

## Football

## Fast Eagles outfly Redskins' rebound

By Beth Onufrak  
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

Just when it looked as if Neshaminy had worked itself back into the game, host Norristown got two quick touchdowns to secure a 27-8 Suburban One National win Saturday.

"I was really pleased that the offense came back and picked the ball up and took it down. I thought that was the key to the game," Eagles coach Roger Grove said. "I felt, if they stopped us the next time — one, two, three, punt — I thought we were going to be in for a big-time football game."

Trailing 14-0 at halftime, the Redskins (1-3, 0-3) moved the ball 63 yards in 12 plays to score on their first possession of the second half. Senior quarterback Joe Mormello ran the ball in from the 2-yard line for the touchdown and senior running back Mark Homer ran in the two-point conversion to cut the margin to 14-8.

"We seemed offensively to move the ball very, very well at times," Redskins coach Dick Bedesem said. "And it looks like we're a big, strong club, and we eke out the first downs and get some momentum on a drive — it's just the way I want to play. But then, somewhere, somehow we end up getting a bad play and instead of the kids jacking it up and rallying to come back we kind of put our kids down a little bit. That hurts, it really

**Norristown  
Neshaminy** 27  
8

*Suburban One National football*

does.

"We were right in that ball game, 14-0, and then when we scored and got the two, and we were right there. And then we allowed a long touchdown that really broke our backs."

Relying solely on their running game, the Eagles (3-0, 3-0) built on their lead with a 59-yard scoring drive. Senior running back David Tuggle carried the ball in from the 25-yard line, but the two-point conversion failed as the Eagles went ahead, 20-8.

The Eagles defense stopped the Redskins on the next possession, and Tuggle took a punt at his own 19-yard line all the way for the final touchdown of the game with just one minute played in the fourth quarter.

"Before I went back, I was tired and I just wanted to get back there and fair catch," Tuggle said.

"But I saw the seam, I got a couple of good blocks and I made a couple of good cuts. After I was running, I felt the guy behind me and (when) I got down to the end, I was determined to stretch it down and make it."

Tuggle looked like he was stopped at midfield when he burst through a crowd and down the field.



For The Inquirer / SCOTT HAMRICK

**Norristown's David Tuggle (6)** races past a line of Neshaminy defenders on his way to a punt-return touchdown during Saturday's game.

"That was one of the finest runs I've seen on punt returns," Grove said. "He plays both ways for us. He's an outstanding blocker and he's a real good runner. He's just an extra dimension."

Using a balanced attack of possession football and big-play gains, the Eagles gained nearly 300 yards on offense.

Senior running back John Johnson led the way with 113 yards rushing

on 16 carries.

"Erik (Augustin) has the ability, he's an outstanding quarterback, and he throws the ball well," Grove said. "We have good receivers. We feel very balanced, because we have three good running backs. So it's pretty hard to defend us. I feel that's the one thing we have this year. Meaning, I think we can take the ball and control, but we have the kids who are capable to break the big

play."

The Eagles took the lead on the final play of the first quarter when John Johnson took the ball 59 yards for a touchdown and Bob Brouse added the kick. "My quickness, and being as they are a little bit bigger than I am — mostly every team we play is bigger than I am, I'm just a little guy — I think they tend to be a little slower than me, because I'm a short, quick guy," Johnson said.

A 7-yard pass play from Augustin to John Ready capped a 44-yard drive with 6:24 remaining in the first half and Brouse added the kick for the Eagles to take a 14-0 lead.

Neshaminy	0	0	8	0	—	8
Norristown	7	7	6	7	—	27

NO: Johnson 59 run (Brouse kick)  
NO: Ready 7 pass from Augustin (Brouse kick)  
NO: Mormello 2 run (Homer run)  
NO: Tuggle 25 run (pass failed)  
NO: Tuggle 81 punt return (Brouse kick)