

10th straight in Big Seven

Neshaminy awesome in win

By RAY DI LISSO
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BETHLEHEM — Neshaminy High School set a Big Seven Football Conference precedent here last night at the Bethlehem School District Stadium.

The Redskins became the first team ever to win 10 straight conference games (over a two-year period) with a convincing 34-0 victory over Bethlehem Liberty High School before some 8,000 chilled spectators.

Except for a rather shaky start in a scoreless first period, Neshaminy completely dominated the game to up its Big Seven record to 4-0 and move one-half game ahead of archrival Pennsbury High School (3-0) for the coveted title.

A great passing performance by quarterback Bob Grupp and an

equally impressive show by the rugged Neshaminy defense guided once-beaten Neshaminy to its fifth consecutive triumph.

Two Bombs

Grupp, with plenty of protection from his front line, completed seven of 10 passes, good for 197 yards and two touchdowns.

The two touchdown passes — both to speedy Joe Sroba — were picture-perfect. Grupp fired a 63-yard bomb to Sroba early in the second period to give Neshaminy its initial score.

Grupp, a 6-0, 184-pound senior, teamed with Sroba again late in the third quarter for a 69-yard strike to make it 26-0 and put the game further out of reach.

Neshaminy's awesome defense permitted Liberty to enter 'Skin territory just twice (the furthest advance to the 40) in registering its second shutout in its last three games.

Defense Aids Cause

The defense also played a vital part in setting up Neshaminy's second and third touchdowns of the second quarter. A blocked punt by Ben Watson with less than three minutes left in the half gave Neshaminy a first-and-goal situation at Liberty's seven.

Following a 15-yard holding in-

STATISTICS		
	NESH	LIB
First downs	10	5
Yards rushing	109	115
Passes attempted	13	9
Passes completed	9	2
Passes intercepted by	2	0
Yards passing	222	26
Net yards	331	141
Punts	3	x-6
Punting average	36	27
Fumbles recovered by	3	3
Yards penalized	30	55

fraction by Neshaminy, the 'Skins, highlighted by a 21-yard pass from Grupp to Steve Gale, scored in three plays with Grupp sneaking over from the one.

A fumble recovery by Brian Eslinger on the ensuing kickoff gave Neshaminy another excellent opportunity at the enemy 27. Halfback Mark Donahue, who scored three plays later from the one, guided the short march on an eight-yard run and an 18-yard halfback pass-play to Sroba.

Neshaminy's longest sustained drive came in the fourth quarter. The 'Skins drove 61 yards in six plays with fullback Len Barker bulling his way into the end zone from the one. An 11-yard look-in pass from Grupp to Bart Smith and Donahue's 40-yard run off right tackle on a reverse set up the final score.

"All of us, players and coaches

alike, were concerned about tonight's game. We knew what happened here two years ago. (Liberty handed Neshaminy its only defeat, 22-6, that year). We didn't want it to happen again," said coach Jack Swartz.

"We had our troubles early in the game tonight. But once we established a running game, we were able to open it up on them."

Sroba, the area's leading scorer, was simply too much for an undermanned Liberty squad to handle. On both TD receptions, he easily beat his defenders.

"I think they double teamed me on the first one, but Grupp threw a perfect pass to me on a downpup and out pattern," said Sroba.

Sroba, in running an identical pattern for his second score, admitted "Bob threw the ball in such a way that it helped me beat my man. On the second one, I was running down the right sideline. But Bob threw the ball so that I had to cut upfield. It helped me to get a few more steps on my man."

"I'm just glad we won this one tonight. I was scared at first. This place does something to me. I remember what happened here two years ago very vividly. But once we calmed down after that rough beginning, everything fell

into place."

'SKIN TALK — Both teams fumbled three times . . . Liberty gave up the ball on the very first play from scrimmage when Neshaminy's Mike Hayes pounced on the loose ball at the 24 . . . However after Neshaminy had marched to the enemy eight, the 'Skins in turn fumbled . . .

Defensive coach Pal Allison admitted the play of Mark Strawbridge and Hayes helped the entire defensive unit . . . "Mark and Mike took the inside game away from Liberty. This forced them (Liberty) to the outside where our ends (Scott Cliver, Bob Fox and Jack Wills) did a great job. Shutting off their inside game also freed our linebackers to roam more . . ."

Liberty coach Bob Buffman praised the play of Sroba . . . "He's a good one. How do you stop him? Give him one step and look out . . ." Buffman also personally thanked Sroba for his "kind sportsmanship" in assisting Liberty's Ike Young when the latter's foot got caught in the fence after defending on a pass thrown out of the end zone by Grupp . . .

LINEUPS

Neshaminy (34)
ENDS: Wills, O'Brien, Fox, Laskey, Gale, Willis, Cliver.

TACKLES: Watson, Strawbridge, Hemphill, Grinups, Clark, Hayes, Zorn, Coniglio.

GUARDS: Boyles, Rosenblatt, Cook, Miller, Romett, Zimmer.

CENTERS: Eccles.
BACKS: Conger, Stevenson, Connors, Christ, Pierce, Lodge, Orr, Grupp, Bahr, Sullivan, Arnold, Shenefelt, Correll, Conahue, Marshall, Smith, Tyrell, Connor, Mongillo, Sroba, Morris, Nathan, Barker, Mulder, Hallman, Sauls, Miller.
Liberty (0)

ENDS: Young, Horwath, Donchez, Alexander.

TACKLES: Schneider, Bauder, Fenicle, Potak, Schuler.

GUARDS: Antolick, Benway, May, Economy, Biamon.

CENTERS: Whitehead.
BACKS: Wescoe, Fatabene, John, Martin, Capuano, Villani, Tinajero, Engge, Chrynowski, Delp, Perry, Henning.

Neshaminy
SCORE BY PERIODS
Neshaminy 0 20 7 7— 34
Bethlehem Lty. 0 0 0 0— 0

SCORING
SECOND: N: Sroba 63 pass from Grupp (Kick failed); N: Grupp 1 run (Bahr kick); N: Donahue 1 run (Bahr kick).
THIRD: N: Sroba 69 pass from Grupp (Bahr kick).
FOURTH: N: Barker 1 run (Bahr kick).

OFFICIALS

Jake Boylan, referee; Rosario Amato, umpire; Duane Stofflet, head linesman; Rick Carroll, field judge.

Big 7 standings

	League			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Neshaminy	4	0	0	5	1	0
Pennsbury	3	0	0	5	0	0
Bethlehem Freedom	1	1	0	3	2	0
Easton Area	1	1	0	2	3	0
Allentown Allen	1	2	0	2	2	1
Bethlehem Liberty	0	3	0	1	5	0
Allentown Dieruff	0	3	0	0	4	0

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

Neshaminy 34, Bethlehem Liberty 0
Phillipsburg (N.J.) 0, Allentown Allen 0