

Redskins' JV quarterback tackles Rams

By Tim Panaccio
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Sometimes, Cornelius White takes snaps behind center as Neshaminy's junior-varsity quarterback. Most often, the 6-foot, 160-pound junior catches passes.

This time, however, White found himself behind center in a varsity game. A game, like all others, that Neshaminy could not afford to lose if its slim state playoff hopes were to remain alive.

White moved into a starting role

Neshaminy 28 Pennridge 6

when senior quarterback James Franklin suffered a partially torn knee ligament last week against Norristown.

"I wasn't nervous because I study the defensive game films every week just in case I have to go in at quarterback," said White, whose debut as a

varsity starter was successful Saturday as Neshaminy (5-1 overall, 1-1 Suburban One) crushed Pennridge (1-5, 0-2), 28-6.

"I played three games at quarterback this season with the JV team. The offense on the varsity is just a little different. It's not that hard making the adjustment. Mostly, I have to adjust on the pitches."

White completed 4 of 7 passes for 81 yards and carried the ball 10 times for 30 more yards and 1 touchdown. He directed the option attack fairly well, although his pitches to Rob

Latronica were around the collarbone.

"I'm used to pitching lower so, it's mostly my fault," White said. "I'll get around to getting it right."

When Franklin runs the Redskins' offense, White plays wide receiver.

"He did a damn good job going from receiver to quarterback," said Neshaminy coach John Chaump. "He really ran the option well. Frankly, we needed a breather because I had to rest Franklin."

"But White will stay in there if Franklin isn't 100 percent when we meet Bensalem on Friday."

Absent from Neshaminy's starting lineup for the second straight week was receiver Jon Hall, who was suspended from the team Oct. 6 after skipping classes, school officials said. Chaump said if Hall's problems in school were corrected, he could be reinstated for the Bensalem game.

Neshaminy had little trouble with the Rams, who were without both starting offensive tackles, Jeff Miller and Ray Bleam. They suffered minor injuries in a car crash Friday night.

"We had to make some adjustments at our tackle spots, but we played fairly well," said Pennridge coach Bruce Moyer. "I'm pleased with the effort. We were only down 14-0 at the half, and if we had gotten that touchdown, you never know."

White had a ball batted out of his

hands in the final 2 minutes of the half, giving Pennridge a first down at the Redskins' 12.

The Rams drove to the 2-yard line in the final 11 seconds before an errant snap from center led to a 15-yard sack of Dave Smith as the clock expired.

Center John Corson consistently fired the ball at or over Smith's head when the Rams were in shotgun formation, causing 5 fumbles.

"We went to the shotgun thinking the snaps from center would be better because we had trouble in regular snaps," Moyer said. "But the long snaps aren't any easier."

White's 13-yard run gave Neshaminy a 7-0 lead in the first quarter, and Todd Altman's 11-yard run made it 14-0.

Latronica, who rambled 113 yards on 15 carries, had a 2-yard scoring run in the third period, and Ray Wheaton closed Neshaminy's scoring with a 1-yard run in the final quarter.

Pennridge's only points came on Ryan Lomonaco's 5-yard run in the last quarter.

Pennridge	0	0	0	6	—	6
Neshaminy	14	0	7	7	—	28

N: White 13 run (Ramos kick)
N: Altman 11 run (Ramos kick)
N: Latronica 2 run (Ramos kick)
N: Wheaton 1 run (Ramos kick)
P: Lomonaco 5 run (kick failed)

Playoff formula guarantees confusion, no clear winner

Twelve years ago, Ron Carnicella, then the head football coach at Johnstown High, and Mike Pettine of Central Bucks West began what would become a decade-long crusade for state football playoffs.

"Mike really took charge," said Carnicella, founder of the Pennsylvania High School Football Coaches Association. "He did so much research on state football playoffs. He found the NCAA in the 1970s. We

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All of which means Ridley, a Quad-A school playing mostly AAA opponents, is better suited to clinch a playoff berth because it plays the majority of its schedule against a lower classification.

Ridley's rival — Springfield, a Class AAA Central League opponent — actually plays a tougher schedule than Ridley with six Quad-A opponents.

That greatly benefits the Generals