

Neshaminy wins again, puts pressure on West

For Neshaminy, this game could probably best be described as putting an exclamation point on a landmark season.

Neshaminy rolled over Pennsbury (4-4-0, 5-6-0) Friday night 49-14. A throng of 7,000 at Neshaminy's Harry E. Franks Stadium watched the Redskins clinch an outright Suburban One League Patriot Division championship and also an unbeaten, untied season, only the third in Neshaminy (11-0-0 overall, 8-0-0 league) history. All have come 17 years apart (10-0-0 in 1954 under Franks, 11-0-0 in 1971 under Jack Swartz).

The Redskins still have a chance of advancing to the state playoffs, but only if Central Bucks East upsets unbeaten Central Bucks West Thanksgiving day. A CB West victory would leave both squads unbeaten, but the Bucks would advance on the basis of the fifth tiebreaker, ac-

ording to the PIAA point system, combined records of opponents.

There was too much joy in the Neshaminy ranks after Friday's win to worry about state playoffs. In rolling up its highest point total of the season, head coach John Chaump's team brought a conclusion to its season-long quest for perfection. Neshaminy now holds a 27-25-7 advantage in the series between these two fierce rivals.

In addition to the flush of team success, Neshaminy also saw one of its players achieve an individual milestone. Junior tailback Jonathan Hall, though hobbled with an ankle injury and used sparingly, managed 44 yards on 11 carries and finished with 1,001 for the season.

"I think it was a super finale," said Chaump. "Everybody played so well and the defense was fantastic. There are so many individ-

ual heroes that it's hard to mention everybody. I'm glad so many of our backs got in the end zone (quarterback Dan McClave and running backs Jeremy Horton, Rob Latronica and Hall scored touchdowns).

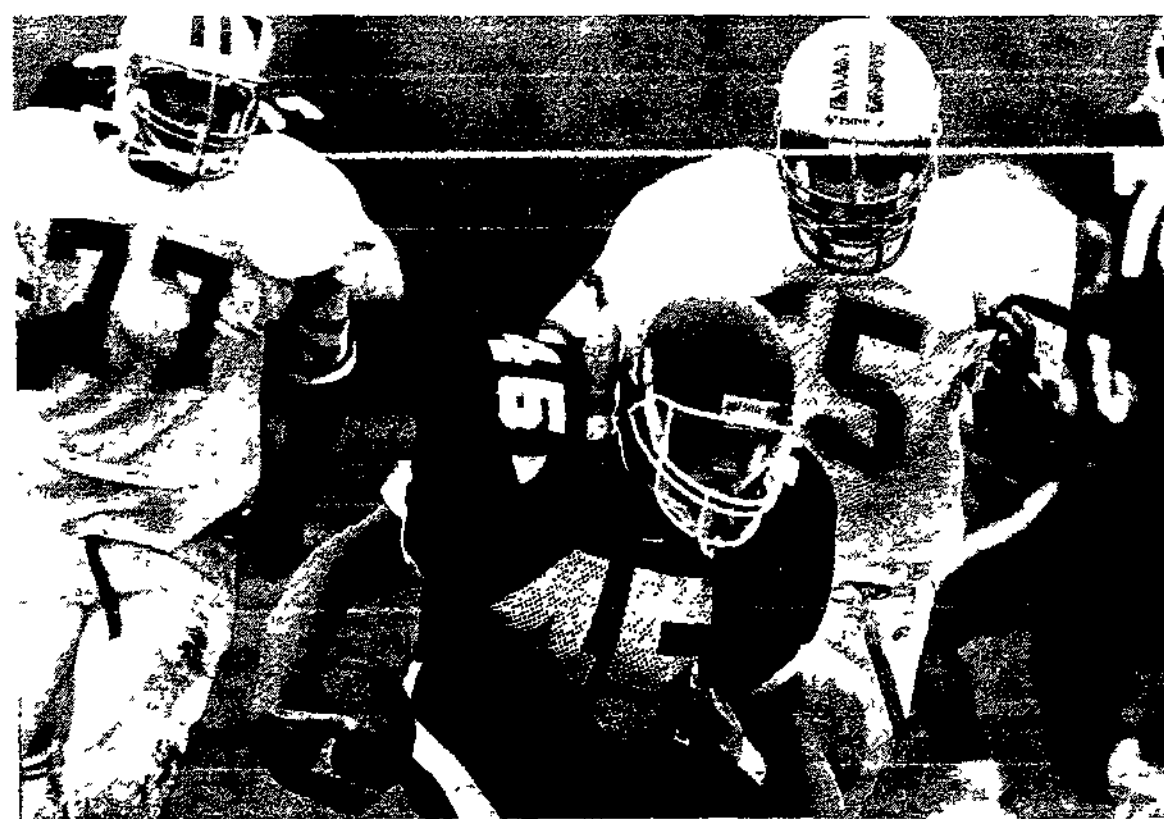
"Andy Szarko (Pennsbury quarterback) is tough. He throws the ball well but he also looks away receivers extremely well. He'll look to one side and come back to the other, but we did a great job defensively. Our defense is set up for the linebackers to make most of the plays but the defensive front also deserves credit. Mike Hanley (noseguard) and Dale Edberg (defensive tackle) don't get much credit, but they are clearing away blockers for the linebackers to clean up."

