

Falcons get off to fast start to earn a share of title

Neshaminy had nothing to lose but the game. And Pennsbury saw that.

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Neshaminy came into its game against Pennsbury on Saturday with nothing to lose, while the Falcons were playing for a share of the Suburban One National Conference championship.

The Falcons quickly squelched any thoughts the Redskins may have had of playing spoiler, surging to a 20-0 first-quarter lead on their way to a 27-0 victory over their Suburban One rivals.

"The win improved the Falcons' league record to 8-1, 8-3 overall, and left them tied for the championship with Central Bucks West, which beat Central Bucks East, 35-7. Neshaminy fell to 2-7 in the Suburban One National, 3-7 overall.

"It feels great to be champn," Falcons coach Larry Greene said, "because the kids worked hard and got the job done when a lot of people said they couldn't do it. We are one of the smallest teams in the league, and we're not loaded with super talent, but they'll go out and scrap with anyone."

Pennsbury took control of the game early. Neshaminy was stopped on three plays in their first series, and a bad snap forced senior punter Arnie Gooch to run with the ball. He was stopped way short of a first down, and Pennsbury took over at the Redskins' 24-yard line. The Falcons' senior quarterback, Matt Rader, ran it in from 1 yard out for the first of his two touchdowns and a 7-0 Pennsbury lead.

The Falcons stopped Neshaminy again on three plays, and their next possession began at the Redskins' 41. This time they went to the air for the touchdown, the score coming on a 25-yard pass from Rader to sophomore split end Ryan Matheson. The 6-foot, 5-inch Rader finished with 11 completions in 17 attempts for 151 yards.

Things actually got worse for the Redskins. When Neshaminy senior quarterback Joe Mormello's fumble was recovered by Falcons junior defensive end Rick Dittman, Pennsbury again had great field position at the Redskins' 31. When Rader ran it in from 2 yards out the Falcons had a 20-0 lead with 1:50 still remaining in the opening quarter.

"Coming in, I thought we'd match up well with them and be able to move the ball against their defense," said Redskins coach Dick Bodeman. "Obviously, it's not just one problem, but a lot of things we're going to have to look at after the season."

Greene credited the Redskins for not giving up, and it is to Neshaminy's credit that it did not roll over and die after digging itself the early hole. The Redskins moved the ball much more effectively in the second quarter, but could not put any points



For the Inquirer: F. H. RUMPH, JR.

Pennsbury's Tim Bromirski tries to make a one-handed catch as Neshaminy defender Seth Alberts (35) can only watch.

Pennsbury 27
Neshaminy 8

Suburban One National football

on the board. Then, just before half-time, the Falcons struck the killing blow.

After the Redskins lost the ball on downs, Pennsbury took over at its own 40-yard line with 4 minutes, 10 seconds left in the half. It looked like the drive would stall when the Falcons called their last timeout at the Redskins' 19-yard line with 8 seconds left. But Rader lofted a perfect pass to sophomore split end Jason Cooper in the back corner of the end zone on the last play to give the Falcons an insurmountable 27-0 lead.

The Redskins avoided the shutout when Mormello ran for a one-yard touchdown with 11 seconds remaining in the game. Senior Bill Borman's conversion run accounted for the final score. "I am very proud of this team. They're very close and they work hard," Greene said.

Neshaminy	0	0	0	0	—	0
Pennsbury	20	7	0	0	—	27

F. Rader, 1 run (7 yards kick)
P. Matheson, 25 passes from Rader (7 yards kick)
P. Rader, 2 run (3 yard kick)
F. Cooper, 19 pass from Rader (7 yards kick)
N. Mormello, 1 run (3 yards out)



Neshaminy's Tim Smith lowers his shoulder as he prepares for impact with Pennsbury's Matt Curtin (13). Also closing in for the tackle is Falcons defender Matt Rader (right).