

Neshaminy removes CR roadblock, 14-13

By **JOE PETRUCELLI**
Courier Times Sports Writer

On the slate board in the locker room of the Neshaminy Redskin football team was a message which read:

"We are nearing the mountain top - a large rock is in our path - will we go on?"

Neshaminy will go on.

The Redskins fought from behind to climb past Council Rock yesterday, 14-13, to assure themselves of no less than a share of the Lower Bucks County League Section One title

Council Rock Led

"We're in a very comfortable position now," said Neshaminy coach Pal Allison, who was far from relaxed throughout the first half of yesterday's game.

The Redskins could do nothing right in the first two periods and visiting Council Rock took advantage of their mistakes to hold a 13-0 halftime lead.

The Neshaminy defense, which was on the field for most of the first period and survived three turnovers by the offense, finally cracked in the second quarter.

"We coughed it up three times in the first period and got away with it," said Allison, "but I had to holler at the defense after that second period."

Two Touchdowns

"When a quarterback can roll out and go 25 yards on you somebody's messing up."

Actually, Council Rock quarterback Dan Huf ran a bootleg 12 yards around the left side for the touchdown and the Indians went up 7-0 when Brian Adams added the extra point.

The Indians boosted their advantage to 13-0 when Huf found senior tight end John Rennie all alone with a 45-yard touchdown pass.

"It bothered me that no one was even near him," said Allison.

Vital Point

Council Rock's attempt for the point after touchdown was way wide and short, however, and that would later bother the Indians a whole lot more.

Because Neshaminy was to come back to control the second half and pull out the victory by that single point.

"We were firing off quicker," said Redskin running back Jamie Meier, who was the game's lead-



Courier Times Photos by Mike Karucki

ALIVE AND KICKING — With Neshaminy quarterback Terry Gallagher (12) holding, Jeff Ratner (42) boots winning extra point after Jaimie Meier (44 in insert) pushed his way through Council Rock defenders



ing rusher and scored the winning touchdown.

"In the second half I noticed their 76 (Greg Pritchard) was blitzing. (Rick) Rynkiewicz was handling him and that's why we could control the ball. I was just moving up one step, and then going for the sweep."

Meier Ties It

Meier, who managed just 13 yards in the first half, swept around the right side for 68 yards in the second two periods.

"They kept getting by right tackle," said Council Rock flanker

Jim Rappo. "We just couldn't stop them."

Meier knotted the score at 13-13 when he followed blocks by Phil Ivins and Tony Petsis four yards into the endzone with 9:37 left to play.

Jeff Ratner then boomed through the extra point which decided the game

Ratner Wins It

Ratner's first extra point wasn't nearly as certain. In fact his initial attempt was wide.

Ratner went in to kick after Eli Weissman got Neshaminy back into the game by hauling in a Ter-

ry Gallagher aerial which was good for a 75-yard pass-and-run touchdown.

"I was shocked when I went in there because (Steve) O'Brien was holding," said Ratner. "Instead of concentrating I was thinking about the holder."

"He came over and asked me what happened to Terry (Gallagher, the usual holder)," said Allison. "I told him you don't kick Terry you kick the ball. It's just a good thing the official was awake on the first one."

Second Chance

One of the Council Rock players

jumped offside and that gave Ratner another chance.

"When he started to come early I think that rattled Jeff and was partly the reason for the bad kick," said Allison.

Ratner, made the second kick good, however, and Neshaminy was within six points, 13-7, with 1:47 left in the third period.

Both of the Neshaminy touchdowns began with pass interceptions.

Allison Surprised

Bob Hayes picked off a Huf pass intended for Cary Whitaker

before the first Redskin score and O'Brien stole a pass meant for Rennie prior to the six-play drive leading to Meier's touchdown.

In both cases Huf elected to throw on second down, a move which surprised Allison.

"At halftime we were thinking if we had a 13-0 lead what would we do," said Allison. "We figured they'd come right at us."

"I was surprised they threw. Maybe they didn't want to change their approach because it was working well in the first half."

Neshaminy is now 4-0 in the LBCL Section One standings and can win its first championship since 1971 if it beats Pennsbury (3-1) next weekend.

STATISTICS

	CR	N
First downs	11	11
Yards rushing	171	103
Passes attempted	6	13
Passes completed	3	6
Passes intercepted by	0	3
Yards passing	74	118
Net yards	245	221
Punts	4	5
Punting average	28	40
Fumbles recovered by	4	1
Yards penalized	75	28

SCORING

SECOND: C - Huf 12 run (Adams kick); C - Rennie 45 pass from Huf (kick failed.)

