

# Council Rock is favored once again in Lower Bucks

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Domination in the Lower Bucks County League once belonged exclusively to Pennsbury and Neshaminy, but power in the physically tough league has shifted north to Newtown. Council Rock has won the Lower Bucks twice in three years and is heavily favored again.

After a 1-5 start, the Indians won their last six games last season, including impressive victories in two playoff games. The league conducted playoffs in the last two seasons — after the regular schedule had ended in ties every year since 1975. There are dates scheduled for playoffs again this fall, but if Council Rock plays as it did in 1978, they won't be needed.

Here is a summary:

**Council Rock:** All-purpose back John Franco and quarterback Scott McElrath are potential all-area players. Franco (5-feet, 7-inches, 160 pounds) rushed for 895 yards, including 510 in the last three games. McElrath led Bucks County with a school-record 1,002 yards passing and eight touchdowns, despite completing only 46 percent of his passes. Tim Sager, Carl Emiliou and Bob Welch are experienced receivers, and center Tom Baldwin returns on the line. The defense has five returning starters in tackles Joe Ford and Tim Gray, middle guard Joe Carter and linebackers Sager and Glenn Wright. Coach Walt Snyder has a bench full of capable replacements on both units. If Council Rock starts fast, it could gain statewide recognition.

**Pennsbury:** The Falcons lost 19 starters from the team that went to the league final, but Coach Chuck Kane believes in using seniors, so that's not unusual. Only cornerback Dan Gatti returns on defense, but Rich Krawczun, Bob Hose, Steve Knop and Roger Bolinger provide big bodies up front. Tough Pete Mazenko plays monster-man in the 5-2 defense. Receiver Don McMullen returns on offense, and Bob Sill (6-2, 220) is back

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## School previews

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*Another in a series on football prospects at area high schools*

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at guard. Tim Meell started briefly last season at tackle, and Mike Elko will be the quarterback.

**Woodrow Wilson:** The Rams could have won the league outright last season but blew the final game to fall into the four-team tie that necessitated the playoff. With 12 returning starters, they should challenge again. The main man is junior middle linebacker Steve Goldsmith (6-1, 225), who moved into the lineup three games into last season. Wilson won five of the six games Goldsmith played but lost every one in which he didn't start or was hurt. Chuck Paulson and Rich Burd also started at linebacker last season, and John Lewis and Bernard Hedgepeth return in the secondary. Only Brian Goodrow returns to the defensive line, but the 6-4, 220-pound tackle is an all-area candidate. Hedgepeth is a two-time all-league split end, and Joe Loftus returns at fullback. Goodrow and Dieter Thigpen return to the line, and Chuck Waite (who enjoyed an outstanding junior varsity season) will run the Wilson wishbone. The Rams will be contenders.

**Neshaminy-Maple Point:** The Cougars used defense to make the playoffs last season and were hoping to use improved offense to challenge again this fall. But a knee injury that required surgery will keep starting quarterback Cosmo Ritrivieri out for much of the season. Sophomore Bill Toner will step in to lead an experienced unit that includes tailback John Mascione and guard Bill Huffman, both three-year starters. Line men Chris Ireland, George Forrestal, Doug Cummings and center John Giblin all are veterans. Both wide receivers, Paul Lindenmuth and

Marty Davis, return as well. Todd Whetstone, Steve Morrison and Mike Valania anchor the defense.

**Neshaminy-Langhorne:** A veteran offensive line returns from last season's 3-6-1 non-contender but must face a brutal early schedule that includes Bishop Egan, Abington and Frankford. Center Kevin Stanford, guards Mark Huett and Jeff Clark and tackle Niles Dewese return, but there is very little experience at the skill positions. Dan Capristo returns at middle guard, and Mike Murphy, Jim Smith and Mike St. Clair (a transfer from Archbishop Ryan) are solid linebackers. All four secondary men, Brett Connelly, Scott Obringer, Al Kazickas and Bruce Apt, started occasionally last year.

**Delhaas:** This team was a factor in the league in the last two seasons with 6-4 records. It blew two games last season that might have meant a title. Dick Jones replaced Ron Cardinal as head coach and may have a dark-horse contender if he can replace all-league quarterback Jack Minnig. Senior Brian Jones is the candidate, and he will work with swift backs Maurice Gordon and Virgil Nixon. Dan Penquite, Hugh Green and Mike Dominick anchor the line. There are many candidates on defense.

**Bensalem:** After winning the title in a playoff in 1977, the Owls lost 11 straight last season under rookie coach Joe Ramos, including the last five by shutouts. Bensalem lost its opener, 13-7, to William Tennent Friday, but with six offensive starters returning it should improve. Glenn Shaup started three games at quarterback last year and has fullback Tom DeLeone returning beside him. Center Eric Shuman, tackles Vreeland Wood and Bob Stahl and tight end Al Wills all return. Bernie Ward, Steve Castleman, Jeff Price and Bob Shaup return in the secondary. Bob Shaup is one of the area's better punters and will place kick this season, too.