

A Closer Look: Neshaminy vs. Abington

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An overflow crowd is expected at Schwarzman Stadium when Neshaminy and host Abington, both undefeated and among The Inquirer's Southeastern Pennsylvania top-10 teams, meet tonight in a Suburban One League National Conference opener.

The Redskins, defending National Conference champions, have wins over Souderston (35-6), Hatboro-Horsham (13-6) and Germantown (42-14). The Ghosts, idle last weekend, knocked off Central Bucks East (31-10) and Plymouth Whitmarsh (38-0) in the first two weeks.

Here is a closer look at the matchup:

Coaches. Mark Schmidt, a health and physical education teacher, is 113-51 in 15 seasons at Neshaminy. For Abington, Tim Sorber, a social studies teacher, is 51-54 in 10 years.

Last season. The Redskins scored with just 11 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter (a 4-yard touchdown pass from Brian Titus to Devon Reedel) and escaped with a 7-0 victory in the league opener at Heartbreak Ridge.

Win streak. Neshaminy has won each of the last five league meetings. The Ghosts' last victory came in 2003.

Catalysts. Abington's offensive leaders are quarterback Sam Kind (23 for 42 passing, 373 yards, 4 TDs), tailback Julien Ireland (39 carries for 175 yards, 3 TDs) and wideout Anthony Hensley (12 catches for 197 yards, 2 TDs).

Rotating QBs. The Redskins have been rotating Titus, a senior, and junior Charlie Marterella with each series. Marterella is the more mobile of the two.

Rugged attack. Neshaminy's powerful rushing game is spearheaded by halfbacks Bryan



APRIL SAUL / Staff Photographer
Neshaminy head coach Mark Schmidt brings a 3-0 Redskins squad into the Suburban One National game at Abington.



DAVID SWANSON / Staff Photographer
Abington coach Tim Sorber's Ghosts are off to a 2-0 start, and are looking to snap a five-year losing streak vs. Neshaminy.

Dean, Ricky Williams and Ariel Hoffman, and fullbacks Steve Stemme and Corey Majors.

Welcome back. Abington's Brandon Peoples, a 5-foot-6, 150-pound sophomore wideout, is expected to be back in the lineup after suffering a foot injury in the second week of training camp. He is the cousin of St. Joseph's Prep sophomore speedster Desmon Peoples.

Good-hands people. In addition to Hensley and Peoples, Kind's favorite targets are wideouts Kevin Deal and Kevin Regan, and tight end Giuliana Presta. The Red-

skins' top receivers are wideouts Rick Brebner, Ricky Williams and Frank Caszar and tight ends Shane Quinn and Dylan Lange.

Analysis. There is a feeling here that Abington will pull off the upset in front of a raucous home crowd. But a stronger voice says that the Ghosts will be rusty after a week off and unable to overcome a slow start that could include a turnover or two.

Pick: Neshaminy, 23-16.

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