

# State Title Isn't All They're After

## Neshaminy Also Seeking Respect Over Controversial Playoff Berth

By Mike Kern

*Daily News Sports Writer*

There are those who would contend that Neshaminy High more or less backed its way into a Class AAAA berth in the inaugural state football playoffs.

Sure, Neshaminy is 11-0. But Central Bucks West is 10-0-1, and 53-0-1 in its last 54 games. And CB West probably never would have been held to a 14-14 tie by Central Bucks East on Thanksgiving Day if Bucks quarterback Shawn Moylan hadn't been forced to sit out the last 2½ quarters after suffering a dislocated shoulder.

Wouldn't the Bucks have been favored to defeat Neshaminy had the teams actually played? They had, after all, beaten the Redskins in each of the past three seasons. And hadn't Neshaminy, which is scheduled to play West over the next three seasons, elected not to play the Bucks this past September because it figured the two programs had a good chance of eventually meeting in a District 1 title game that in reality didn't come close to materializing?

And on and on and on . . .

But John Chaump, Neshaminy's second-year coach, sees no need to apologize. All he knows is that his

Redskins will represent Region 1 Saturday against Cedar Cliff (13-0) in a 1 p.m. semifinal at Allentown's J. Birney Crum Stadium. The winner will move into the Dec. 10 finale at Penn State's Beaver Stadium against the West champion, either Brashear (11-0) or Pittsburgh Central Catholic (8-3-2).

"We've heard how lucky we are that West tied," Chaump said, "but I can't ask any more of my team. They did everything they were supposed to, which was win 11 games. I can't worry about what other people think. We know we have a quality team.

"If West had gone unbeaten and gone instead of us [which the Bucks would have, via the tiebreaking procedure], that would have been fine. It was out of our hands. We did our part. It wasn't our party. But we were all playing by the same rules.

"If we hadn't been invited, it wouldn't have made us any less of a team. And it certainly doesn't make West any less of a team just because they're not going. Their record speaks for itself. The point is, if we are going to be totally committed to the situation, there should be district playoffs here, just like they have in every other part of the state.

Then, there wouldn't be any reason to talk about this.

"I think respect is something that has to be earned. If we don't have enough respect, that's our fault, not anybody else's. And this week, we have another opportunity to show how good we are."

But the Redskins might have to do it without starting tailback Jonathan Hall, a 5-11, 170-pound junior who rushed for more than 1,000 yards this year despite being hampered by an ankle injury over the last month of the season. If he is unable to play, senior Jeremy Horton and junior Rob Latronica will fill the void — once again. The Redskins already alternate quarterback, with senior Dan McClave and junior James Franklin splitting time and doing it quite effectively.

On the plus side, fullback Chris Craig is expected to be back, after missing most of the campaign with a broken foot. And whoever winds up with the ball will get to operate behind a most efficient front line, headed by senior center Terry Sauerbry, who at 6-2, 240 is a major Division I prospect. Sauerbry has a 4.05 grade-point average (he takes some accelerated honors courses) and has roughly narrowed his college choices to Georgia, Louisiana State, Duke, South Carolina and Kentucky, where his father, a Neshaminy graduate, played some two decades ago.

But Neshaminy's strength is its defense, an opportunistic bunch that actually managed to outscore the 11 teams it faced, 57-56. The best big-play makers on that unit are senior linebacker Brian Moser (another big-time recruit who is 6-2 and 230 with 4.6 speed in the 40-yard dash) and senior end Artie James (6-2, 205), who Chaump believes has been his top player overall.

"To be honest, when we put away the equipment [following a 49-14 win over Pennsbury to close out the regular season], I thought it was the last time we'd see that stuff," Sauerbry

### PIAA Pairings

Here are the pairings for the PIAA regional title games Saturday, with the schools' districts in parentheses:

#### Class A

East Championship: St. Pius X (1) vs. Camp Hill (3) at Governor Mifflin High School Stadium, Shillington.

West Championship: East Brady (9) vs. Cambridge Springs (10) at Memorial Stadium, Clarion University, Clarion.

#### Class AA

East Championship: Bethlehem Catholic (11) vs. West York Area (3) at Eugene Shirk Stadium, Albright College, Reading.

West Championship: Bellwood-Antis (6) vs. Wilmington (7) at Point Stadium, Johnstown.

#### Class AAA

East Championship: Berwick Area (2) vs. Middletown Area (3) at Bethlehem School District Stadium, Bethlehem.

West Championship: Bradford Area (9) vs. Alliquippa (7) at Sharon High School Stadium, Sharon.

#### Class AAAA

East Championship: Neshaminy (1) vs. Cedar Cliff (3) at J. Birney Crum Stadium, Allentown.

West Championship: Brashear (8) vs. Central Catholic (7) at South Stadium, Pittsburgh.

said. "The way West has been going the last five years, it seemed as if we had hardly any chance in the world.

"I don't know, maybe we were destined to be here. I can't explain it. I would have been satisfied with 11-0, because not many teams can ever say that. This is icing on the cake. It's like we're starting out 0-0 again.

"I think we deserved it just as much as West did. Whether people like it or not, that's just the way it is. And now, we're out to prove that we're up to the next challenge."

### EXTRA POINTS

The starting time of Saturday's Class A semifinal between St. Pius X (9-3) and Camp Hill (11-1) has been changed from 1 p.m. to 2 at Governor Mifflin High in Shillington, which is just outside Reading. The winner advances into the final against either East Brady (10-0-1) or Cambridge Springs (10-0-1). The title game is Dec. 10 in Shippensburg.

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