



Abington head coach Moister watches intently from sidelines.

2d-quarter blooper puts Ghosts in hole

By Scott Huff
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The pain was etched on the faces of Abington head coach Doug Moister and his entire Ghosts team after a tough 8-7 nonleague loss to visiting Neshaminy Saturday afternoon.

"It hurts a lot, but if it doesn't hurt, you are not a winner," Moister said. "It's really hard to lose a football game that way."

The way the Ghosts lost was on a couple of broken Neshaminy plays in the second quarter. With the Redskins losing 7-0, Neshaminy put together a drive that carried the team to the Abington 10-yard line — first down and goal.

Redskins junior tailback Jonathan Hall was nailed for a 5-yard loss, but on second down Hall blasted through the Ghosts defensive front and carried to the 2-yard line before being separated from the football. The ball bounced into the end zone, and senior wide receiver Keith Butler recovered for a Redskins touchdown.

Neshaminy 8 Abington 7

The game-winning points were scored by accident as the snap from the center on an attempted point-after touchdown one-hopped its way back to holder Dan McClave. McClave, also the Redskins senior quarterback, rolled far to his right and then threw across the field into the left corner of the end zone to senior tight end Joe Ramos for the 2-point conversion.

"They mess up the play, and they end up winning the game with those points," said Moister. "But hey, the kids showed tremendous improvement from last week [a 21-0 loss to Plymouth-Whitemarsh], and we're going to get better as we go into our [Suburban One] league schedule."

The improvement was most evident on the defensive side of the line of



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Abington junior tailback Taz Orlina gets a grip on Neshaminy running back Jonathan Hall.

scrimmage. The Ghosts, led by the tenacious hitting of senior linebacker Rob Farmer and defensive end Chris O'Donnell, limited a high-powered Redskins offense to only 144 yards.

"Abington is a very big and physical football team," said Neshaminy head coach John Chaump. "They pursued the football well, and they did some things that took us out of our offense."

The improvement from the Abington offense came with the running of junior fullback Steve Gaskins. Gaskins established an inside rushing game for the Ghosts with a game-high 86 yards on 19 carries.

Moister changed the Ghosts offense from the wishbone to the I-formation

last week. The change appeared to make Gaskins more effective as a fullback, and junior Taz Orlina had his moments as a tailback. But the formation was also a contributing factor to five lost Abington fumbles.

"With only a week to prepare, we were going to lack some in execution," said Moister. "We buried the bone last week, and I'm going to run the 'I' until they fire me."

The lone Abington scoring drive covered 80 yards in 12 plays and consumed almost 7 minutes. The highlights of the march were a 14-yard bolt off-tackle by Gaskins, and a 14-yard burst around right end on the option by Orlina. Orlina capped the drive with a 4-yard run on the first

play of the second period, and senior placekicker Billy Godfrey kicked the extra point to give Abington its 7-0 lead.

"As far as I'm concerned, this is the preseason," said Moister. "I told my kids that we may have lost today, but we didn't lose a league game. Those games are in front of us, and there is no reason for them not to think they can play with anyone. Neshaminy is a very good football team, and the kids have to come out of here with a great deal of confidence."

Neshaminy	0	0	0	0	—	8
Abington	0	7	0	0	—	7

A: Orlina 4 run (Godfrey kick)
N: Jackson recovered fumble in end zone (Ramos pass from McClave)