

# Abington edges Neshaminy, 18-15

By Scott Huff  
Special to The Inquirer

Shawn Wooden rushed for two touchdowns — the last on a 17-yard, third-quarter scamper — to spark Abington to an 18-15 Suburban One League National Conference victory over visiting Neshaminy yesterday afternoon.

The Ghosts, tied for fourth place with the Redskins in The Inquirer's weekly ratings going into the game, held off a late rally by Neshaminy to increase their record to 4-0 overall and 2-0 in the National Conference. With the loss, the Redskins fell to 3-1 overall, 1-1 in the league.

"This is a very big step for our football team," Abington coach Doug Moister said. "I'm sure when the season is over, no matter what happens from here on in, we'll count this as one of our biggest victories of the year."

Last year, it was Neshaminy that claimed a big victory over Abington. The Redskins outscored the Ghosts, 35-27, in that contest, and the loss kept Abington, which finished with a 10-1 record, out of the PIAA football tournament.

"Last year, it was like the bully that kicks sand in your face," said Moister. "And you go home, lift weights, and take all of your vitamins. Then you come back the next season and kick butt."

"Neshaminy has a terrific quarterback in Cornelius White," he continued, "and they have a football team that could easily have finished the season undefeated. And for us to beat them, we had to do a fantastic job offensively and defensively."

Neshaminy scored first yesterday after recovering a fumbled punt on the Abington 29-yard line.

White, an elusive runner, rolled right on first down and drilled a pass to junior wide receiver Bryan McGinty to give the Redskins a first-and-goal situation at the 6. On the next snap, White, a senior, scored on a rollout to the right side. Senior placekicker Brant Ritter added the extra point to give Neshaminy a 7-0, first-quarter lead.

In the second quarter, the Abington offense put together an impressive 90-yard, 16-play drive to put its first points on the board as Wooden, a senior, scored his first touchdown of the game on a 2-yard run. But the point after was blocked, and the Ghosts found themselves trailing by 7-6.

The Abington defense came up with a turnover when senior linebacker Jason Wagner recovered a White fumble on the Redskins' 27-yard line. Four plays later, junior quarterback Michael Roberts scored on a 4-yard run, and when the run for the two-point conversion failed,

the Ghosts had to settle for a 12-7 advantage.

Abington appeared to put the game away with a touchdown drive at the outset of the third period. The Ghosts traveled 52 yards on nine plays, with Wooden scoring from the 17 on a fifty run. The pass for the two-point conversion failed, but Abington had increased its lead to 18-7.

Neshaminy, sensing that the game was slipping away, rallied behind White. The Redskins marched 70 yards in six plays, with White tossing a 3-yard pass to senior tight end Jason Bowman for the score. Neshaminy elected to go for a two-point conversion, and White's pass to senior Brian Smith pulled the Redskins to within three at 18-15.

But neither team was able to score in the fourth quarter, leaving the Ghosts with a big victory.

"Abington played a super football game, and we have no excuses," said Neshaminy coach John Chaump. "They controlled the football with their offensive line, and we just didn't have enough chances to get things going offensively."

Neshaminy	7	0	8	0	—	15
Abington	0	12	6	0	—	18

N: White 6 run (Ritter kick)  
A: Wooden 2 run (kick blocked)  
A: Roberts 4 run (run failed)  
A: Wooden 12 run (pass failed)  
N: Bowman 3 pass (run White) (Smith pass from White)