

# Redskins coach hopes to repeat '88 performance

By Tim Pannocci  
Inquirer Staff Writer

After two weeks of football camp in Allentown, Neshaminy Coach John Champ sounded weary.

"We could have stayed home, but the camp gives the team a lot of togetherness and forms friendships with players," said Champ. "This really allowed us a chance to concentrate on football and the kids."

It did — until the flu struck six players for two days and forced Champ's staff to run a part-time infirmary.

"That's a liability you have to face when kids are packed eight to a room," said Champ.

Neshaminy's roster is packed with juniors and seniors. Area coaches say the Redskins' junior class — highlighted by receiver Cornelius White and center Chris Rogers and guard Brian Schultz — is among the best in Bucks County.

Others feel that Neshaminy will be hard-pressed to repeat as District 1's representative in the state football playoffs. Champ remains optimistic.

"We had an excellent scrimmage against a tough Northampton (District 11) team," said Champ. "We seemed to have the ability to score repeatedly with this team. We've got a lot of quickness."

Most of the offense returns intact, minus center Terry Sauerbay, who leaves a big hole on the line. Defensively, Neshaminy lost Brian Moser to graduation. His play at linebacker will be virtually impossible to fill.

Neshaminy travels to Central Bucks West Sept. 22 for a showdown

## Neshaminy

that should have taken place last season when both teams were vying for a spot in the state playoffs. Ultimately, a tie with CB East kept CB West out of the playoffs, and Neshaminy went.

**Coaching.** John Champ begins his second year as head coach at Neshaminy (16th season overall). Champ has a 53-51 lifetime record. His assistants are defensive coordinator Tony Varacallo; defensive line coach Bob Wargo; linebacker coach Mike Nagy; offensive backfield coaches Ed Place and Joe Ramos; offensive line coach Rick Rosenblatt; receivers coach Tom Magdalinos; and tight end coach Dennis Cox.

**Last year.** Finished first in Suburban One National with 6-0 record. Went 11-1 overall. Lost to Cedar Cliff 24-0 in Pennsylvania's inaugural state football playoffs.

**Lettermen lost (29).** Among the group were Brian Moser, linebacker; Terry Sauerbay, center; Artie James, defensive back; and Mike Adams, defensive back; and Ron Nichols, offensive guard.

**Lettermen returning (20).** The best include seniors Mike Fredrick, linebacker-tight end; Jon Hall, running back; James Franklin, quarterback; Vince Sannelli, offensive tackle; Dwight Kosker, cornerback; Mike Ramos, kicker, and Todd Altman, linebacker.



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Running back Kevin Kelly, who is a new player, tries to avoid being tackled during practice.

**New players.** Seniors Dave Faulkner, running back; Jason Britt, running back; Andy Mitnick, offensive tackle; Tony Palmer, offensive tackle; Fred Solt, defensive end, and Allen Bittett, middle guard. Some key juniors are Brian Goss, middle guard, Doug James, defensive end, Cornelius White, wide receiver, Kevin Kelly, running back, Jay Watson, defensive back, and Eric Schultz defensive end.

**Probable starters — offense.** The Redskins use a multi-1-1 offense. Franklin (501 yards) will quarterback. Tailback Jon Hall danced for 1,000 yards last season. He and Rob Latronica, a senior, will be the running backs. Fredrick is at tight end with Bittett and White as wide receiver. The line reads Chris Rogers at center, John Wineburg and Brian Schultz at guard, Sannelli and

Mitnick at the tackles.

**Probable starters — defense.** The Redskins use a multi-4-4 defense. The line reads Chris Tret at tackle; Goss at middle guard; and James and Charles Spence at defensive ends. Fredrick will play outside linebacker with Fred Solt. Todd Altman and Jason Hillert are at inside linebacker. The defensive backs are Roskos, Faulkner and Jason Britt.

