

FOOTBALL

Indians trip Redskins on 48-yard FG

By Tim Panaccio
Inquirer Staff Writer

Council Rock coach Mike Ortman wasn't sure. So he asked his kicking coach, Skip Petetti, who was. "Can he make it?" Ortman yelled at his assistant.

"Sure," Petetti replied. And so with 6 minutes, 10 seconds to play in a tied game, George Haag calmly jogged onto the field for a 48-yard field-goal attempt from near the right hash-mark. A kick that could eliminate Neshaminy from state playoff contention.

Pressure? "Actually, the pressure has been worse in other games because of the crowd size," Haag said. "I wasn't worried."

Haag, hitting the ball soccer-style, made the kick to give the Indians (6-1-1 overall, 4-0-1 Suburban One) a 10-7 upset of Neshaminy (6-2, 3-2) Friday night before an estimated crowd of 8,000 at Harry Franks Stadium.

The field goal was Haag's second 48-yarder in as many weeks.

"He made a 55-yarder in practice and was nailing them from 50 yards all week long," said Petetti. "When that kid's hot, he's on."

Haag, a senior, joined the club late, missed preseason camp and had not kicked either a football or soccer ball since the eighth grade. How many kids can take four years off and boom it 48 yards with 8,000 fans screaming at him?

"Coach Petetti really worked with my kicking and showed me the right way to do it," Haag said. "Took me a while to break my habit of coming in on a big angle to the ball. I'm going

Game of the Week: Council Rock 10 Neshaminy 7

straight into it now."

Though Haag's kick was the game-winner, it was one of many outstanding individual plays in a game that lived up to expectations as a most crucial contest in the race for the state playoffs.

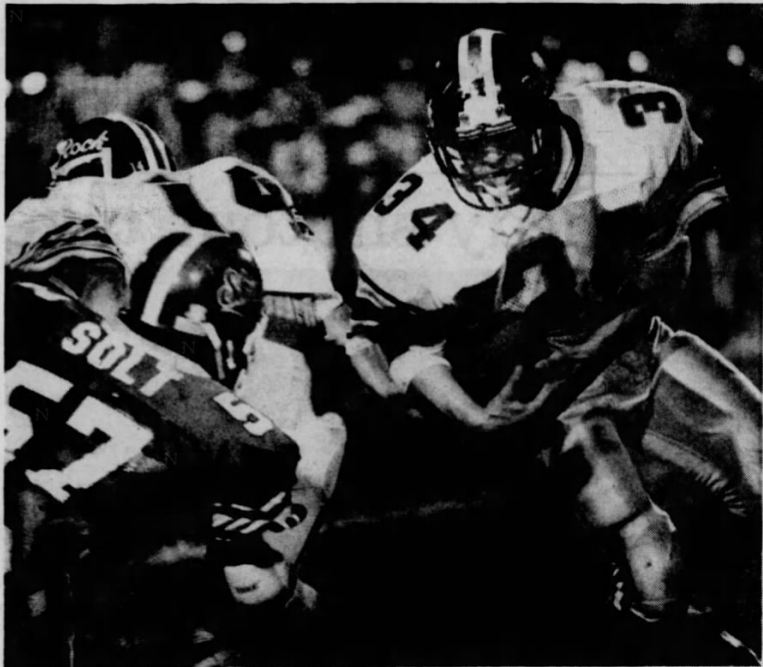
Ironically, Council Rock — because of a loss to Malvern Prep and a tie with Norristown — also is out of playoff contention. But the Indians are now the favorite to win the Suburban One National Conference Patriot Division.

Ortman's run-and-shoot offense was only slightly menacing as Jon Shields, one of three quarterbacks Ortman used, completed 3 of 8 passes for 71 yards and 1 touchdown and also threw an interception.

The lone TD pass, however, was classic run-and-shoot. Council Rock flooded the field with four receivers. I-back Tim Maduzia took advantage of strong-side double coverage on Adam Voyles by turning into the middle and going 54 yards for a score that gave the Indians a 7-0 lead in the second quarter.

"The key is what everyone else is doing," said Indians offensive coordinator Bud Ortman. "Voyles draws double coverage. Tom Coleman runs a fade down the right sideline. Joe

(Continued on next page)



Council Rock's Tom Coleman (right) takes ball as QB Jon Shields (14) lures defender Fred Solt.

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