

Pennsbury Coach Knew-- 'Defense Bailed Us Out'

By STACY BRIGGS
Courier Times Sports Writer

Ever since Erle Baugher came to Pennsbury High School in 1962, he has become acquainted with the agony of bitter defeat.

Now Erle Baugher knows the thrill of victory.

But it didn't come as easily as many figured it would.

"It's been a long time coming," sighed Baugher, rubbing his hand across his forehead in a gesture of relief.

Indeed it had been a long time. It was the first triumph on Neshaminy soil for the Pennsbury coach since taking over the helm of the Falcons' football fortunes after leaving Ambler High School.

"They (Neshaminy) were up, really fired up" continued the bespectacled field boss.

"Our defense had to bail us out against a team that looked like, well, the Neshaminy teams of old. It's a great tribute to their coaching staff. Their kids delivered stunning blocks and jarring tackles like they sensed victory."

"It's kind of like a chess match (diagnosing plays and their counterplays). The 'cat and mouse' game," added Baugher.

Neshaminy handled the Falcons' explosive offense well, almost too well to suit Baugher.

"We had to do something that I ordinarily don't like to do. We had to run away from the power and they forced us to do that by moving their monster, or rover back up to the line of scrimmage opposite our wingback."

The 'Skins' monster back, Jim Riley, was successful at first. But Baugher played his cards well. He tested Riley on the first series of downs, and made Riley the tackler on three carries.

Then Baugher pulled the switch.

"We had to establish where he was when we lined up in our offensive formation," said Baugher. "Then we ran to the weak side. Ira (Williams) gained some good yardage when we countered."

Neshaminy enjoyed great prosperity in stopping the Falcons' bread-and-butter play, the fullback draw.

"When they can stop us

coming up the gut, then we're in for trouble. We couldn't make a nickel out of it and it was the first time all year that we were unable to break it open."

Pete Cordelli, the 'Skins' general, felt pleased with the efforts of his defensive unit.

"We had to meet his strength with our strength," commented Cordelli. "Pennsbury hurt us with that set formation of theirs and we just had to stop them, if we could. We just had to shut off their power."

"I can't say enough about these kids playing for me," added Cordelli. "They've been going on sheer determination and drive and it's been a real pleasure working with them."

The Redskins' line coach, Joe Greytok, offered a comparison.

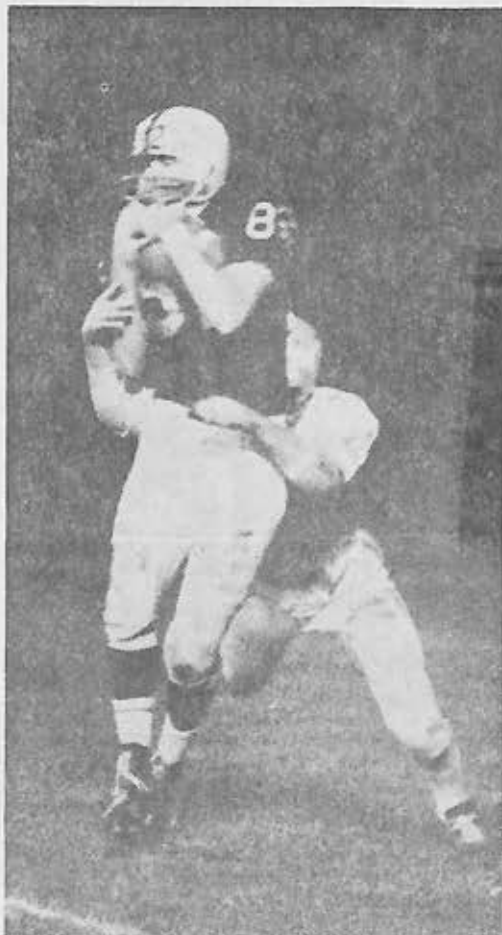
"I'd say Bishop Egan moved the ball better against us, but once again, the breaks really hurt us," said Greytok. "And the reason for the shift was to curtail their power running backs. Altogether, we couldn't have asked more from our kids."

Denny Armour was outstanding on defense for the home forces gaining nine unassisted tackles when Pennsbury had the ball while Marty McManus, a 5-11, 155-pound junior safety, excelled for Pennsbury.

McManus was in on 16 stops and was "Mr. Clutch" as far as Baugher was concerned.

"He saved at least three touchdowns for us. He was the last man to beat on three occasions and made the tackle," concluded Baugher.

Erle Baugher is satisfied, after all, Baugher got his due.



A SIX-POINTER — Pennsbury High School's Bob Finch (82) snares a six-yard touchdown strike from quarterback Len Matuza in second quarter last night. Finch makes catch despite defensive efforts of the Redskins' Bill Daenz (42). (Courier Times Sports Photo by Alex Zidock.)

The Friday Night Story

Pennsbury Is Bucks Champion

By DON WILNO
Special Writer

Pennsbury High School's well-drilled grid forces had to settle for second best in the Big Six Conference, but in the Lower Bucks County League Section 1 Division, the Falcons are still the champs.

In the Big Six, the Pennsbury squad took a back seat to an unbeaten Easton array. Friday night, the Erle Baugher-coached contingent recorded a hard fought 28-7 victory over county rival Neshaminy to take Bucks honors.

Last year, the Falcons had to settle for a tie for first place in the loop's division, along with Woodrow Wilson High.

"They were really fired up for the game," relayed a jubilant Baugher after the game. "It was a long time coming."

The score doesn't show what the 6,500 chilled fans witnessed. The Redskins put up a real fight. They took the pupkin down to the Falcon 12 midway through the first period, only to fumble.

Pennsbury's Dave Billy, a 5-1, 190 senior end, plucked the ball out of the air and raced 86 yards for the first score of the game.

A bit more than two minutes later in the initial period senior halfback Mike Farley took a Bob Reed punt and darted down the sideline for a 36-yard scoring play.

"Farley's punt return was a set play," revealed a confident Falcon pilot. "It's the first time it worked all year."

Junior quarterback Len Matuza hit Bob Finch with a seven-yard TD aerial for the third falcon TD.

Neshaminy finally got on the scoreboard at the 6:14 mark of the third period when junior signal caller Doug Mason bulled his way into the end zone from the one. Ed Romanowski boosted the PAT. The scoring play was set up by a 48-yard punt return by Neshaminy's stellar back Billy Daenz.

Pennsbury added the final score of the game on the first play of the fourth period when fullback Bill Evans barreled

his way up the middle for a seven yarder. Erle Baugher Junior's fourth, PAT finished the Falcons' 28-point scoring spree.

Pete Cordelli, Neshaminy's fine first year head coach was indeed proud of his boys overall play. "They played a great ball game, the coaching staff is really proud of them. Our boys played a tremendous ballgame . . . it's been a pleasure working with such a fine unit . . . the staff has a great deal of admiration for them."