**Special teams.** Placekicker Mike Ramos, a senior, had 26 PATs last season. Fredrick will punt.

**Outlook.** "We're thinking playoffs again," said Champ. "We're going to work hard to get back there and finish what we started last year." The Redskins defense gave up just 57 points last season, five short of tying the school record. "I don't see how our defense can get any better than

that, but we'll try. We gave up less than a TD a game. If we come close to doing what we did last year, I'll be happy. I've got a good bunch of people coming back."

**Season opener.** Bishop Egan, tomorrow, 7:30 p.m.

## Schedule

Sept. 8 Bishop Egan, 7:30 p.m.  
Sept. 15 Abington, 7:30 p.m.  
Sept. 22 at Central Bucks West, 7:30 p.m.  
Oct. 14 Pennridge, 1:30 p.m.  
Oct. 6 at Norristown, 7:30 p.m.  
Oct. 14 Perkiome, 1:30 p.m.  
Oct. 20 Bensalem, 7:30 p.m.  
Oct. 27 Council Rock, 7:30 p.m.  
Nov. 4 at Trumm, 2 p.m.  
Nov. 11 at William Tennent, 1:30 p.m.  
Nov. 18 at Pennsbury, 1:30 p.m.

## Player to Watch

On most football teams, a linebacker with 101 tackles would draw notice.

Then again, Neshaminy's football team of a year ago was unlike most.

"There were a lot of people in front of me despite my (tackle) stats," said Mike Fredrick. "Brian Moser graduated had a great year and had 160 tackles. I figure that if people notice me, then it's fine. It's never been a priority. I enjoy playing in the shadows."

"For one, people expect less of you that way. I'll do what I can. But we've got a lot of key people coming back, and some great linemen. I don't have to be noticed."

Redskins' coach John Champ figures that Fredrick could draw rave reviews no matter where he is, given the senior's 6-foot, 5-inch, 260-pound frame.

"He has such great size, and he's still growing," said Champ. "Plus

he runs a 4.8 in the 40. I looked at him with those long arms, and I thought this guy would make a good target on the field."

That in mind, Champ plans to use Fredrick as a tight end this season in addition to linebacker.

"They figure I can be another weapon because I'm big," said Fredrick. "If I can catch the ball, maybe someone will have trouble tackling me."

Fredrick plans to attend college but is undecided among Pennsylvania State University, Boston College, Syracuse and Temple. What's more, he is not at all concerned about what position he would play in college, although he projects at either linebacker or along the defensive line.

"I'm really not worried about a college," said Fredrick. "There are people who think football is their life. Not me. I'll make the choice

when I have to, and I don't have to right now."

Fredrick plans to major in math — that much is certain of.

A topic of speculation these days is the Sept. 22 showdown between Neshaminy and Central Bucks West, which lost a playoff berth to the Redskins last season because of a 14-14 Thanksgiving Day tie with Central Bucks East.

"We're playing CBW?" gushed Fredrick. "I didn't know that. None of us are thinking that far ahead. We go one day at a time. If we don't, we could be 0-2 before we even play them."

OK, how about a prediction?

"We're not concerned with CBW," Fredrick replied. "We don't see us as making or breaking our season. The state playoffs is not the whole season. Our first concern is winning the SOL (Suburban One League)."

Fredrick says last season's loss to Cedar Cliff in the playoffs also has been blocked out of his mind.

"We never dwell in the past," Fredrick said. "We left that Cedar Cliff game behind. Our coaches never use the past to motivate us. What they do is push us to be better than last year."

Fredrick says the team's experience at football camp has defined Neshaminy's sense of purpose.

"When you go to camp, you eat, sleep and drink football," Fredrick said. "At home, things are not always football. You've got distractions, you're not thinking about it all the time. For instance, if I want to make a phone call here at camp, I've got to go to a pay phone."

"There is an advantage to that because all we're doing is football. We don't have time to think about anything else."

— Tim Pannocci



Mike Fredrick