

C.B. West-Neshaminy is still a showdown

By Frank Bertucci
Special to The Inquirer

It's here: The Game.
Neshaminy vs. Central Bucks West.
A year late, maybe, but still No. 1 vs.
No. 2.

Only it will be No. 1 Neshaminy (2-0) facing lower-ranked Central Bucks West (1-1) tomorrow night (7:30 p.m.) at Doylestown.

Some luster may be lost from the showdown after West's 13-10 loss to Cardinal O'Hara Monday night, but the game that has been a year in the making still dominates Bucks County high school football.

"We're playing this game by popular demand," Redskins coach John Champ said before O'Hara had ended West's 55-game unbeaten streak. "Without district playoffs, everyone said you have to beat West to get to the state playoffs. Now some coaches tell their team that they have to beat Neshaminy to get there."

Neshaminy represented District 1 in last year's first-ever PIAA football playoffs when the Redskins were 11-0, and the Bucks 10-1 after their Thanksgiving Day tie with Central Bucks East. This year Neshaminy is 2-0, with wins over Bishop Egan (35-0) and Abington (35-27), while C.B. West is 1-1 after a last-second 10-9 victory over Plymouth-Whitemarsh and the loss to O'Hara.

The West-O'Hara game was switched to Monday night after rain forced postponement of Saturday's date at O'Hara. Win, lose, or tie, West will have had only three days to prepare for Neshaminy.

"West has just become twice as dangerous as they were. They have a ton of incentives going for them," Neshaminy coach John Champ said. "They're [Neshaminy players] disappointed. They liked the challenge of being the team to break the streak, but that can't happen now."

Bucks coach Mike Pettine now has to prepare his team for a game following a loss for the first time since 1983.

"I'm going to be anxious to see how the team responds," he said after Monday's game. "We come back to play Friday — not an easy opponent."



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Pennsylvanian's Dante Mucci passing against Glen Mills Saturday.

Football preview

"I've been through this before, not in awhile, but the only thing that takes away the pain is a win."
And so it's here, Central Bucks West vs. Neshaminy.

Not as big a game as it was a year ago. Or even a week ago.

Morrisville (1-0) at Springfield-Monito (1-1), tomorrow, 7:30 p.m.

This is the Independence League opener for the Bulldogs, while Springfield is already 1-0 in the league after a season-opening 21-14 win over Jenkintown.

Morrisville topped Harriston last Saturday, 20-8, the game played despite the ongoing teachers strike in the Morrisville School District, while Springfield lost to Haverford School, 14-0.

The game could feature a battle between Morrisville's Eric Sessoms, who rushed for 103 yards on 10 carries against Harriston, going 70 yards for one TD and taking in a 47-yard pass from quarterback Rob DeMaio for another, and the Spartans' Sean Jackson, who has rushed for 274 yards in two games. He scored all three of his team's TDs against Jenkintown, and also had three interceptions.

William Tennent (0-2) at Archbush (See PREVIEW on Page 45)

Bucks County Football Leaders

Through games of Sept. 18

Scoring

Name	School	Rush TD	Rec. TD	FG	PAT	2-Pt. PAT	Total Points
Edmund Robinson	Bensalem	5	0	0	0	2	34
Sam Lake	Bensalem	5	0	0	0	0	30
Jon Hall	Neshaminy	0	4	0	0	0	24
Bob Birch	Arch. Wood	3	0	0	0	0	18
Jack Grady	C.B. East	3	0	0	0	0	18
Rob Latronica	Neshaminy	3	0	0	0	0	18
Chuck Capella	Bristol	2	0	0	0	2	16
Mike Schwab	C.B. East	0	0	2	6	0	12
Tim Maduzia	Council Rock	1	1	0	0	0	12
Eric Sessoms	Morrisville	1	1	0	0	0	12
Jamiah Williams	Pennsbury	2	0	0	0	0	12
Mark Pacilio	Arch. Wood	1	1	0	0	0	12

Passing

Name	School	TD Run	TD Pass	Total TDs
James Franklin	Neshaminy	1	4	5
Adam Voyles	Council Rock	2	1	3
Jerry Devine	Bristol	1	1	2
Brian LaFord	Arch. Wood	0	2	2
Dante Mucci	Pennsbury	0	2	2
Jon Shields	Council Rock	0	2	2
Terrence Williams	Bensalem	0	2	2

Kicking

Name	School	FG	PAT	Total Points
Ed Lowry	Arch. Wood	1	9	12
Mike Schwab	C.B. East	2	6	12
Chris Warren	C.B. West	2	2	8
Mike Ramos	Neshaminy	0	5	5
Brian West	Pennsbury	0	5	5
Jim West	Bensalem	0	5	5

Compiled by Tim Panaccio