

'Skins pound Easton; Joe Sroba ties record

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EASTON — Joe Sroba, Neshaminy High School's gifted halfback, is a most unselfish individual.

It made little difference to him that he had just tied the Lower Bucks County record for most points scored (38) in a single game enroute to Neshaminy's unbelievable 55-14 romp over Easton Area here Saturday night at Cottingham Stadium before some 8,000 spell-bound fans.

Sroba, whose six touchdowns and a two-point conversion equalled the mark set by George School's Ron Hancox in 1969, was more concerned about Neshaminy "finally proving to all we have a talented team, capable of beating anyone."

As Sroba peeled off his football gear following the Redskins' impressive opening win in the Big Seven Football Conference, he thought back to Neshaminy's so-so showings in their two previous contests.

LINEUPS

Neshaminy (55)

ENDS: Cliver, Jk. Willis, Gale, Larken, B. Fox, O'Brien, Jr. Willis.

TACKLES: Watson, Strawbridge, Hemphill, Grinups, Clark, Hayes, Coniglio, Laskey, Oliver.

GUARDS: Zimmer, Lodge, Stevenson, Conger, Christ, Pierre, Boyles, Rosenblatt, Miller, Cook, Romett.

CENTERS: Eccles.

BACKS: Orr, Dripps, Grupp, Arnold, Shepelt, Correll, Donahue, Marshall, Smith, Tyrell, Connor, Prendergast, Sroba, Morris, Nathan, Barker, Mulder, Hallman, Sauls.

Easton Area (14)

ENDS: Holden, Kelly, Follett, Koch, Griffin.

TACKLES: Guzzo, Comstock, Jacoby, Winsor.

GUARDS: Woodring, Storms, Viola, Opitz.

CENTERS: Werkheiser.

BACKS: Finocchio, Miller, Lutz, Gerbino, Knighton, Perelli, Ransom, Sweeney, Mathis, Williams, Bryson, Fredericks, Heilman.

SCORE BY PERIODS

Neshaminy 21 14 14 6— 55
Easton Area 0 0 0 14— 14

SCORING

FIRST: N—Sroba 1 run (Sullivan kick); Donahue 1 run (Sroba run); Sroba 50 punt return (Kick wide).

SECOND: N—Sroba 1 run (Sullivan kick); Sroba 40 pass from Grupp (Sullivan kick).

THIRD: N—Barker 1 run (Bahr kick); Sroba 52 run Bahr kick.

FOURTH: E—Ransom 11 run (Kelly pass from Miller); N—Sroba 51 pass from Grupp (run failed); E—Ransom 79 run (run failed).

OFFICIALS

Gary Zeager, referee; Jim Osborne, umpire; Joe Ruane, head linesman; Joe Byers, field judge.

STATISTICS

	NESH.	EAST.
First downs	15	10
Yards rushing	243	160
Passes attempted	8	21
Passes completed	7	8
Passes intercepted by	4	0
Yards passing	213	124
Net yards	456	284
Punts	2	3
Punting average	41	35
Fumbles recovered by	3	2
Yards penalized	85	37

"When we lost to Egan (18-7). I was really hurt. I knew we had a fine team and a tremendous coaching staff. The talent was there but we just made too many mistakes that night.

"Then when we had a strong second half last week (against Pennridge in a 25-14 victory), I knew we were coming around."

But Sroba was well aware many still had written off the 'Skins as contenders for the Big Seven Conference title.

"We were so mad when we

LBCL standings

Section One			Section Two			
League			Overall			
W	L	T	W	L	T	
Bensalem Twp.	0	0	0	1	2	0
Council Rock	0	0	0	1	2	0
Neshaminy	0	0	0	2	1	0
Pennsbury	0	0	0	3	0	0
Woodrow Wilson	0	0	0	1	2	0
Suburban One			Suburban Two			
League			Overall			
W	L	T	W	L	T	
Bristol	0	0	0	1	1	0
Jenkintown	0	0	0	1	1	0
L. Moreland	0	0	0	1	1	0
Morrisville	0	0	0	2	0	0
Independent			Overall			
W	L	T	W	L	T	
Delhaas	0	1	0	0	1	0

