

# Redskins' rugged defense could be too much for Ghosts

By Rick O'Brien

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It's a new-look Abington team that will come into Heartbreak Ridge on Friday to face Neshaminy in the Suburban One League National Conference opener for both teams.

Gone from the Ghosts (2-1) are prolific passers Kevin Morton and Sam Kind, who threw for a combined 10,751 yards from 2005 to 2009. In Week 4 last year, Kind passed for 233 yards and two touchdowns in a 28-24 triumph over Neshaminy at Stephen A. Schwarzman Stadium.

Julien Ireland, who totaled 2,511 rushing yards and 25 TDs over the last two seasons, has moved from tailback to quarterback.

For the Redskins, 3-0 and ranked No. 7 in Southeastern Pennsylvania by *The Inquirer*, senior QB Charlie Marterella directs a power-I attack averaging 28.7 points per game.

Here is a closer look at the matchup:

**Coaches.** Mark Schmidt is 119-64 in 16 seasons at Neshaminy. For Abington, Tim Sorber, an offensive lineman for

the Ghosts in the late 1980s, is 56-57 in 11 years.

**Last season.** The Redskins avenged the regular-season setback with a 24-17 triumph in a PIAA District 1 Class AAAA first-round playoff at Harry E. Franks Stadium.

**History.** Overall, Neshaminy holds a 25-9 lead in the series. Since 2000, the Redskins have won nine of 11 meetings. Abington's other win was in 2003 (28-21).

**Catalysts.** Ireland's supporting

cast includes running backs Ray Schreiner, Tim Salley, and Chris Duffy, and wide receiver D.J. McPadden. Ireland and McPadden connected for scores of 26 and 75 yards in last week's 16-15 win over Souderton.

**Balanced.** The 6-foot, 160-pound Marterella has a capable corps of receivers, led by wideouts Dwight Williams and Bobby Marterella. Anthony Woodroffe, Sean Ulmer, and bruising fullback Corey Majors, bound for Villanova, spark a potent ground game.

**Quiet leader.** Marko Dupkey, sidelined this season with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, is one of Neshaminy's four senior captains. Before falling ill in June, he was expected to contribute as an outside linebacker and wide receiver.

**Big test.** To keep Charlie Marterella and company in check, Abington's 4-4 defense will need solid efforts from linemen John Kotway and Bryan Osei, and inside linebackers Myles Grasty and Tom Kennedy.

**Strong up front.** Neshaminy's

rugged offensive line is headlined by center Nick DiDonato (5-9, 270), guard Chris Kutsobos (6-0, 285), tackle Ryan Katona (5-10, 300), and tight end Shane Quinn (6-2, 225).

**Analysis.** Ireland, who rushed for 138 yards on 22 carries in last year's win over the Redskins, is still learning the nuances of the Wildcat. That spells trouble against a solid run-stuffing unit anchored by rising junior end Kiser Terry.

**Pick:** Neshaminy, 27-14.

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