

Redskins roll up the penalties — and the score

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It was a night for Jon Hall but not Scott Haws.

It was a game in which Neshaminy senior quarterback James Franklin passed for 177 yards but also was sacked nine times for 35 yards in losses.

And it was a game in which the Redskins were penalized 12 times for 102 yards.

Yet they still won, 35-0, over Bishop Egan.

"We did a lot of things wrong but we did a lot of things right," said Redskins coach John Chaump after Friday night's non-league season opener for both teams.

On the right side, Franklin completed 7 of 12 passes for 177 yards and two touchdowns. He also threw one interception.

Hall caught two passes for 100 yards and two touchdowns. Tailback Rob Latronica rambled 165 yards on 10 carries. His 70-yard touchdown on the second play of the game provided 6 of the 15 points the Redskins put on the board in their first three plays from scrimmage.

"We were really moving in that first quarter," said Latronica. "We were looking real good until that second half."

That's when all the penalties began to pile up and Franklin was running for cover every time he took a snap from center.

"They kept coming at us with stunts and blitzes and our line was outmanned the whole night," said Franklin. "Our backs just couldn't pick it up."

Fortunately for Neshaminy, the Eagles couldn't pick up on the intricacies of their wishbone offense.

Haws, a senior, who moved from tight end to quarterback this season, had a nightmarish evening operating the wishbone. He was 0 of 5 with three interceptions and two fumbles.

When Haws turned to pitch, his backs were either a step behind or nowhere to be found, as happened in the fourth quarter when Haws' errant toss bounced twice before outside linebacker Chris Fahy scooped it up and dashed 52 yards for a touchdown.

The conversion accounted for the final score of 35-0.

"Sure, it was a tough night," said Egan coach Chuck Knowles. "We made a couple of mistakes, did the wrong things. But overall, Haws did a good job. He'll do more great things than poor things before the year is out. This offense is all new to him."

Haws has the unwelcomed task of trying to replace Chuck Coleman, a quarterback legend at Egan. It was Coleman's 35-yard TD pass last season that upset La Salle and catapulted the Eagles into the Catholic

Neshaminy 35 Bishop Egan 0

League Northern Division title game.

"I'm not upset with the way we played," said Knowles. "We'll be fine and Haws will be fine."

There's no question the Redskins are fine — for now.

But all those breakdowns on the offensive line in the last quarter were troubling.

For instance, Neshaminy had a drive that began on its own 1-yard line, and thanks to four penalties and two sacks, ended up on the 3-yard line.

"Those breakdowns were happening because our people were too concerned over who would blitz rather than the starting count," said Chaump. "Their blitzes definitely hurt us."

Latronica's running and Franklin's ability to find mismatches in the secondary made the blitz blunders a little easier to accept.

Franklin's 78-yard TD pass to Hall in the first quarter was typical of what Neshaminy did to Egan all night. Egan roverback Bill Buffaloe came up on the line and tried to pinch Hall inside. Franklin saw it.

"I knew that guy couldn't cover Jon," Franklin said. "The play allows me to decide which side I'll throw. I threw to the right."

Hall, who blew past Buffaloe, made an over-the-shoulder catch and ran unscathed into the end zone for a 15-0 lead.

Hall's second touchdown made it 28-0 late in the third quarter. Again, he made an inside-outside move on the defender for a 22-yard TD reception.

However, Hall wasn't pleased about the extra slap cornerback Len Lehman put on him in the end zone and spiked the ball in Lehman's face. That was worth 15 yards and an unsportsmanlike-conduct penalty.

"I told Jon later he is gonna have to learn to relax," said Franklin. "Things like that are going to happen. We could have had the touchdown taken away from us."

Either way, the outcome was never in doubt.

Not after the first three plays, anyway.

Bishop Egan	0	0	0	0	—	0
Neshaminy	15	7	8	7	—	35
NE: Latronica	70	run	(Ramos kick)			
NE: Hall	70	pass	from Franklin (Kelly run)			
NE: Altman	2	run	(Ramos kick)			
NE: Hall	22	pass	from Franklin (kick fail)			
NE: Fahy	52	fumble	recovery (Ramos kick)			