

Neshaminy wins, 20-6

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BETHLEHEM — Neshaminy High School has added another dimension to its powerful football program.

Already established as a dangerous club on dry terrain, Neshaminy proved to be equally as effective under adverse weather conditions here Saturday night at the Bethlehem School District Stadium.

Having to stick to the basics, the Redskins defeated a stubborn Bethlehem Freedom, 20-6, in a Mud Bowl battle before some 2,000 brave souls.

The Big Seven Conference victory was a vital one for Neshaminy. The once-beaten 'Skins, winners of eight straight, now own a 5-0 conference record, identical to that of undefeated Pennsbury High School.

Battle Royale

Who will reign as the 1972 champion this will be decided on Saturday, Nov. 18, when Neshaminy and Pennsbury, co-leaders among major schools in the Courier Times poll, battle in their annual extravaganza.

The unfavorable field conditions obviously hurt both clubs, but Neshaminy more so. The 'Skins had to shelve their potent passing game. Quarterback Bob Grupp went to the air lanes only four times, completing one and having another intercepted.

"The weather and field conditions definitely hampered our original game plans. Instead we had to stick to the basics. Our blocking up front and all around defensive effort made this win possible," said winning coach Jack Swartz.

Monster man Bob Miller was one of the first to express his distaste for the mud. "It was terrible out there. I had to tippy-toe my way through in that first half. Basically we were in a 5-2. They (Freedom) took advantage of my inability to roam in the second

LINEUPS

Neshaminy (20)

ENDS: Cliver, Gale, Larkin, Fox, O'Brien.
TACKLES: Coniglio, Esslinger, Hayes, Clark, Grinups, Strawbridge, Watson.
GUARDS: Boyles, Rosenblatt, Cook, Romett, Esslinger.
CENTERS: Eccles.
BACKS: Grupp, Bahr, Sullivan, Donahue, Sroba, Nathan, Connor, Smith, Tyrell, Correll, Miller, Conger, Stevenson.

Freedom (6)

ENDS: Kesack, Roberts, Baran.
TACKLES: Bowman, Seretz, Woomer, Frankeanfield.
GUARDS: Schwartz, Young, Tuskes.
CENTERS: Baran.
BACKS: R. Johnson, Wilson, Reinert, Horton, Dias, Hudak, Anderson, Glasmire, Schuck, Kvacky.

SCORE BY PERIODS:

Neshaminy	14	0	6	0-20
Freedom	0	6	0	0-6

SCORING

FIRST: N-Grupp 30 run (Bahr kick); Sroba 49 run (Bahr kick).
SECOND: F-Horton 1 run (pass failed).
THIRD: N-Sroba 12 run (kick wide).

OFFICIALS

Steve Martinec, referee; Joe Hospodar, umpire; Don Guman, head linesman; Jim Egizio, field judge.

STATISTICS

	NESH	FREE
First downs	11	8
Yards rushing	230	112
Passes attempted	4	13
Passes completed	1	5
Passes intercepted by	1	1
Yards passing	3	38
Net yards	233	150
Punts	4	x-5
Punting average	26	27
Fumbles recovered by	2	1
Yards penalized	0	15

x-includes one blocked punt.

period when they scored their only touchdown.

Move Pays Off

"In the second half though, we made some adjustments. I was moved to a linebacking spot and Clark (Ralph) took my place. This game me more freedom. But really, things got so bad, we couldn't even see who was carrying the ball. The coaches just told us to tackle anyone coming out of their backfield."

Grupp, who again proved his ability to run with the ball, gave the 'Skins their first score of the night on a 30-yard run around right end late in the opening period.

Grupp went back to pass but, seeing his receivers covered, rolled to his right and began his jaunt to paydirt. Twice Grupp appeared to be stopped enroute, but his ability to maintain his balance kept him going.

Joe Sroba, the area's leading scorer, accounted for the 'Skins final two touchdowns. Late in the first period, Sroba went off guard on a trop and rambled 49 yards for the score.

'Key Block'

"Cook (Harry) threw the key block to set me free," said Sroba, covered with mud from head to toe.

"Even though it rained throughout the first half, it wasn't that bad," kidded Sroba. "Things really got bad in the second half. Our biggest problem was making out which players were on which team."

Sroba's other touchdown came on a 12-yard run on a reverse off left tackle midway through the third period.

"When we scouted Freedom against Phillipsburg, they (Phillipsburg) scored on the same play. We thought if given the opportunity we'd also go to the reverse," explained Swartz.

'SKIN TALK' — The 'Skins final score was brought about when, after Neshaminy had punted on third down, reserve tackle Brian Esslinger recovered a Freedom fumble at the enemy 31. Swartz said, "we had planned to punt on third down in the third period, if we had long yardage to go."

Sroba now has 22 touchdowns, five more than his nearest rival, Dale Delise of Pennsbury. Neshaminy meets Council Rock on Saturday before its battle royale with Pennsbury.