

District 1 Class AAAA Football Playoff

Neshaminy thunders to 42-21 win over PW

By Rick O'Brien

INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

After a less-than-stellar regular season, Nate Hall and his Neshaminy teammates view the PIAA District 1 Class AAAA playoff tournament as a chance at redemption.

The Redskins, coming in as the No. 13 seed, took a step toward that end in Friday night's first-round contest against No. 4 Plymouth Whitmarsh, piling up yardage on the ground and posting a 42-21 victory.

Leading the way for the visitors, the 5-foot-5, 160-pound Hall, a senior tailback who transferred this year from Bonner-Prendergast, carried 21 times for 129 yards and four touchdowns. He scored on dashes of 3, 2, 27, and 5 yards.

"We just came in here, did what we had to do," Hall said. "We were real focused. We didn't take anything for granted."

Next Friday in Warrington, Neshaminy (8-3) will take on No. 5 seed Central Bucks South (10-1), a first-round winner over No. 12 Haverford High.

For the second straight season, after capturing the Suburban One League American Conference title, the Colonials (9-2) were eliminated in the first round of districts.

With Hall and fullback Blake Sullivan running behind a surging offensive line, the Redskins totaled 319 yards on the ground. They went to the air only eight times.

Of Hall, Neshaminy junior fullback and linebacker Denny Lord said, "He can do a



Neshaminy's Nate Hall breaks loose for a 27-yard touchdown run. He had four TDs in the win. RON CORTES / Staff Photographer

little bit of everything. He's fast, he's powerful, and he's tough to catch if he gets out in the open."

Plymouth Whitmarsh's bid for its first district playoff win since 1997 was hurt by injuries to a pair of starters. Defensive tackle Tre Scott and 1,000-yard rusher Terry Brown went down in the second and third quarters, respectively.

A defense that held the Colonials to 51 total yards in the first half was anchored by Lord and fellow linebackers Tosh Thompson, Steve Olenki, and Brian Toal. Up front, ends Luke Carrezola and Alex McKenzie turned in solid efforts.

After fullback Corey Kelly's 1-yard dive gave PW an early

lead, the Redskins struck for five straight TDs. Hall's fourth touchdown, on a left-side pitch, made it 35-7 late in the third quarter.

"We knew coming in that being the No. 13 seed didn't matter much," Lord said. "In the playoffs, anything can happen."

Neshaminy	0	21	14	7	-	42
Plymouth Whitmarsh	7	0	0	14	-	21

- PW: Corey Kelly 1 run (Jared Seiler kick)
- N: Nate Hall 3 run (Nicholas Tucci kick)
- N: Hall 2 run (Tucci kick)
- N: Cole Creighton 9 pass from Hugh Hart (Tucci kick)
- N: Hall 27 run (Tucci kick)
- N: Hall 5 run (Tucci kick)
- PW: Kelly 3 run (Seiler kick)
- PW: Pete Giorgio 4 run (Seiler kick)
- N: Denny Lord 1 run (Tucci kick)

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Neshaminy's Mike Palmer recovers a fumble by Plymouth Whitmarsh in the third quarter. The Redskins scored three TDs in the second quarter and two more in the third in the romp.