

# Bensalem no match for Neshaminy

## Redskins humble Owls, 53-0

By RAY DI LISSIO

Courier Times Sports Writer

Neshaminy High School uses a rather simple formula when playing the game of football.

The 'Skins blend an awesome offensive attack and an equally devastating defensive display to produce a most potent end result.

Neshaminy put the formula to good use again last night in thumping visiting Bensalem Township High School, 53-0, before some 8,500 fans.

From the game's opening play, which saw Neshaminy's Jack Wills pounce on a fumble at the enemy 41-yard line, it was apparent Bensalem would become the sixth straight team unable to come up with the antidote to crack the powerful formula.

### One-Man Show

Led by the dazzling performance of halfback Joe Sroba, the 'Skins scored virtually at will in their opening Lower Bucks County League Section One test.

Sroba was just about a one-man show. The 5-10, 180-pound back scored five touchdowns, including an electrifying 73-yard punt return early in the first period.

Sroba took the ball on his own 27, circled left away from his blockers and outran the Owl defense. "That was a shrewd play," commented winning coach Jack Swartz. "Joe went around the wall, took two steps and just outran everyone."

Sroba's other touchdown came on a three-yard run, a 57-yard run, and passes of 66 and 49 yards from quarterback Bob Grupp.

### Grupp's TDs

The 66-yarder was also a picture of perfection. Sroba caught the flare pass on his 41, sped the left side and, with two quick moves, faked three defenders in racing to the end zone.

The 49-yard bomb, which saw Grupp loft a high-arching pass giving Sroba plenty of time to get under it, came on the final play of the half to give Neshaminy an in-



OCTOBER 21 PAGE 17

### STATISTICS

	BENS	NESH
First downs	6	13
Yards rushing	56	144
Passes attempted	20	19
Passes completed	6	9
Passes intercepted by	0	1
Yards passing	67	214
Net yards	123	358
Punts	10	x-5
Punting average	24	35
Fumbles recovered by	1	1
Yards penalized	15	5

x-includes one blocked punt.

surmountable 33-0 lead.

Grupp also fired two other touchdown passes, hitting Mark Donahue with a 21-yard score on a screen pass over the middle early in the second quarter, and an eight-yarder over the middle to end Tim O'Brien for the final score in the third period.

Neshaminy's other TD came on Bart Smith's 84-yard return following his interception of a Bruce Reiprich pass.

### Double Teamed

"On the play, Woelk (Rich, Bensalem's end) went deep. We were double-teaming him the entire game. The pass was underthrown and Connor (Ellis) and I ran into one another going after the ball.

"I simply grabbed it and ran down the right side. Reiprich was the only one around to stop me. But he went for a fake and after that, no one was around," explained Smith.

Neshaminy assistant coach Pal Allison was satisfied with the secondary's performance. "Our plan was to take away their best pass,

the deep one to Woelk. We double-teamed him, and forced them (Bensalem) to go to something else.

"At first, they had some success with those short passes to their backs, particularly their fullback (Joe Mattiacci) coming out of the backfield. In the second half though we made some adjustments, getting our tackles (Mark Strawbridge and Mike Hayes) to slow them (the backs) down at the line.

"We also put pressure on Reiprich to push him a little. I think we did a pretty good job of it."

**SKIN NOTES** — Bensalem's most serious scoring threat came in the fourth period when, following a blocked punt, it moved to the 'Skins 24 before the drive stalled . . . Grupp completed seven of 13 passes (184 yards) . . . Reiprich was five for 14 (54 yards).

Ben Watson and Jerry Coniglio did a fine job in opening big holes for Neshaminy's hard-running backs . . . The Neshaminy defense has now recorded three shutouts in its last four games . . . Sroba's 30 points give him 110 for the season . . . The LBCL record (191) was set by Neshaminy's Bob Baxter in 1962.

### LINEUPS

**Bensalem Twp. (0)**  
**ENDS:** Gower, Woelk, Davis, Hansen, Stokes, Gorski, Fafara, Soley.

**TACKLES:** Lecuyer, Jackiewicz, Spey, Kovitch, Rongione, Ziegler, Young, Penny-packer.

**GUARDS:** Rigney, Biernat, Gibson, Silcox.  
**CENTERS:** Hicks, Larson, Esposito, Dumlin.

**BACKS:** Heil, Brambani, Deardon, Reiprich, Nicoletti, Holeton, Carver, Jones, Smolenak, Cianni, Russo, Mattiacci, Kautrass, Clarke, Mashore, Farmer, Nugent, Coudutti, Geiges, Boyce, Pacitti, Cascereri.

### Neshaminy (53)

**ENDS:** Cliver, Willis, Gale, Fox, O'Brien, Wills.

**TACKLES:** Watson, Strawbridge, Hayes, Coniglio, Zorn, Stevenson, Congrer.

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

**CENTERS:** Eccles, Pierce.

**BACKS:** Orr, Grupp, Shenefelt, Correll, Donahue, Marshall, Smith, Tyrell, Connor, Prendergast, Sroba, Morris, Nathan, Barker, Miller, Barker, Haliman, Sauls.

