

# Power failure stops game but not Owls' momentum

By Mike Biglin  
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

Bensalem football coach Jack Klebe thought he had everything going for him Friday night. He was playing Suburban One National rival Neshaminy under the kind lights of his Memorial Field. The Owls were finally healthy, with starting quarterback Brian Locke returning to the lineup.

Klebe's squad dominated the first half, taking a 14-7 lead into the locker room at intermission. Then, on the second play of the second half, the lights went out for Bensalem — literally.

For the second time this season, a power surge knocked off the lights — with 10:50 to play in the third quarter.

After several attempts to re-light them, the game was finally postponed until 2 p.m. Saturday.

The last time things went dark, in a game Sept. 25 against Norristown, the Owls played poorly after the unexpected break and lost. But the Owls dispelled all doubts Saturday, completely dominating the Redskins to take a 23-7 victory.

"The first thing I thought [when the lights went out] was, did we pay the electric bill?" Klebe joked after his team had raised its record to 5-4 overall, 4-4 in league play. "This time was different than the last game, though. Last time, they had the momentum and kept it. This time, we had the momentum and didn't give it up."

Klebe has tailback Robsawne Little to thank for that. The junior had his best game of the year, rushing for 137 yards on 21 carries and two touchdowns. Little's rushing lanes were opened up because of some hard running by fullback Walt Tidman. Starting his first game in the backfield, the senior workhorse gained 61 hard yards while also recording several tackles from his safety position.

"That No. 44 [Tidman] is one hell of a player," Redskins coach Dick Bedesem said. "He played a super game. Defensively, he was all over the field."

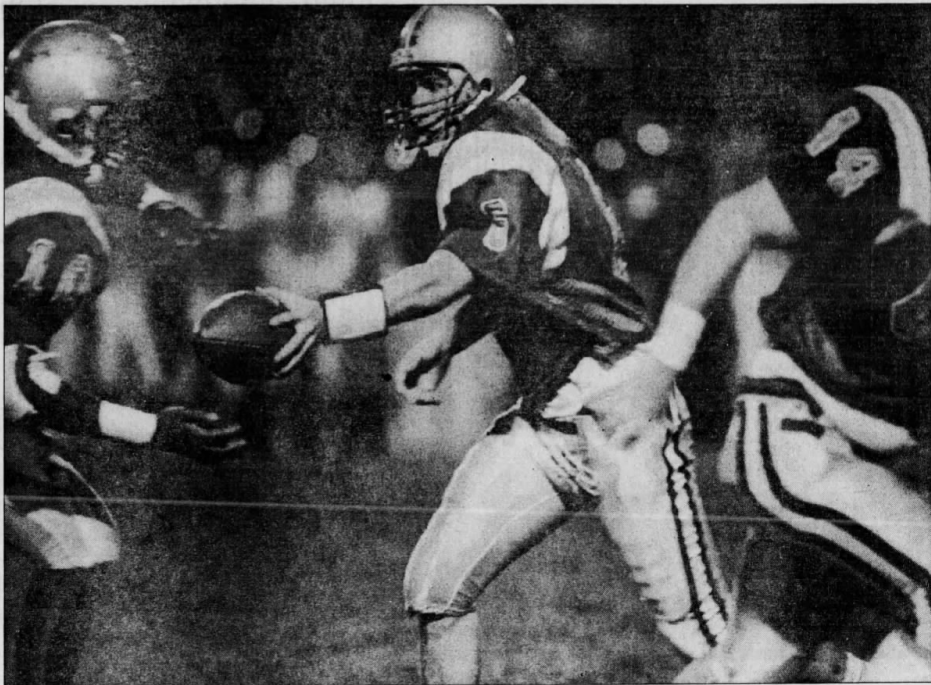
Tidman and his mates started dominating early, romping 61 yards on their first drive for a score. Little gained 32 yards — Tidman the rest — and punched it in from two yards out for a 7-0 lead.

Bedesem answered with his star runner, Joe Gettis. The senior tailback took an option pitch to the right sideline and bolted 51 yards for the tying score. But Bensalem answered immediately, on a 70-yard drive capped off by Little again, this time from six yards.

It looked as if Gettis was going to counterpunch successfully again. He sprinted 28 yards on the Redskins second play. But on the next play, Gettis fumbled, killing the drive.

Neshaminy took the second-half kickoff and got to its 42 when everything went black. When the game was resumed Saturday afternoon, the Redskins were flat.

The Owls' first possession of the second half was another scoring drive, this one 63 yards long. Hard running by Little opened up the play-action roll-out pass, as Locke hit Mark Gruber for a 24-yard scoring strike and a 21-7 Owls advantage.



For The Inquirer / JOHN SLAVIN

**Bensalem quarterback Brian Locke hands off to Robsawne Little. Little had his best game of the year — 137 yards and 2 touchdowns.**

**Bensalem** 23  
**Neshaminy** 7

Bensalem's defensive line then took over the game. Neshaminy quarterback Joe Mormello had no time to throw, completing only four of 13 passes and being sacked three times. The second of those sacks was for a safety just after the Redskins defense made a valiant goal-line stand at the 3. The safety killed any Redskins momentum and gave the ball back to Little's slashing rushes.

Locke finished the day 7 of 11 for 113 yards and one touchdown. Mormello, on the other hand, was running for his life, thanks to the pursuit of Tidman and defensive end Rich Robinson's two sacks.

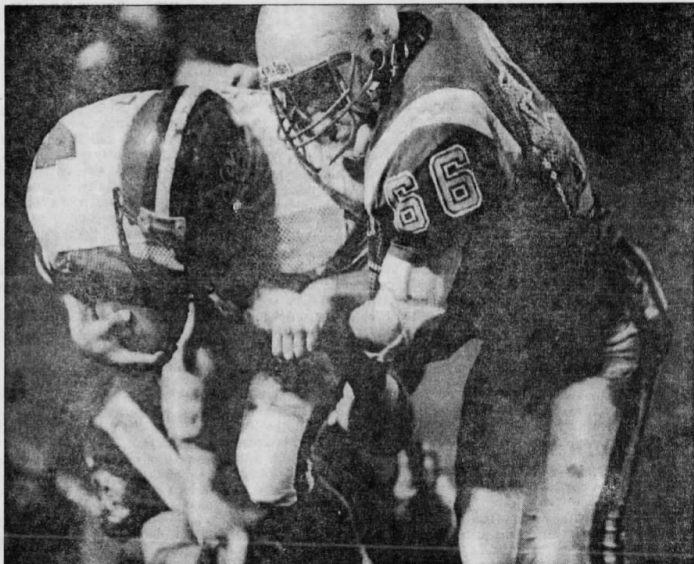
"Our whole team showed up today," Klebe said. "Everyone had a good game. The line did a nice job. Tidman hasn't had a game like that all year. And we were solid defensively."

Klebe, not wanting to tempt fate, decided to change the last game of the season from Friday night to Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

"You know what they say: Three's a charm," he said. "Well, not for me."

Neshaminy	7	0	0	0	—	7
Bensalem	7	7	7	2	—	23

B: Little 2 run (Gruber kick)  
 N: Gettis 51 run (Smith kick)  
 B: Little 8 run (Gruber kick)  
 B: Gruber 24 pass from Locke (Gruber kick)  
 B: Safety



**John Topakas (66) of Bensalem brings down Neshaminy's Joseph Gettis. Gettis, senior tailback, scored the only points for Neshaminy when he bolted 51 yards to tie the score, 7-7, in the first quarter.**