

N. Penn, Neshaminy lead way

Suburban One

Ralph Reeves is a star line-backer for **North Penn** with scholarship offers pouring out of his mailbox, but that doesn't stop him from practicing with all three units each day.

Kiser Terry is also a defensive standout, playing end for **Neshaminy**. Now, he has been asked to add the roles of tight end and bruising fullback to his resumé.

Unlike their tackle numbers, it's hard to measure these players' leadership. It's intangible, but it might be the thread that binds two of the top teams from one of the area's toughest leagues.

North Penn coach Dick Beck said Reeves (6-foot-1, 220 pounds) is the ideal player, doesn't let teammates slack off, and goes "full-blast" in each practice. Neshaminy

coach Mark Schmidt said Terry (6-3, 220) was forced to become a leader quickly, thrust into the spotlight as a starter in his freshman year.

Last season, the two teams finished atop their respective Suburban One League conferences, as Neshaminy ended in a three-way tie for first in the National and North Penn ruled the Continental.

Located 30 miles from one another, they met for last season's District 1 Class AAAA title, a game that Schmidt said he reminds his players of constantly. They were held scoreless until the fourth quarter in a 42-6 loss.

"If they forget about it, we remind them," Schmidt said. "North Penn had a great club, but we sure as heck thought

we could've given them a better game than that. That was downright embarrassing."

North Penn later fell by three points to La Salle in the state semifinals.

Along with Reeves, North Penn will rely on the return of quarterback Corey Ernst. His coach said he will loosen the reins this season and allow the 5-11 senior to use his legs more.

At Neshaminy, Terry, a Temple recruit, will be joined on the defensive line by 6-0, 285-pound Chris Kutsubos and will find himself clearing paths for tailback Sean Ulmer.

In Suburban One National, **Abington, Council Rock South**, and Neshaminy each went 6-1 in league play last season. C.R. South's regular-season

defeat came against Abington, and Abington's was against Neshaminy. The Redskins' loss was to C.R. South.

P.J. Gallo, arguably the league's top player, will return for C.R. South at tight end. The 6-4, 235-pound senior is ticketed for Maryland.

After finishing 5-5 overall and 3-4 in the National last season, **Pennsbury** returns center J.J. Denman, a 6-6, 310-pound senior headed for Penn State. He'll be joined on the line by 6-3, 260-pound senior Dylan Pepper.

North Penn ran off seven straight league wins last year in the Continental. Second-place **Souderton** lost just once in league play: a blowout against North Penn. The Indians return quarterback Tanner Allen and one of the area's top backs, 5-10, 185-pound slasher Javon White, bound for Villanova.

— Matt Breen

Neshaminy would like to avenge a 42-6 loss to N. Penn in last season's district final.