

Neshaminy May Be Left Out in Cold

Glancing ahead and peering back ... or, trying to sort out yet another weekend of suburban high school football:

It was about this time a year ago that Neshaminy was putting together a schedule for the 1988 season. At one point, the school had preliminary discussions with Central Bucks West, concerning the possibility of a CB West-Neshaminy matchup as a season opener.

But the Neshaminy coaching staff, headed by **John Champ**, nixed such a deal. They reasoned that with the coming of a PIAA state playoff, the two teams stood a chance of meeting for the District 1 championship.

However, it turned out that there won't be a District 1 title game. Instead, the PIAA instituted a rather complicated ratings formula that allows for just one team in each of four enrollment classifications to advance from each of four regions.



MIKE KERN
SCHOOLS

And as things stand, should CB West, the No. 1 team in the Daily News Suburban Top 10, and second-ranked Neshaminy both finish 11-0, West would advance from Region 1, on the basis of the sixth tiebreaker, which is better won-lost record of opponents.

"In hindsight, if we had known how this was all going to work out, we might have chosen to go another way," said **Ray Kelly**, Neshaminy's athletic director. "But nothing was out yet. We figured there would be some kind of a one-game situation here. West was willing to play us. We took a gamble, and it has kind of backfired.

"... You don't see USC and UCLA playing in the first week. Neither do Army and Navy. We can live with the decision. If we do go on and win 11 games and don't wind up going to the playoffs, I know we'll be rooting for West."

Neshaminy improved to 8-0, 5-0 in the Patriot Division of the Suburban One National Patriot, with a 14-3 victory Saturday at Council Rock (5-3, 4-1), the Redskins' first victory there since 1972. CB West (8-0, 5-0 in the Sub One National Colonial) captured its 51st consecutive victory that same afternoon. The Bucks beat host Abington (3-5, 3-3), 14-0, and tied Neshaminy's five-county area mark for longest unbeaten streak, established between 1961-65. And, barring divine intervention, the Bucks will surpass it on Friday night at Pennridge.

West and Neshaminy had met each of the past three seasons, with West winning 25-0 in 1987, 16-14 in 1986 and 28-16 in 1985.

Even though the Redskins were 9-2

a year ago, and finished second behind West in the final Daily News Top 10, there were questions about how solid they would be in '88. Champ, who took over from **Dick Bedesem** a year ago, was scrapping the wishbone, which had become the symbol of the program's recent resurgence, in favor of the I. The switch was designed to get the ball into the hands of junior **Jon Hall** more; Hall has responded by rushing for 900 yards.

Champ also relies heavily on a pair of Division I prospects in center **Terry Sauerby** and linebacker **Brian Moser**. And, if nothing else, the 'Skins certainly have been opportunists. In consecutive wins earlier this month against Norristown and Pennridge, four of their six touchdowns were scored on a punt return, a blocked punt, an interception and a fumble recovery.

"These kids have been committed, whether it was hitting the weight room in January, or running steps [in **Harry E. Franks Stadium**] during the summer," Champ said. "And if you work hard, hey, you're going to win. We knew we had a pretty good group coming back, although I'm sure that some other people didn't necessarily think so."

But coach, about that new playoff system ...

"There's always going to be some inequities," Champ said. "We feel the state should have thought things out more, but that's the way it is. My thoughts are, that if you're going to do something like this, you have to start the season earlier and finish earlier, and leave enough room for some other equally deserving teams to participate."

If it's any consolation, it should be noted that West coach **Mike Pettine** shares those sentiments.

"We can't worry about that," Champ said. "Our focus has to remain on winning the rest of our games. And if we can do that, then we'll be thrilled."

Neshaminy, which last enjoyed an unbeaten season in 1971, still must play pesky Harry S Truman and William Tennent the next two weeks, followed by Pennsbury in the Nov. 18 finale. The Redskins have beaten Pennsbury only once (1986) in the past decade.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE

By this stage of the season, you would figure things had pretty much fallen into place. And then, there were these improbable outcomes:

■ Penn Wood goes and beats Glen Mills, 14-0. Well, I've said all along that the Del Val National belonged to Penn Wood until somebody proved otherwise. And I suppose I'm still waiting.

■ West Chester East edges West Chester Henderson, 14-10. But then again, I did feel that East had to be stronger than it was showing. And it is, after all, a crosstown rivalry. The second meeting, on Thanksgiving, should be interesting, to say the least.

■ A Bristol team that had looked decent is walloped by an Archbishop Kennedy squad that had for the most part looked anything but, 42-27. Ditto Jenkintown's 27-20 loss to Morrisville.

■ Ridley got hammered by ... oops, only kidding. Just wanted to see if you were still paying attention.

TOP 15

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

TEAMS



Daily News-Channel 29 Area Top 15

No. School	Record
1. Central Bucks West	(8-0)
2. Cherokee	(6-0)
3. Cherry Hill East	(6-0)
4. Holy Spirit	(6-0)
5. La Salle	(8-0)
6. Neshaminy	(7-0)
7. Ridley	(7-0)
8. Cardinal O'Hara	(7-1)
9. West Chester Henderson	(6-2)
10. Coatesville	(5-2)
11. Woodbury	(5-0)
12. Archbishop Carroll	(5-2)
13. Bishop Eustace	(6-0)
14. Camden	(5-1)
15. Pottstown	(6-2)

Ted Silary's City Top 10

No. School	Record
1. La Salle	(8-0)
2. Cardinal O'Hara	(7-1)
3. Archbishop Carroll	(6-2)
4. Central	(6-0)
5. Archbishop Ryan	(6-2)
6. St. James	(4-3)
7. Bishop McDevitt	(4-3)
8. West Catholic	(5-2-1)
9. Abraham Lincoln	(5-1)
10. Malvern Prep	(4-1-2)
(tie) Germantown Academy	(4-2-1)

Under Consideration — Bishop Egan (4-3-1), Father Judge (4-3-1), Frankford (4-2), George Washington (5-1).

Mike Kern's Suburban Top 10

No. School	Record
1. Central Bucks West	(8-0)
2. Neshaminy	(8-0)
3. Ridley	(7-0)
4. West Chester Henderson	(6-2)
5. Coatesville	(6-2)
6. Pottstown	(6-2)
7. Phoenixville	(6-2)
8. Souderton	(8-1)
9. Methacton	(7-1)
10. West Chester East	(5-3)

Under Consideration: Council Rock (5-3), Glen Mills (5-2), Norristown (5-3), Springfield Delco (7-1), St. Pius X (6-3).

Doug Hadden's South Jersey Top 10

No. School	Record
1. Cherokee	(6-0)
2. Cherry Hill East	(6-0)
3. Holy Spirit	(6-0)
4. Woodbury	(6-0)
5. Bishop Eustace	(6-0)
6. Camden	(5-1)
7. Salem	(6-0)
8. Washington Township	(6-0)
9. Buena	(7-0)
10. Woodstown	(6-0)

Under consideration: Deptford (5-1), Florence (6-0), Haddonfield (5-1), Lenape (5-1), Millville (5-1), Northern Burlington (5-1).