some talented and dangerous people in their backfield," Gallagher said.

Neshaminy, ranked No. 1 in The Inquirer's preseason top-10 poll, also has an imposing offensive line. It is anchored by 6-foot-3, 275-pound tackle Dan Shirey and includes guard Dan Wenciewicz (6-1, 280) and center John Zavorski (6-2, 260).

The Redskins, who went 11-2 last season and reached the PIAA District 1 Class AAAA semifinals before losing to eventual champion Ridley, also have back Rutgers-bound tight end Paul Carrezola.

Souderton, ranked No. 7 by

The Inquirer, has quietly become a perennial power under Gallagher. After going 0-11 in 2003, the Indians have won nine games in each of the last four seasons. They went 9-2 last year, won the Suburban One League Continental Conference title, and made another postseason appearance.

Here is a look at the game:

**Coaches.** Mark Schmidt begins his 14th season at Neshaminy with a 98-49 record. Gallagher is 36-22 in five seasons.

**History.** This is believed to be the first meeting between the schools.

**Ground game.** Quilan Arnold takes over for Jason Ulmer as Neshaminy's go-to rusher. The 5-foot-9, 185-pound senior will get support from halfback Brian Dean and fullbacks Jay

Colbert and Corey Majors.

Souderton is sparked by halfback Derek Brown and fullback Justin Powell, the brother of former standout Ronnie Powell.

**New in charge.** For Neshaminy, 6-1, 175-pound junior Brian Titus takes over for Justin Kinney.

Souderton turns to 5-10, 160-pound senior Denis Passarella to replace Mike Franklin.

Said Schmidt of Passarella: "He has a very good arm, great feet. He makes things happen."

**Sack specialist.** Souderton's Cody Muller, a 6-3, 228-pound senior end, has racked up 25 sacks over the last two seasons. He gets help up front from 6-0, 245-pound tackle Ian Eisenhart.

**Injury report.** Indians half-

back/cornerback Cory Shelly is out for the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament. He suffered the injury in a preseason scrimmage against Perkiomen Valley.

**Keep an eye on.** Souderton's linebacking corps is largely inexperienced. Junior Gabe Stein and senior Kyle Lynch, a transfer from Pennridge, have big shoes to fill.

**Analysis.** Souderton has home field on its side and an interior force in Muller, but Neshaminy has too much overall strength and depth for the Indians. Also, give an edge to Titus over Passarella at the quarterback spot.

**Pick.** Neshaminy, 23-14.

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