Big 7 standings

CONFERENCE			Overall			
League			Overall			
W	L	T	W	L	T	
Pennsbury	2	0	0	3	0	0
Neshaminy	1	0	0	2	1	0
Bethlehem Freedom	1	1	0	2	1	0
Bethlehem Liberty	0	0	0	1	2	0
Allentown Allen	0	1	0	1	1	0
Allentown Dieruff	0	1	0	0	2	0
Easton Area	0	1	0	0	3	0

WEEKEND RESULTS

Neshaminy 55, Easton 14
Pennsbury 23, Allen 12
Freedom 14, Dieruff 7
Liberty 7, Reading 6

read our being the underdog for tonight's game. In fact, Rich (Eccles, Neshaminy's rugged 6-4, 255-pound center) was so mad he told me he had put a hole in his wall at home when finding it out.

Main Purpose

"We were determined tonight to put it all together, and I think we did," Sroba said with a slight grin.

From the opening kickoff, which Mark Donahue took at his own 16 and stormed upfield before being stopped at Easton's 13, it was quite obvious Neshaminy had just one thing in mind: to win big.

The Reskins quickly put 21 points on the scoreboard in the first period and were on their way to amassing 456 net yards.

Sroba was unquestionably the vital cog in handing Wayne Grube's winless Red Rovers their third setback of the young season.

Record Performance

In the first period he scored on a one-yard run and a 80-yard punt return, and also ran for a two-point conversion, following Donahue's one-yard plunge for the 'Skins second score.

In the second period Sroba, a 5-9, 160-pound senior speed merchant, added 12 more points to his total via a one-yard run and a 40-yard pass reception from quarterback Bob Grupp.

Then, following fullback Len Barker's one-yard plunge for the 'Skins sixth score in the third period, Sroba recorded his fifth touchdown of the game on a 52-yard run off left tackle in the waning min-

utes of the quarter.

Sroba's final six-pointer came in the fourth quarter when Grupp hit him with a 51-yard strike. Sroba's chance for breaking the LBC record was foiled when he was stopped one-yard short on the following two-point attempt.

No Knowledge

"I really didn't know anything about the record," Sroba confessed. "Coach (Jack Swartz) hadn't mentioned it to me until I came off the field after missing the two-point try. But that doesn't matter. I just wanted to win big tonight."

Swartz had nothing but praise for Sroba. "He's a great athlete, a great receiver with great moves and an all-around individual. He's also an honor student."

But Swartz was quick to add it just wasn't Sroba's performance which pleased him. "We did everything we had planned. The offense and defense both helped in making this a big win. We jumped off fast and, after Joey's punt return, we set the tempo, forcing Wayne (Grube) to do things he wouldn't normally have done."

Grupp was also a principal factor in the resounding victory. He completed seven of eight passes, good for two touchdowns and 213 yards.

"I think he came into his own tonight," said Swartz. "He did an outstanding job in picking his receivers, many times going to his secondary receivers."

EXTRA POINTS — The 'Skins

Neshaminy

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defensive secondary, along with both sides of the line, complemented the victory . . . The secondary picked off four passes thrown by Easton's Mike Miller, including two by linebacker Bob Miller . . . The steals were aided by teammate Frank Conger who tipped the ball to Miller in each case . . . Neshaminy's defensive wall also pounced on three fumbles setting up two scores . . .

The offensive line, led by Eccles, opened numerous holes, particularly for Sroba who collected 100 yards on 13 carries . . . Defensive back Don Dripps, who recovered a fumble in the second half for the 'Skins, later suffered a dislocated right elbow and was taken to Easton Hospital where he was treated and released . . . Melvin Ransom accounted for both Easton scores on runs of 11 and 79 yards, respectively . . . Rumor has it Grube, now in his sixth season and who guided the Red Rovers to a Big Seven title in 1968, may be removed as head coach . . . Both the Easton and Neshaminy bands provided halftime entertainment.