

For The Inquirer / JON ADAMS

Pennsbury's Brad Wilhelm (34) begins the second quarter by diving through the line for a short gain. Wilhelm scored 1 of the Falcons' 5 TDs.

Falcons beat Skins and end season

By Eric Karabell INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

The expanded PIAA Class AAAA District 1 football playoff tournament is scheduled to begin this weekend, and because of two heartbreaking losses — to one team that qualified and another that just missed — Pennsbury won't be there.

Knowing Friday was the season finale, all Pennsbury could do at sputtering Neshaminy was take out frustrations on a weaker opponent. Behind a career-high 184 yards rushing from senior Larry Lewis and touchdowns from five different sources, the Falcons punished the Redskins, 32-14, in a Suburban One National match.

"This is great, this is what my three years of playing have been about," said Pennsbury senior linebacker Marty McNamara.

"Those two losses were heartbreaking, but we came back. Everyone was up for the scniors' last game, and we had to end it on a positive note."

This is the first senior class for

Pennsbury	3
Neshaminy	1

Suburban One National Division football

coach Larry Greene, and with the seniors leading, the team had a pretty successful season. A 26-20 loss to Norristown and a 21-7 loss to Central Bucks West notwithstanding, this was a good Pennsbury team that fought injuries all fall.

Friday, Lewis made a mistake early on, but atoned for it. Neshaminy scored a touchdown when Lewis fumbled the opening kickoff on the Falcons' 10. It took a laborious seven plays, including a roughing-the-kicker penalty on a field-goal try, but Neshaminy sophomore quarterback John Hatfield finally scored from 3 yards out to make it 7-0.

Pennsbury (7-3, 7-2) scored five of the next six touchdowns, thanks to Lewis and senior quarterback Mike Harrison.

Harrison tossed touchdown passes to seniors Chris Bondanza and Timm Bromirski and junior Jason Cooper, and Lewis had a 36-yard scoring scamper. Mammoth senior fullback Brad Wilhelm also scored a touchdown.

"It was really nice, because all year we've been trying to put it all together," Lewis said. "We played with a lot of emotion, and to the best of our ability. The main thing we had to do was shake the last two weeks off and end at 7-3. That was our goal."

"We really hadn't played two good halves until tonight," Greene said. "We got the ball to everybody, and there were a lot of positives. Also, because this is my first senior class makes it special. I'm really pleased with their season."

This was also the best Neshaminy had looked in quite a while. The Redskins (2-8, 2-7) have only beaten Truman, because one of their wins was a forfeit over Council Rock, which had beaten them, 21-6.

The Redskins, who are scheduled to host a nonleague game against Salesianum (Del.) Friday, came out as if it were their last game, too. It was a big change from the week before, when winless Bensalem dominated them. Hatfield made his first start and, despite what was often a fierce pass rush, showed himself well. He was only 2 of 16 passing, but his arm is strong and he played hard until the end.

"I really think our kids got disheartened the last couple weeks, and they salvaged that tonight," Neshaminy coach Dick Bedesem said. "They played with intensity and emotion. If you take a couple of their big plays away, who knows? We have to build on the positives."

Pennsbury	0	19	6	1		32
Neshaminy	1	0	7	0	-	1

PB: Bondanza 7 pass from Harrison (McKenna kick)

PB: Lewis 36 run (kick failed) PB: Bromirski 15 pass from Harrison (pass failed)

PB: Wilhelm 15 run (kick failed)

NE: Horwatt 3 run (Lee kick) PB: Cooper 55 pass from Harrison (McKenna kick)