

Neshaminy, Pius: 2 playoff paths

By Gary Miles
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The Neshaminy football team this season scrapped a wishbone offense that led it to a 9-2 record last year. St. Pius X, on the other hand, kept faith with a wishbone attack that helped it go 8-4 last season.

Contrasting offensive philosophies have brought the teams to the same destination — tomorrow's inaugural Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association state playoffs.

Neshaminy is 11-0, won the Suburban One Patriot Division championship and is ranked No. 1 in The Inquirer's Southeastern Pennsylvania Top 10 poll. St. Pius X has won its last four games, has its best record ever (9-3) and was second in the Pioneer Conference with a 7-2 mark.

Neshaminy will play Cedar Cliff in the Class AAAA Eastern regional championship at Allentown's J.B. Crum Stadium at 1 p.m. St. Pius X will play Camp Hill in the Class A Eastern regional championship at Governor

Mifflin High in Shillington at 2 p.m. The winners of both games will advance to the state title games Dec. 10.

Cedar Cliff (13-0) beat Lancaster McCaskey, 22-12, last week to advance to tomorrow's game. The Colts, the District 3 champions, use a ball-control, I-formation offense that averages 26 points a game. Quarterback Tom Kirchoff (6-foot-2, 200), fullback Dante Sears (6-2, 220) and tailback Preston Paul do most of the running. Tight end Kyle Brady (6-5, 235) and split end Greg Schaeffer are the main receivers.

Unfortunately for Neshaminy, tailback Jon Hall (1,001 yards, 14 TDs) has yet to recover from a badly sprained ankle. However, Hall was doubtful for the Redskins' game against Pennsbury two weeks ago and ended up with 34 rushing yards and a touchdown. In Hall's absence, the ground-game responsibilities will fall to Jeremy Horton, Rob Latronica and Chris Craig.

St. Pius X, coming off a big Thanks-

giving Day win over Pottsgrove, averages 240 yards per game on offense and has held its opponents to an average of 210 yards. The offense features quarterback Jeff Shugars, halfbacks Fred Moffett and Mike Baumeister and fullback Jeff Klenk.

Shugars had his best game of the season on Thanksgiving, when he threw for 155 yards and rushed for 86. Moffett, who missed several practices this week with a minor illness, and Baumeister both have gained more than 700 yards on the ground, and Klenk has scored eight touchdowns. Jim Greco and Bill Kopf, the main passing targets, have combined for 26 receptions.

Camp Hill (11-1) defeated Columbia, 32-6, last Saturday to advance to tomorrow's game. The team's top offensive players are quarterback Erik Reisser, fullback Eric Johnson and tailback Mark Baron. Johnson and Baron both have gained more than 1,000 yards in the veer-option offense, while Reisser has passed for



Jon Hall

Neshaminy star has sprained ankle seven touchdowns.

"We have to bang their fullback and stop their option," said Pius coach Bill Rogers. "Basically, we'll do the same things that got us this far."