

Falcons top Redskins on disputed call

By Glenn Berkey

Special to The Inquirer

Referee Tom McCreesh and the rest of the officiating crew were hurrying to their locker room, past derisive comments from the Neshaminy fans.

Easily disputable calls, such as the ones in Pennsbury's season-ending 27-23 victory over Neshaminy on Friday night, have a way of bringing out the least friendly side of people.

In the minds of the Redskins and their supporters, the referees had given the game to the Falcons.

Midway through the second quarter, Neshaminy defensive lineman Doug James sacked Pennsbury quarterback Brian West at the Falcons' 20-yard line. As James was hitting West, two things happened: a whistle blew, for no apparent reason, and West released a pass, which was snatched by the Redskins' Dan Lynch and run back for a touchdown.

After a delay to discuss the whistle,

Pennsbury 27
Neshaminy 23

the officials ruled that Neshaminy would get the ball but could not have the touchdown. They gave the ball to the Redskins at the Pennsbury 21-yard line. And the Redskins, who reached the 2-yard line, ultimately had to settle for a 23-yard field goal.

After the game, McCreesh unequivocally stated that the whistle had been blown by someone in the stands.

Neshaminy coach John Chaump said McCreesh had told him something different.

"He said he blew the whistle," Chaump said of the league president. McCreesh admitted the whistle was inadvertent, the coach added.

In another sense, however, the Falcons' special teams had taken the

game from Neshaminy (5-6, 2-6). Pennsbury (8-2-1, 6-1-1) never needed to drive more than 21 yards for a touchdown.

Two strong punt returns and two fumble recoveries led to Pennsbury's touchdowns.

For the Falcons, West hit Chad Tait from 3 yards out, and Randy Cox, who went over 1,000 yards rushing for the season, had touchdown runs of 4 and 20 yards.

Cornelius White was responsible for Neshaminy's touchdowns, passing for three of them. The loss left the Redskins below .500 for the first time since 1983.

Pennsbury	6	7	7	7	—	27
Neshaminy	7	10	0	6	—	23

PE: Tait 3 pass from West (run failed)

NE: McGinty 33 pass from White (Jaggers kick)

PE: Cox 4 run (Kiefer kick)

NE: Plaskonos 34 pass from White (Jaggers kick)

NE: FG 23 Jaggers

PE: Ritter 23 fumble return (Kiefer kick)

PE: Cox 20 run (Kiefer kick)

NE: Bowman 3 pass from White (run failed)