

Pennridge Football Team Faces More Rebuilding

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For the past two seasons, the football team at Pennridge High School in Parkside has been going through a "rebuilding phase." Once the powerhouse of the Bux-Mont League, the Rams have only won four games in the past two years.

And this year may not be much better.

On paper, Wayne Helman's team looks good. There are 15 lettermen returning from last year's squad, which finished ninth in the league.

However, Helman points out most of the boys actually have very little experience.

'Quite a Bit to Learn'

"They all still have quite a bit to learn," Helman said. "Everyone is a good football player, however. And their dedication is sincere but there are four teams that are going to be exceptionally tough this year."

The teams are Upper Perkiomen, defending league champions; Central Bucks, Souderton and Hatboro-Horsham. Helman said he thinks Upper Perkiomen will probably come out on top when the league play is over but nothing is certain.

Except for that, the Rams will probably be spending another year "rebuilding."

There are a lot of young boys on the squad, however. And this could very well be the end of the "rebuilding phase." Perhaps it might even be over before the end of the season if the boys learn quickly enough.

2 Quarterback Candidates

Learning fast is something that the Rams' two top quarterback candidates have been doing. Al Faix, a senior, and David Kern, a sophomore, are both trying to land the spot.

"Both boys are real fine football players," Helman said. "There is no doubt in my mind that both of them will be playing a lot this year. I plan to start one on quarterback and the other as a safety on defense in one game, and perhaps shift in the next."

Helman repeated he was very pleased with the way the team was shaping up. The first game is Friday night when the Rams will host the Neshaminy Redskins from Langhorne.

Neshaminy's tale is quite similar to that of Pennridge. For years, the Redskins were the powerhouse of the Lower Bucks League, hardly losing a game. Then, last year, they ran into

trouble and only won one game, while losing six and tying two.

Non-League Game

This year, the Redskins will be stronger and their rebuilding will probably also be accomplished by mid-season. Friday's tilt is a non-league game.

The first Bux-Mont game the Rams have is against Hatboro Sept. 23 in Horsham. This will be the first initial test of just how well the Rams will do in league play.

A victory against Neshaminy Friday could give them the needed confidence to defeat Horsham. However, the Rams will have to learn mighty fast.

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Neshaminy showed definite signs of revival from a disastrous '66 season although it lost to Bishop Egan. The 'Skins of Coach Pete Cordelli will be in Parkside to take on an old foe in Pennridge.

Old Foe

The Redskins clashed with Pennridge in the late 50's before breaking relations. Neshaminy has two wins in a four-game set.

Pennridge was 2-7-1 a year ago and is rebuilding, a process which Neshaminy is undertaking too. Coach Wayne Helman has 15 veterans in the fold, including Jim Rinehimer (6-0, 196, full-back), Rod Grass (5-11, 183, center), Larry Eisenhart (6-0, 205, tackle), John Yost (5-6, 154, halfback) and Drew Medwick (6-1, 200, end).

Council Rock has lost two games to Downingtown in a series which began in 1965. Downingtown was 4-8 in '66. Springfield will take 18 lettermen against Lower Moreland. Council Rock had an 0-8-2 record a

Coach Pete Cordelli of Neshaminy, well pleased with his club after the 21-0 lacing by Egan, takes the Redskins to Penn Ridge tonight. It's a key test for Cordelli because the home forces aren't as power packed as Egan, and the new Neshaminy coach will have a pretty good opportunity to evaluate his forces. A triumph will help the task a great deal.

What Cordelli liked best about last week was the showing his team made. "They just didn't give up," he said after the game.

Neshaminy has a new coach this season, Peter Cordelli.

The Redskins, whose morale seems to be high at this point play tomorrow night against Pennridge in Parkside. Most coaches in the area agreed this week that Neshaminy will not have another season like it did last year and although the team isn't going to be as strong as Redskin clubs of old it is likely to win a number of games.

So tomorrow night will probably bring the Langhorne club its first victory of the campaign and it may indicate just how well the club will do for the remainder of the season.