

## SPORTS

# Neshaminy plays for pride as it takes on Pennsbury

By Frank Bertucci  
Special to The Inquirer

There's not much left to be decided on this last weekend of the football season, with two games being played in Lower Bucks County.

Pennsbury, which has already clinched the Suburban One National Conference's Patriot Division title, will play at Neshaminy tomorrow night while Council Rock and William Tennent will play for second place at Tennent on Saturday.

Neshaminy has completed its season with the same 7-3 overall record it has carried over from last season in the Suburban One National. Archbishop Wood ended its season at 3-61, 2-41 in the Catholic League's Northern Division. And George School has also bid farewell to the 1990 season, with a 1-6 mark.

Six other area schools will play on Thanksgiving. Central Bucks East (8-21, 4-21) and West (9-1, 6-1) square off in their traditional battle in Doylestown. West holds a one-game lead over Norristown in the Suburban National's Colonial Division, with East another half-game back. The game won't be for a title, but it would be a consolation prize for winning an outright division crown.

Bristol (37, 0-2 Bicentennial) and Morrisville (55, 0-2) will meet for bragging rights, while Bishop Egan (6-1, 0-61 Catholic League) and Trahan (0-0, 0-8 Suburban National) are both winless — for the second straight year — going into their Thanksgiving Day game.

Pennsbury (7-21, 5-11) at Neshaminy (5-5, 0-5), tomorrow, 7:30 p.m. The Falcons are the surprise winners of the Patriot Division, and Neshaminy will be out to salvage a winning record.

"At the start of the season we had a lot of positions to be filled," said Al Matzra Jr., Pennsbury's head coach, "but after our scrimmages we felt that if we stayed healthy, we'd do well."

The Falcons had one key loss when junior Trey Matassa, who won the starting quarterback job from senior Brian West, suffered a hamstring injury in the 14-6 win over Central Bucks East (Oct. 13). Since West took over, the Falcons are 23-1, and have clinched the division title.

"Brian made what I call two miracle plays on punts in that game," Matzra said. "He handed us two bad snaps in the end zone and managed to get off punts that saved us maybe 50 yards in field position."

"And on the opening kickoff he was the last man between [Rock's Tommy] Coleman and the end zone and he made the tackle."

Despite the offensive fireworks of senior quarterback Cornelius White, Neshaminy has beaten only Tennent and Trahan in the conference.

Council Rock (5-5, 4-3) at William Tennent (4-4, 4-3), Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Tennent has won three straight games, the last two by shutout, and just clinched a winning season. One more win and the Panthers will finish all alone in second place in the Patriot Division.

"This is a big game," Panthers

## Football notes

head coach Bill Saybolt said. "Nobody gave us a smell of being in second place at the start of the season."

Tennent is 4-2 since Jay Jones took over at quarterback for Bob Rosenberger after the latter suffered a separated shoulder against Central Bucks West (Sept. 28).

Saybolt doesn't think the injury has hurt Rosenberger, who is one of the top college football prospects in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Rosenberger missed just one game with the injury and has been playing as a receiver on offense as well as his regular defensive back position.

"It might have helped him," he said. "It's given him a chance to show how versatile he is."

"We're calling this our 'Pride Bowl,'" said Council Rock's Mike Orman, whose team is also trying to avoid an overall losing record. "We feel we're playing our best ball of the year now."

Orman prefers using a two-quarterback system for his run-and-shoot offense, but Carl Albrecht has been going it alone since Chad Koening suffered a broken leg three weeks

ago.

The Suburban One Conference will have a new look next football season, when the league is realigned according to school enrollment. Five Patriot Division schools, Bensalem, Council Rock, Neshaminy, Pennsbury and Tennent, and five Colonial schools — Abington, Central Bucks East and West, Norristown and North Penn — will form, arguably, one of the strongest and best balanced high school conferences in the country.

"This will make it tougher all the way around," said Bensalem coach Jack Klebe. "The conference winner will be the one left standing at the end."

"Playing in a league like this takes an enormous amount of off-season preparation," Pennsbury's Al Matzra Jr. said.

"Playing these teams is draining, but if you're gonna play, you might as well play the best," said Tennent's Saybolt.

