

# Neshaminy crushes Pennsbury to finish 11-0 season

By Gary Miles  
Inquirer Staff Writer

The Neshaminy Redskins finished their season at 11-0 and clinched the Suburban One League Patriot Division title last night, by defeating visiting Pennsbury, 49-14, in a traditional grudge match played before 6,000 fans.

The win gave Neshaminy (7-0 league), the No. 2 team in The Inquirer's Southeastern Pennsylvania Top 10 poll, a shot at qualifying for the PIAA Class AAAA state playoffs. For the Redskins to advance, however, No. 1 Central Bucks West must lose to

Central Bucks East on Thursday.

"I told the team not to think about the state playoffs, about an undefeated season or about a division title," Neshaminy coach John Champ said. "I told them to think about only Pennsbury, and they did."

Neshaminy used an overpowering offense and an opportunistic defense to hand the Falcons their sixth loss in 11 games and their fourth in eight league games. And it didn't take long for the Redskins to kick into high gear. They scored 21 points in the second quarter and led at halftime, 21-0.

"A first-half lead is always nice,"

Champ said.

Neshaminy's first-half touchdowns came on a 47-yard run by senior quarterback Dan McClave, a 29-yard run by junior running back Rob Latronica and a 15-yard fumble recovery and return by senior defensive end Artie James.

Pennsbury, which entered the game with the hope of spoiling Champ's perfect season, didn't score its first touchdown until senior running back James Bodley scored on a 12-yard run midway through the third period. A 1,000-yard rusher this season, Bodley ended with 77 yards on 29 carries.

But Neshaminy answered Bodley's score with a 99-yard touchdown run by senior defensive back Rob Gaul, after he intercepted a pass by Andy Szarko.

"Our defense played very well," Champ said. "How about that Artie James? He scored two touchdowns for the first time in his life, and it's his last game for me."

James also scored from 53 yards out on an interception of a Szarko pass with 54 seconds to play.

Pennsbury, coached by Al Matusa Jr., cut Neshaminy's lead to 35-14 in the fourth period, when Szarko capped a 13-play drive with a 1-yard

run. But Neshaminy answered once again when junior running back Jon Hall, playing with a badly sprained ankle, capped a four-play, 22-yard drive with a 4-yard touchdown run.

"Jon played in a soft cast," Champ said. "He needed just a few yards to reach 1,000, and he got them. He's definitely one of the area's top players."

Hall finished with 36 yards.

While the Neshaminy offense was running roughshod over the Pennsbury defense, the Neshaminy defense was holding the explosive Pennsbury offense in check.

James, Gaul, junior linebacker Todd Altman and senior linebacker Brian Moser all helped Neshaminy roll to one of its biggest wins ever.

"This was a great game by a great team," Champ said. "They deserve all the credit they get."

Pennsbury	0	0	7	7	—	14
Neshaminy	0	21	14	14	—	49

N. McClave 47 run (Ramos kick)  
 N. Latronica 29 run (Ramos kick)  
 N. James 15 fumble return (Ramos kick)  
 N. Horton 39 run (Ramos kick)  
 P. Bodley 12 run (Cook kick)  
 N. Gaul 99 interception return (Ramos kick)  
 P. Szarko 1 run (Cook kick)  
 N. Hall 4 run (Ramos kick)  
 N. James 53 interception return (Ramos kick)