

District 1 Class AAAA Football Quarterfinal: North Penn at Neshaminy, 7 tonight

# Redskins have an edge on Knights

North Penn's QB is out and Neshaminy has the home crowd in this District I showdown.

By Don Beideman  
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Although there are a number of new faces in the District 1 Class AAAA elite eight this season, the Suburban One League's North Penn and Neshaminy are veterans when it comes to the district playoffs.

Under coach Mark Schmidt, Neshaminy has won a pair of district championships and the 2001 state title. North Penn has won three district titles and a state crown in that same time period.

The conference rivals square off at 7 tonight at Neshaminy in the quarterfinals of the district playoffs. The host Redskins beat the Knights, 31-7, in the regular season.

That, however, probably means little tonight. This is the district playoffs, the first step toward a state championship.

Here is a look at tonight's big game:

**On the record.** The Redskins, seeded No. 3 in District 1 Class AAAA, are 10-1 overall. The lone loss was to Central Bucks South. The Knights are 9-2 overall and the No. 5 seed. Their only other loss was to C.B. South, the conference champion.

**Ground game.** Junior halfback Ronnie Adkins and senior fullback Mike Katch spearhead North Penn's powerful



Neshaminy ballcarrier Jason Ulmer is brought down by North Penn defenders in the teams' Oct. 20 meeting. Neshaminy won that regular-season contest over the visiting Knights, 31-7.

RON CORTES / Inquirer Staff Photographer

running game. Senior Jason Ulmer is the Redskins' leading rusher. Linemen Blair Gower (6-foot-2, 278 pounds), Dylan Waterbury (6-3, 270) and Dan Shirey (6-3, 257) make the Neshaminy running game go.

**Keep an eye on.** At 6-4, 240 pounds, Neshaminy right end Paul Carrezola is hard to miss. The Division I prospect is an excellent athlete. "He's done some good things for us," Schmidt noted. He is a major target for Redskins QB Justin Kinney (15 TD passes), along with wide receivers Kevin Steinberg and Gary Renson.

**Injury report.** The Knights will be without their starting quarterback, junior Justin Davey (shoulder). He will be replaced by junior Anthony Taggart.

**Advantage Neshaminy?** The Redskins expect to be playing before a large home crowd. "Any time you don't have to get on the bus to travel is great," Schmidt said. "This is a good place to play. We have a lot of fans behind us." Tickets went on sale at both schools yesterday. Neshaminy athletic director Sheila Murphy said the game is expected to draw upwards of 7,000 fans.

**Advantage North Penn?** The Knights have one of the area's top kickers in junior Brandon McManus. He handles punting, kickoffs and extra points.

**Analysis.** Put that lopsided Neshaminy win aside. This is the playoffs.

The team that makes the fewest mistakes is most likely to win. The outcome could very well come down to special teams.

**Pick:** Neshaminy 28, North Penn 19.

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