THIRD: N - Weissman 75 pass from Gallagher (Ratner kick).

FOURTH: N - Meier 4 run (Ratner kick).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

COUNCIL ROCK

RUSHING: Rappo, 15-80; Ziesel, 17-61; Campbell, 5-22; Huf, 3-9, 1 TD; Allen, 7-0; Britton, 2-(-1).

PASSING: Huf, 3-6, 74 yards, 1 TD.

RECEIVING: Rennie, 2-66, 1 TD; Whitaker, 1-8.

NESHAMINY

RUSHING: Meier, 21-01, 1 TD; Rynkiewicz, 8-23; Dodd, 1-1; O'Brien, 3-0; Gallagher, 3-(-2).

PASSING: Gallagher, 4-13, 118 yards, 1 TD.

RECEIVING: Weissman, 4-107, 1 TD; Petsis, 2-11.

BCCC girls capture hockey title

By **WAYNE FISH**
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TOMS RIVER, N.J. — It was one of those magical moments in sports when the least likely candidate, a substitute, performs in heroic fashion.

It was halfback Tom Matte replacing Colts' quarterback Johnny Unitas and calling the winning play: the light-hitting Dusty Rhodes belting a pinch-hit World Series home run to help the Giants beat the Indians; Canadiens rookie goalie Ken Dryden, with two weeks National Hockey League experience, thwarting the powerful Boston Bruins in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

There stood Bucks County Community College field hockey replacing Colts' quarterback Johnny Unitas and calling the winning play: the light-hitting Dusty Rhodes belting a pinch-hit World Series home run to help the Giants beat the Indians; Canadiens rookie goalie Ken Dryden, with two weeks National Hockey League experience, thwarting the powerful Boston Bruins in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

ty Community College player with a penalty shot opportunity and a very good chance of breaking a tense 0-0 tie.

"I knew it wasn't going to go in," BCC forward Linda Eisenhard would say later. "I just knew Claire wouldn't let that shot go in."

The Ocean player fired a hard shot. Saponaro reached out with her bare hand and deflected the shot away.

That play, as much as Betty Newby's second half goal, was responsible for the Centurions' National Junior College Athletic Association 1-0 championship victory.

Only Second

It was only Claire's second effort in goal since regular goalie Janet Thrane suffered a sprained ankle a week ago.

Blocking was brilliant. Besides blocking the penalty shot, she

stopped a breakaway and made several extremely difficult kick-saves.

"I was just trying to concentrate," said Claire, a freshman. "I enjoy a challenge. That's why I like to play goalie. I guess, I'm a monkey at heart."

Newby, who along with Eisenhard and Wendy Mertz were named to the all-tournament team, agreed that Saponaro's save was the turning point.

"It gave us a lift, no doubt," said Betty, who scored the winner on a penalty corner with 27 minutes remaining in the second half. "I told her after the game how proud I was of her."

Not Easy

Saponaro's excellence did not come by accident.

"All week she was down," Betty added. "Then all of a sudden she turned around."

Eisenhard played a role in that. Linda spent extra time firing shots at Claire to get her ready for the tournament.

"I worked with her all week," said Linda. "I wasn't worried at all. She was just so ready. You could see it on that shot—she was really set for it."

BCCC coach Betty Jean Duffy credited the win to a renewed team "spirit" in the wake of last week's 2-1 loss to this same Ocean County team.

"I think our forward line wanted this game," she said. "I don't think they played as well in the game last week."

Duffy and Newby agreed that a strong Bucks' finish was another vital ingredient for the title.

"When Ocean beat us they scored in the last four minutes," said Duffy. "We seemed to let down near the end."

"But we didn't slack off today," said Newby. "They were mixing us up some in the first half but I think we played together better in the second half."

In addition to her goal, Newby hit a goal post and had another goal disallowed on an obstruction call in the closing 20 minutes.

Betty's goal came on a penalty corner from right wing Star Fischer. Newby took control of the pass at the edge of the circle and fired a bouncing drive into the left side of the net.

Numerous Saves

It still took several tough saves by Saponaro to salvage the shut-out in the closing seconds, however.

Bucks can look forward to her services next year. But before that, there is Bucks County's initial U.S. championship to savor first.