

Can Neshaminy Bounce Back?

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of previews on Lower Bucks County football teams.)

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Pete Cordelli, Neshaminy High School's new head football coach, steps into a position this season which no coach would envy.

The Redskins suffered through a long and hard campaign a year ago finishing with two victories and a pair of ties over a game schedule with Tom McHugh as head coach.

McHugh has since departed to become coach at Cinnaminson (N.J.) High School, and Cordelli has been elevated from assistant coach to the top spot.

Veteran Coach

The popular coach, a veteran 16 years, was an assistant to John Petercuskie when the Redskins ran rampant over any and all opponents. This season he is seeking to return to the successful system which was established then.

"We'll go with the wing-T this season," offered Cordelli, "and there could be some single-wing formations thrown in here and there. But the problem will be teaching it to these kids, most of which never saw its variations before."

Neshaminy is sorely inexperienced, and Cordelli is the first to admit this. "We've only got about four or five veterans back, so we'll try to work the juniors and a couple of sophomores in as soon as they gain knowledge of what's happening."

Inexperienced QB

On offense, Cordelli will turn to Doug Mason, an inexperienced junior at quarterback. Mason, at 10, 165-pounds, has done well in scrimmages, well enough to warrant a starting spot ahead of another junior, Ken Herb (5-9, 155).

Bill Daenz (5-11, 175, senior) and Craig Johns (5-9, 165, senior) will operate at the halfback positions, as well as doubling up on the defensive secondary. Either Tom Pendergast (5-8, 140, senior) or Larry Taylor (5-8, 140, senior) will perform at fullback.

"We're very small weight-wise at fullback, so they're going to have to be very fast to



NESHAMINY GRID STAFF — Directing the 1967 football program at Neshaminy High School are (kneeling, from left) Joe Plumeri (offensive blocking, defensive secondary), Pete Cordelli head coach) and Don Thomp-

son (helping out from Neshaminy Junior High staff). Standing: Joe Greytack (line coach), Joe Kirby and Jerry Levans (junior varsity) and Jack Swartz (backfield). (Courier Times Sports Photo)

avoid any injuries," added Cordelli.

Two-Way Ends

On the offensive line, Bill Mahoney and John Gorski (6-1, 170, junior) will be the two-way ends. Pete Markmann (6-0, 200, junior) and veteran Bruce Haynes (6-1, 240, senior) are the tackles, Markmann also being the right linebacker.

Probable starting guards are

John Westlake (5-7, 175, senior) and Charles Schmidt (5-10, 170, senior) with the center position held down by a junior veteran, Tim Michaels (6-1, 210).

Cordelli is very pleased about having Jack Swartz back after an absence. Swartz will handle the quarterbacks and ends. "I'm very pleased to have him back with us and he'll be a tremendous asset," said Cordelli.

Other Coaches

Also in the coaching ranks are Joe Plumeri, who will handle offensive blocking assignments and the defensive secondary; Joe Greytack (offensive and defensive line) as well as Junior varsity coaches Jerry Levans, Joe Kirby and Christ Poff.

Defensively, Michaels will be moved to a tackle slot with either Brian Ryder (6-0, 190, senior) or Alex Feinman (6-0, 182, junior) at middle guard. Nick Fizzano (6-1, 200, senior) will join Michaels at tackle.

Bruce Madden (5-7, 140, senior) will be the left side line-backer with Phil Kulan (5-7, 175, junior) and Denny Armour (5-6, 145, junior) backing up.

Two Sophomores

Two sophomores have a chance to break into the lineup in the defensive secondary. Steve Stroba (5-9, 165) and Jack Walker (5-11, 155) could join Daenz, Johns and Taylor in the backfield.

"We'll just have to go with the best personnel we have until such time as these underclassmen gain the necessary experience," stated Cordelli. "We've had to do a lot of readjusting due to injuries."

"But," Cordelli added, "if determination means anything then these kids are raring to go. I don't think last season had much of psychological effect on them, and it seems that the pride is back."