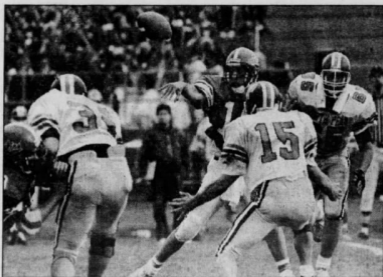


FOOTBALL



For The Inquirer / BEVERLY SCHAEFER

Neshaminy's Joe Mormello fires away under pressure from some converging North Penn defenders.

Knights and storm can't stop Redskins' 2d-half comeback

By Frank Bertucci
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

North Penn led Neshaminy by only 7 points at halftime Saturday, but there was no question which way the game seemed to be going.

North Penn had gained 194 yards on offense — 124 rushing yards by Jeff Yeakel alone — and six Neshaminy runners had trudged for a total of 72 yards.

"The score was only 14-7, but we didn't feel they could stop us at all in the second half," North Penn coach Bill Travers said.

But not only did Neshaminy come out a 28-14 winner in the Suburban One National Conference game at Neshaminy, the Redskins also limited North Penn to 35 yards in just 14 offensive plays during the second half.

The second half was delayed for 32 minutes when heavy rains, thunder and lightning hit the area.

The officials sent both teams off the field with 8 minutes, 51 seconds to play in the third period, but the damage to North Penn had begun before the delay.

After Neshaminy was unable to move the ball on the first possession of the second half, North Penn's Randy Fessler couldn't handle a punt by the Redskins' Arnie Gooch. Fessler's fumble was recovered by Neshaminy's Dave Smith at North Penn's 15, and then the lightning showed up.

When the game was resumed, nothing could stop Neshaminy. Junior quarterback Joe Mormello went 2 yards for the tying TD.

When North Penn went nowhere on the following possession, Ethan Bond dropped back to his 16 to punt.

Neshaminy's Gabe Wrigley blew in and blocked the kick, the ball rolled to the 2 and Keith Kemp recovered.

Three plays later, Mormello again scored. Jason Cassels kicked the third of his four extra points, and Neshaminy had the lead for the first

Neshaminy 28 North Penn 14

time, 21-14.

"Without a doubt, Wrigley's the best defensive back I've seen in this league," Neshaminy coach Dick Bedesem said.

The Knights (2-4, 2-4) could make nothing work offensively in the second half. A last turning point might have come on the second play of the fourth period.

North Penn had reached Neshaminy's 23, and had a fourth-and-2. Yeakel went off right tackle, the same play he had run to a 65-yard TD in the second period, but was stopped by Neshaminy's Smith a yard short of the first down.

"I thought we had the first down on the snap," Travers said. "They weren't even in a short-yardage defense."

Neshaminy (4-3, 3-3) put the game away with a monster drive later in the fourth period.

Starting on their own 33 with 7:39 to play, the Redskins ground out 15 running plays in 6:58, with Mormello going the last 2 yards for the game's final points with just 42 seconds to play.

"That was as good a drive as we've had," Bedesem said.

Yeakel finished with 135 yards and 2 TDs on 19 carries, but he gained just 9 yards in the second half.

Mormello finished with 52 yards and 3 TDs rushing, and completed 5 of 9 passes, all before the rain, for an additional 69 yards.

North Penn	7	7	0	0	—	14
Neshaminy	0	7	14	7	—	28

NP: Yeakel 12 run (Perke kick)
N: Bailie 11 run (Cassels kick)
NP: Yeakel 65 run (Perke kick)
NP: Mormello 2 run (Cassels kick)
N: Mormello 1 run (Cassels kick)
N: Mormello 1 run (Cassels kick)