Despite the impressive point production, a defensive player was the only Redskin to manage more than one touchdown. Senior defensive end Artie James reached the end zone on a 15-yard return of a fumble recovery and a 55-yard interception return.

The Falcons (5-6, 4-4), who finished with a rare losing season under first-year head coach Al Matuza, Jr., probably never recovered from a blown scoring opportunity in the first quarter. Linebacker Jeff Badner had intercepted a pass from McClave and returned it to the Neshaminy 42. Szarko took his squad down to the 6, but missed a 22-yard field goal attempt on fourth down.

Taking over, the Redskins then drove 80 yards to take a 7-0 lead. McClave notched the touchdown when he turned upfield on an option, found wide open space on the right side and galloped 47 yards. His 23-yard pass to Hall on a third-down play was key in keeping the march alive.

Later in the second quarter, Latronica raced around right end with a pitch for 21 yards and a touchdown. The score reached 21-0 barely a minute later on the first of James' touchdowns. Szar-



Abington's Taz Orlina looks to get away from Cheltenham's Alex Davis (77) and Joe Tarlo during the Ghosts' 32-0 win Saturday. (Staff photo by Walter C. David)

ko bobbled the ball after a hit from linebacker Mike Frederick. James scooped it up out of the air and rambled 15 yards to the end zone.

Horton scored his first rushing touchdown early in the third quarter when he followed a nice block by center Terry Sauerbry through the line and chugged 36 yards for the score which made it 28-0. With the help of three Neshaminy penalties, Pennsbury finally got on the board later in the stanza as James Bodley (23 carries, 82 yards) ran 12 yards for a touchdown.

The Falcons looked like they might get back in the game after Bodley's score, before lightning struck again in the form of Neshaminy's defense. After recovering a McClave fumble on the Neshaminy 12, Pennsbury got to the 3 before a jarring hit on Bodley popped the ball up in the air. Neshaminy cornerback Bob Gaul plucked it out of the air and ran 98 yards the other way for a

**ABINGTON 32,
CHELTENHAM 0**

Five turnovers is a hard situa-

tion for any team to overcome.

For a team struggling like Cheltenham, it's disastrous.

Saturday afternoon in the Panthers' annual showdown with Abington, Cheltenham lost five fumbles, most coming at crucial times, as the Ghosts won, 32-0, in a SOL non-conference game.

"We can't make mistakes," said Cheltenham head coach Joe Gro. "We're not good enough. A good team can make mistakes and it's no big thing. But we're not good enough to do that."

Probably the most costly fumble came on the Panthers' very first possession.

Abington fumbled on its second play from scrimmage, giving the Panthers the ball on the Ghosts' 38-yard line.

Using running backs Eric Hodges and Syd Morse, Cheltenham moved down to the Abington 9. On the next play, Hodges took a handoff off left tackle and cut through the Ghosts' defense. But he was stripped of the ball on the Abington 1 and the Ghosts' Steve Gaskins fell on the ball in the end zone for a touch-back.

"We turned the ball over on the 1-yard line," said Gro. "He goes in (to the end zone) but he forgets to bring the football in with him. That's one prerequisite to get the hands raised (by the referee), you've got to bring the ball in with you."

A touchdown by Cheltenham at that point may have changed the complexion of the game. And maybe it wouldn't have made much difference. But for Gro, it was a golden opportunity lost.

**SPRINGFIELD 41,
LOWER MORELAND 28**

Springfield knows how it feels to be the victim of a blowout.

On Saturday, it found out what it was like to be on the winning side, thanks to a 41-28 Suburban One League Freedom Division victory over visiting Lower Moreland in a game which saw the Spartans seemingly take out the frustrations that have built up as a result of some lopsided losses in the past few weeks.

The loss ended Lower Moreland's season at 0-11 overall, 0-8 in the league.

Palisades' players named all-league

The Palisades football team, fresh off its first winning season, capped the year with the naming of a school-record nine players to the All-Colonial League football team this week.

Named to the second team were seniors Mike Samsel, Jason Gibson and Phil Crossley. Samsel was picked as both a running back and defensive end and Crossley as both a punter and a kicker. Gibson was named as an offensive tackle.

Pirates selected for honorable mention included: senior Jim Spinauer, at defensive end; offensive guard; senior Ed Hilton, at defensive tackle; senior

Jay Harrison, at defensive back, sophomore Ron Gelegonya, at split end; senior Jim Brownlee, at center, and sophomore John Bailie, at guard.

"Those nine players represented on the all-star squad was a school record for us, and we're very happy with that," said Palisades head coach Ed Ruisz. "The only major disappointment I'd have is that I thought Mike Samsel should have made it at at least first-team defensive end."

"I also really felt (junior) Tommy Brader should have made at least honorable mention defensive end. But we can't complain too much."