

Neshaminy holds on to defeat Norristown

By Glenn Berkey
Special to The Inquirer

On a fourth-and-3 play, Norristown's Rodney Miller missed a 29-yard field-goal attempt with 30 seconds left last night, allowing host Neshaminy to escape with a 10-7 non-league football victory.

Though the Redskins (3-0) were wary of a possible fake, the Eagles (1-1) had no such plans.

"We were going with a long cadence, hoping they'd jump, but we were going to kick the field goal," Norristown coach Roger Grove said.

Neshaminy coach John Chaump said he understood the Eagles' decision to try for a tie rather than a win.

"A tie is better than a loss any day," Chaump said. "Especially in a game that's that hard-fought, and they were [about] 4 or 5 yards away from a first down. It wasn't anything that was an easy play for them; they were having trouble making those 5 yards, so I would have gone for the field goal in that situation, too."

The Redskins, ranked No. 3 by *The Inquirer*, scored on their first play from scrimmage, when Cornelius White completed an up-and-out pass to Neal Plaskonos, who beat his defender and then outran everyone to the end zone 91 yards away.

"We've been practicing that all week," Plaskonos said. "We were looking to use it if we could, and it turned out to be a situation that we could use it. And the ball, I could not picture a better throw; it was right

there. I just tucked the ball away and ran."

"I thought I was going to have to throw underneath to Joe Gettis, but I saw Neal was right beside him and I just laid it out and he caught it," said White, who connected with Plaskonos five times for 174 yards.

"That first play really broke our backs," Grove said. "Obviously it was a great play on their part, and it sort of put us in shock for a while. Other than that play, we felt we controlled the game, but the score doesn't show that."

Norristown, ranked No. 7, tied the score with 21 seconds to play in the first half, when Mike Lester capped an 83-yard scoring drive with a 4-yard pass to Craig Jones. The Eagles' series was aided by 30 yards of penalties against Neshaminy.

"We shot ourselves in the foot all night with penalties," Chaump said. "Norristown's a great team, but our kids played a great game. Without the penalties on offense and defense, I don't think it would have been close."

George Jagers of Neshaminy kicked what proved to be the winning 22-yard field goal with 7 minutes, 30 seconds to play in the game, after a 16-play Redskins drive stalled on the Eagles' 5-yard line.

Norristown	0	7	0	0-7
Neshaminy	7	0	0	3-10

Nes: Plaskonos 91 pass from White (Jagers kick)

NOR: Jones 4 pass from Lester (Miller kick)

Nes: Jagers field goal 22