

Frankford again gets a big play

Hands Neshaminy its first loss, 7-3

By Don McKee

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Frankford High's football team fumbled four times against Neshaminy Langhorne yesterday. Coach Al Angelo looked like a man who had bet the mortgage on Ted Kennedy staying home next year.

"But as Sam Glenn ran that ball, I kept getting happier and happier and happier," Angelo said. "I was mad at him, but it's nice to see a kid who does something wrong come back and do something right. Especially when it's the game winner."

The 5-foot, 5-inch Glenn turned an off-tackle trap into a 41-yard touchdown run with 2 minutes 22 seconds left. That play gave Frankford a 7-3 win over previously unbeaten Neshaminy (2-1), in Frankford Stadium. It was the first game of the season for the defending city champions, and the seven points were the first Neshaminy's defense had given up this year.

"After I fumbled, the coach said, 'I can't run you anymore,'" said Glenn. "I was disappointed but said I just want one more chance."

The game-breaker

When it came, Glenn wasn't sure he had the game-breaker.

"The coaches had told me to keep the ball in tight," he said. "I was running with my head down. When I got past the line, Daryl Debnam yelled, 'Go, go, go.'"

Jerry Mey had made the original trap block, freeing Glenn momentarily, and Eric Leaks wiped out a linebacker, springing him into the secondary. Glenn then stepped out of the arms of two downfield tacklers and was gone.

Tony Verillo kicked the point and the Pioneers had won yet another big game. It was their second win against Neshaminy in two tries, and they are the only Public League team left which can consistently go up against non-league competition and make the big plays that win games.

"You can't coach that," Angelo said. "We're always saying, 'Who's gonna' make the big play. We've always had it in the past. It's somebody in here — who's it gonna' be?'"

Redskins weren't tricked

Frankford finally got a chance at a big play after Neshaminy had controlled the game all afternoon. The Redskins were unmoved by Frankford's assortment of traps and counters, occasionally tackling ball carriers in the backfield. Neshaminy tackle Mike Murphy made repeated big defensive plays, and it was obvious Frankford missed fullback Joe Galasso (MVP in last year's city title game), who is out with a jammed thumb.

"We couldn't move," Angelo said. "How many fourth-and-one's did we miss? If you have a good offensive line you should be able to get 15 inches against the New York Giants. Our wedge couldn't make half the length of the ball that one time. Sure Neshaminy has a strong defense, but we should be able to do it well enough that we could do it against anybody."

Both defenses kept their offensive units in the game in the first half, which ended with Neshaminy leading, 3-0. The Neshaminy defense kept getting the ball but the offense kept giving it back.

First-half struggle

The first half went as follows:

Neshaminy's Dan Capristo recovered a fumble, but the Redskins ran four plays and punted. Neshaminy's Scott Obringer recovered a fumble, but the Redskins ran three plays and punted. Neshaminy's line stopped Frankford quarterback Charles Parrish on a fourth-and-inches at his own 45, but the Redskins ran three plays and punted. Neshaminy's Al Kazickas recovered a Frankford fumble at the Pioneer 32. The offense still couldn't get a first down, but sophomore Mark Cordelli kicked a 42-yard field goal with 4:18 left in the half.

There was some confusion over the rules during the game, as Frankford was unaware until game time that Neshaminy had to play under PIAA rules. Parrish kept approaching the sideline to talk with Angelo, a violation under PIAA rules, but permissible under Public League rules. The officials chose to waive that rule, according to referee George Britner, and Neshaminy Coach Charlie Schmitt did not protest.