### SCORE BY PERIODS

Bensalem	0	0	0	0	0
Neshaminy	20	13	20	0	53

### SCORING

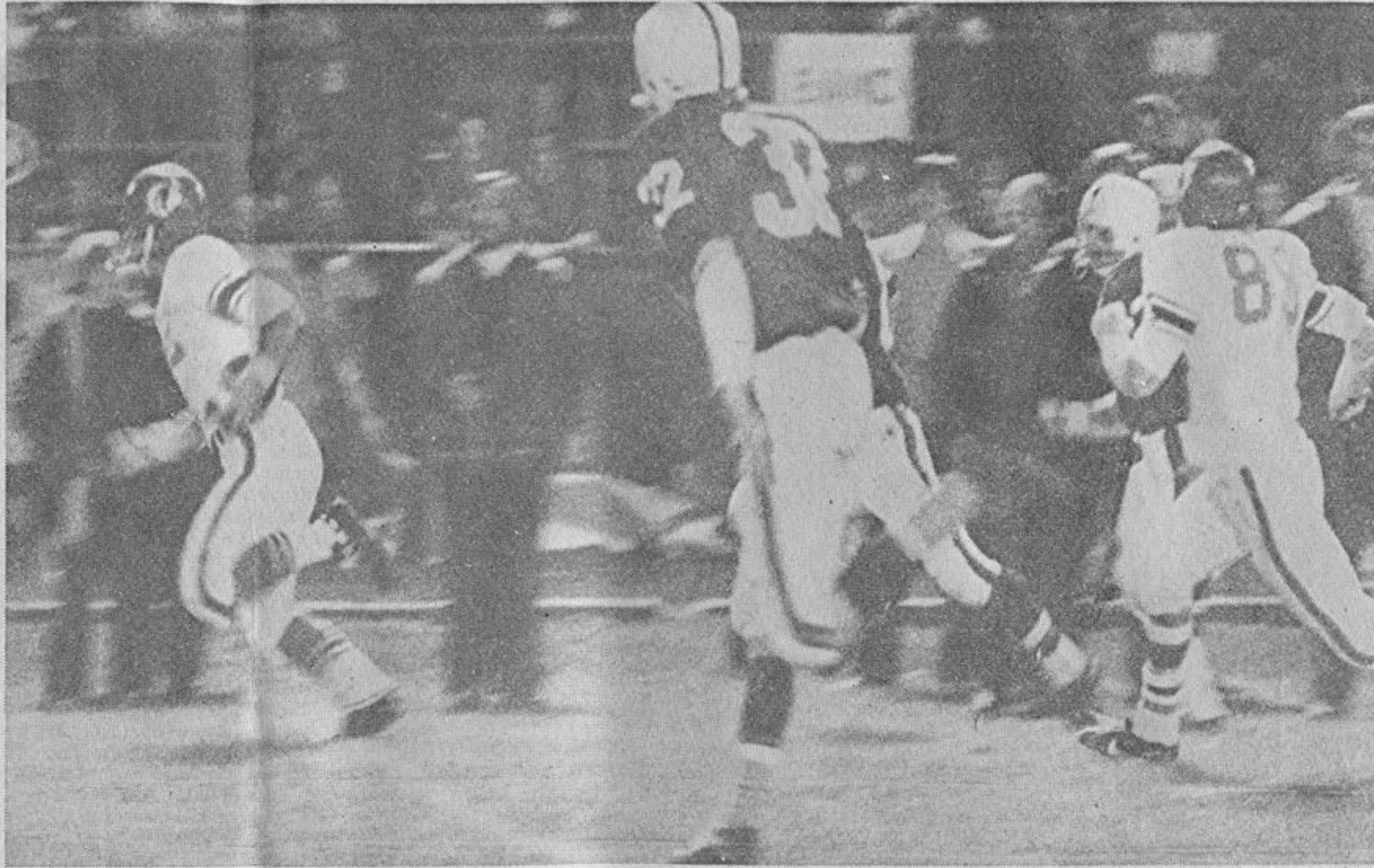
**FIRST:** Sroba 3 run (Bahr kick); Sroba 73 punt return (run failed); Sroba 66 pass from Grupp (Bahr kick).

**SECOND:** N-Donahue 21 pass from Grupp (Bahr kick); Sroba 49 pass from Grupp (kick wide).

**THIRD:** N-Sroba 57 run (Bahr kick); Sroba's 84 interception return (Bahr kick); O'Brien 8 pass from Grupp (kick wide).

### OFFICIALS

Frank Robidoux, referee; Jim McInerney, umpire; Bob Terry, head linesman; Roger Williams, field judge.



Courier Times photo by Mike Karnicky

**OFF AND RUNNING** — Neshaminy High School's Joe Sroba (left) is enroute to a 73-yard punt return touchdown early in last night's game

against Bensalem Township High School. Touchdown was second of five by the fleet Neshaminy back.

## Big 7 standings

League	Overall
W L T	W L T
Neshaminy	4 0 0
Pennsbury	4 0 0
Beth. Freedom	3 1 0
Easton Area	1 2 0
Allentown A.	1 3 0
Beth. Liberty	0 3 0
Allentown Dier	0 4 0

### WEEKEND RESULTS

Neshaminy 53, Bensalem Twp. 0  
 Bethlehem Freedom 21, Allentown Allen 20  
 Allentown Central Catholic 33, Allentown Dieruff 0