

# Eagles soar on Ramsey's catches

By Tom Sheridan  
Special to The Inquirer

It took a man of the cloth to beat the Neshaminy Redskins — well, sort of.

For the last three weeks, the top-ranked Redskins (4-1) beat opponents also ranked in The Inquirer's southeastern Pennsylvania top-10 poll, but none of those teams had a player quite like Priest Ramsey.

Ramsey caught second-half touchdown passes of 24 and 67 yards Friday to lead the Eagles (4-0-1) to a 21-15 victory before an ecstatic homecoming crowd at Roosevelt Stadium in Norristown.

Both of Ramsey's touchdowns came against double coverage in obvious passing situations.

With Neshaminy leading 7-3 midway through the third quarter, James Franklin tried to force a pass on a sideline route, and Norristown's Joe Chillano intercepted at the Neshaminy 30.

The Redskins defense played well on the first two downs, forcing Norristown into a third-and-10. David Sessa, who completed 11 of 19 passes for 190 yards and appeared to make something happen on the critical plays all night, completed a 6-yard pass to halfback John Rutman. Then, on fourth-and-4 from the 24, Sessa lofted the ball down the left sideline into the end zone to Ramsey, who was shadowed by Steve McIlwain and Dwight Roskos. Despite the coverage, Ramsey reached over McIlwain and plucked the pass out of the air. The score put the Eagles up, 9-7.

"Ramsey has the potential to score every time he goes out there," said Neshaminy coach John Chaump. "He is 6 foot, 3 inches and 200 pounds. He runs well, and he can jump. How can you stop that?" With the score tied, 15-15 and 3:53 remaining, the Redskins again proved that they couldn't stop Ramsey.

Tagged with a third-and-7 from his own 33, Sessa faded back to pass.

## Game of the Week, Norristown 21 Neshaminy 15

The Redskins sent a heavy rush, flushing Sessa from the pocket. Sessa was forced to his right and came close to the line of scrimmage before releasing a pass that fluttered downfield.

Ramsey had to make an adjustment on the ball and caught it while Roskos ran right past it. Roskos slipped, and another defensive back, Dave Faulkner, hit Ramsey but didn't bring him down. Ramsey was left with a clear path to the end zone.

"We had three missed tackles on that touchdown," said Neshaminy defensive coordinator Tony Varcallo. "Their athletic ability contributed to the misses, but we missed one tackle on Sessa and two on Ramsey."

Norristown kicker Rodney Miller missed the extra-point try for the third time in the game — he had injured his ribs on the openfield kick-off — so the score was 21-15 with 3:39 left.

The Redskins came right back as Franklin, who scored Neshaminy's touchdowns on 1-yard runs in the second and fourth quarters, found Corneilus White over the middle for a 15-yard gain.

White played well in place of wide receiver Jon Hall, who was suspended for the game. Chaump didn't say why Hall was suspended, only that it was a "team matter." White caught 3 passes for 44 yards.

Franklin picked up 4 yards on a rollout, giving the Redskins a second down at midfield, but they never entered Eagles territory again. Norristown's Darryl Bailey broke through the packed Franklin line for a 10-yard loss; it was the first sack



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Neshaminy quarterback James Franklin runs in the second quarter. He scored twice on 1-yard runs.

against Neshaminy and came with 2:14 left. Two plays later, the Redskins turned the ball over on downs.

Although they stopped Norristown on three downs, used their last two timeouts and got the ball back at their own 49 with 14 seconds left after Ramsey's punt traveled only 5 yards, the Redskins

couldn't come back. Franklin was sacked for a 16-yard loss on the last play.

"When you are No. 1, everybody wants to knock you off," Chaump said. "It was their homecoming game, and they had the sirens and horns blasting and everything."

In this case, everything included

Priest Ramsey, and that was the difference in the game.

Neshaminy	0	7	0	8	— 15
Norristown	0	3	6	12	— 21

NO: FG Miller 23  
NE: Franklin 1 run (Rutman kick)  
NO: Sessa 1 run (Sessa kick failed)  
NO: Smith 1 run (kick failed)  
NE: Franklin 1 run (White pass from Franklin)  
NO: Ramsey 07 pass from Sessa (kick failed)

# Scheuile takes its toll on No. 1 Neshaminy

By Frank Bertucci  
Special to The Inquirer

Welcome to the top of the heap. When Central Bucks West's 35-game unbeaten streak ended Sept. 18 against rival O'Hara Neshaminy, which was 11-0 during the regular season last year, finally moved into the top spot in The Inquirer poll.

"When you're No. 1, everybody wants to knock you off," Neshaminy coach John Chaump said Friday night after his Redskins lost to Norristown, 21-15. "Everybody wants to have their homecoming against you. The horns are blaring. Everyone wants to play against you."

This was Neshaminy's third game at the top of the rankings. In the first game, it ended any speculation about which was the better team this year with a 27-11 victory over then-No. 4

Central Bucks West on Sept. 22. Last week, the Redskins rallied for a 17-14 victory against No. 10 Central Bucks East.

Friday night, third-ranked Norristown was Neshaminy's fourth top-10 opponent of the season (No. 8 Abington had started the stretch of games). "I think we have the toughest schedule around," Chaump said. "Of our first five games, four opponents are in the top 10. The pressure takes its toll on the team."

The Suburban One League has to be one of the best football leagues in the country. I've never seen it like this, loaded with so many good skill players."

"Everyone wants to get their shot at No. 1," Neshaminy captain Mike Frederick echoed after the Norristown game. "We've been playing

great games and coming out on top. The coach just told us that this wasn't the end of the world."

In a local high school season already loaded with last-minute heroics, Neshaminy was trying for the ultimate.

Norristown, which intercepted four passes, stopped the Redskins on a fourth-down play with 1 minute, 28 seconds remaining. But the Eagles didn't move the ball in its three plays and punted, and with 16 seconds left, Neshaminy had the ball on its own 59-yard line, with one final chance to remain No. 1.

"We were going into the end zone on that last play," Chaump said. "We always feel we can get the ball into the end zone."

"We ran a punt behind their safety. The kid was open, but James Frank-

lini couldn't get the play off. [He was sacked]. It could have turned out to be a miracle finish for us."

The clock showed 6 seconds, and with Neshaminy having no timeouts to call, the seconds wound down. That brought the Norristown players onto the field and into a pile at midfield. The Eagles were 4-0-1, had just beaten the No. 1 team and could hope to be No. 1 themselves Friday in The Inquirer's weekly poll.

The players and coaches lined up at the end to shake hands, all except Franklin. He had scored both Redskins touchdowns and thrown a 2-point conversion pass that forced a 15:15 tie late in the game. But he also had been intercepted four times.

While his teammates and opponents were saluting each other with cursory "Nice games," Franklin lay

on the ground, less than 1 yard away from the scene. He had been sacked for a 16-yard loss on that final play, and he remained on the 33-yard line on which he went down.

He walked off the field on his own but was diagnosed as having a slight concussion.

Neshaminy's schedule seems somewhat, with just two of its remaining six games against possible top-10 teams (Council Rock and Pennsbury). Meanwhile, Norristown faces games with possibly three ranked teams (Abington, CB East and CB West).

And if the Eagles are No. 1 this week, they might learn what Neshaminy learned: When you're No. 1, every team wants to have its homecoming against you.