

Council Rock, Neshaminy in must game

By RAY DI LISSIO
Courier Times Sports Writer

On paper, it looks like the ideal matchup of the year.

Council Rock vs. Neshaminy in Langhorne tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 in the most important Lower Bucks County League Section One battle of the season to date.

The two clubs are remarkably very similar.

Take a look at CR which comes into the game with a 3-1 league record.

You look for passing, it's there. It's there in quarterback Dan Huf (one of only two QBs in the area to have a better than .500 percentage) and a capable receiver like John Rennie, the same John Rennie who hurt Pennsbury three weeks ago.

If running is your bag, CR also has it with the inside threat of fullback Don Ziesel and the outside threat of speedy Jimmy Rappo, currently the second leading scorer in the area.

Then, if you talk about defense, there are linebackers John Colella and Greg Pritchard, a rugged duo which has helped CR record two shutouts in Section One play thus far and has been keenly instrumental in CR allowing but 28 points in four games, second best in the section.

Take a look at Neshaminy which comes in with a 3-0 league record.

Passing, it's ever so present with quarterback Terry Gallagher (who leads all others in total yards

with 928 for the season) and split end Eli Weissman (who leads all receivers in total yards with 699).

On the ground, Neshaminy can be equally effective. In Jamie Meier you have the third leading rusher in the area. One who has picked up 737 yards in nine games and has gained 5.3 yards per carry. There's also the added threat in Tom Dodd, who is finally regaining his early season form after an injury against Easton set him back.

Defensively, Neshaminy is just as strong at linebacker with Steve Shull and Fred Calkins, who have helped the 'Skins limit Section One foes to just 14 points, tops in the league.

On The Line

And when you realize the Section One title is also foremost on both teams' minds, it makes this matchup even more inviting.

A win for Neshaminy and it's assured of at least a tie for the should defending-titlist Pennsbury defeat Neshaminy next week.

A victory for CR and the Indians also will have a share of the crown, with a chance of winning it outright. That can only come about if CR beats Neshaminy and



PAL ALLISON WALT SNYDER

next week's Neshaminy-Pennsbury game ends in a tie.

And yet both CR coach Walt Snyder and Neshaminy mentor Pal Allison are also aware that even Pennsbury can win it outright. That would happen if CR and Neshaminy battle to a tie and Pennsbury dumps Neshaminy next Saturday.

So you can bet neither Snyder nor Allison will settle for a tie. They'll be pulling out all the stops to avoid such an outcome.

For Snyder, his team "must eliminate turnovers. That's been

our problem all year." Those turnovers, more than anything, have accounted for CR's back-and-forth season. One which has seen the Indians (5-4) fail to put together back-to-back victories.

What worries Snyder about Neshaminy? "You have to look for anything. They are a big threat passing. Gallagher and Weissman have been a strong combo all year. But you can't overlook their running. They have two of the best backs in Meier and Dodd.

"If they complete passes early and we key on the pass, then their running will become effective."

Offensively, CR must "control the line well and establish a running game to keep Neshaminy honest.

"It just has to be the biggest game of the season for us," said Snyder, who has led the Indians to consecutive wins over Neshaminy the last two seasons.

In The Stands

Allison, who was in the stands when CR struck down Pennsbury, is looking for almost anything from CR as well.

"They can hurt you inside. You can't overlook their fullback (Ziesel) He had pretty good success against Pennsbury.

"Then Rappo is all over the place and can run well outside. Huf can throw which poses another problem.

"I don't know if we can run at them (Colella and Pritchard). We have to contain both of their linebackers because they are the heart of the defense.

"We know the importance of this game. So do they. It's a must win for both of us."

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Local
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Friday

LBCL FOOTBALL
Section One

Woodrow Wilson at Bensalem Twp., 7:30 p.m.

NESHAMINY-COUNCIL ROCK					
N	Year	CR	N	Year	CR
7	1947	0	7	1957	12
0	1948	6	34	1958	0
38	1949	7	33	1959	0
12	1950	6	54	1960	6
0	1951	6	54	1968	7
54	1952	0	34	1971	0
32	1953	6	34	1972	8
32	1954	12	10	1973	14
29	1955	0	0	1974	21
21	1956	0	0		

Neshaminy leads series, 14-5.

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