Because of the difficulty of the conference schedule (each team is tentatively scheduled to face every other team), some schools may drop from 11 regular-season games to 10.

Truman is tentatively slated to join an eight-team division of schools with enrollments less than those of the top 10.

## Bucks County football leaders

Through games of Nov. 11

### Scoring

Name	School	Rush Rec.			2-Pt.		Total Points
		TD	TD	FG	PAT	PAT	
Tom Coleman	Council Rock	8	4	0	0	1	74
Randy Cox	Pennsbury	11	0	0	0	0	66
Bill Larson	Morrisville	9	1	0	0	0	60
Edmund Robinson	Bensalem	10	0	0	0	0	60
Neal Plaskanos	Neshaminy	0	9	0	0	0	54
Jerry Devine	Bristol	8	0	0	0	1	50
Sean Lenz	C.B. East	6	2	0	0	0	48
Paul Cozza	Council Rock	7	0	0	0	1	44
Jack Loughery	C.B. West	7	0	0	0	0	42

### Passing

Name	School	TD		Total TDs
		Run	Pass	
Cornelius White	Neshaminy	4	14	18
Jerry Devine	Bristol	8	7	15
Greg Moylan	C.B. West	4	10	14
Bill Larson	Morrisville	9	4	13
Mike Morelli	C.B. East	2	9	11

### Kicking

Name	School	FG	PAT	Total Points
Ed Piranian	C.B. West	3	29	38
Mike Schwab	C.B. East	2	21	27
John Longobardo	Morrisville	3	13	22
Kip Kiefer	Pennsbury	1	16	19
Walt Martuk	Bensalem	0	19	19

Compiled by Tim Paracucci

## Wood coach a witness for the defense

By Beth Otnoff  
Special to The Inquirer

Archbishop Wood coach Joe Krantz thanks his defense as the best in the Catholic League. It will be that defense the Vikings (15-2, 0-0, 11-3-2 league) will rely on tomorrow in the Northern Division championship game at Lighthouse Field against North Catholic (16-34, 13-2-1).

"We feel our defense will keep us in the game," Krantz said. "If we keep them off the boards, then we'll be successful."

Senior sweeper Eric Skillman will lead that defense onto the field for a third straight year.

"Eric is extremely fast and he reads the game well, which is the area he improved on most this year," said Krantz, whose defense gives up less than a goal per game.

"He plays off the other players well

## Soccer

— he senses the danger and knows when to help out."

"At that position, intelligence might be more important than natural abilities, but he has a lot of that, too."

Skillman is joined on defense by senior sweeper Joe Jagers, senior fullback Jim Monaghan, junior fullback Ken Konopka and junior goalie Joe Fleisch.

To beat North Catholic, Skillman said, "we'll have to win a lot of head balls and stick with their guys wherever they go."

The Vikings have never won the division title and haven't played in the championship game in five years. Skillman says he and his team-

mates are not satisfied with just making it to the title contest.

"All of us want to win really bad," Skillman said.

"Since we were freshmen, that's all we've talked about. We have our chance and we are going to give it our best."

Central Bucks East saw its hopes for a PIAA Class AAA state title dashed with a 3-1 quarterfinal loss to defending state champion Downingtown on Monday at Haverford High School.

Downingtown (21-1) and the Patriots (19-5) battled through 58 minutes and 43 seconds of scoreless play before sophomore Jamie Wagner's rebound goal.

Just 1:15 later, and with 2 seconds to play in the third quarter, Wagner struck again. His shot on goal was bobbed by Patriots goalie Brett

Sleicher, but Wagner got another chance on a rebound off a Jay Caferyli shot.

At the end of the third quarter, "all I said was that we weren't out of it yet," Patriots coach Jim Sleicher said.

"We've come back all year, and we were very positive we could come back again."

Six seconds into the final quarter, a Steve Motl goal put the Patriots right back into the game.

Wagner set up the final score with a crossing pass to Jake Strub, who headed the ball in to give the Whippets a 3-1 advantage with 17:49 to play.

"That third goal really hurt, it just really hurt," the coach of the Patriots said.

"After that, they could have had two or three more, but Brett came in with some really nice saves."

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