

# Neshaminy vs. Pennsbury: Man for man

By RAY DILLISSIO  
Courier Times Sports Writer



PAGE 20 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1977

In just four days, the game everyone has been anxiously awaiting will unfold.

A crowd of near 12,000 is expected to jam the confines of Pennsbury High School's Falcon Field to witness the Battle of the Giants.

Undefeated Pennsbury (10-0) versus once-beaten Neshaminy (9-1), The Super Bowl of Lower Bucks County.

Plenty of prestige and two titles (Lower Bucks County League Section One and Big Seven) will be at stake when the two powers collide Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

The game marks Jack Swartz' final appearance as head coach of Neshaminy. For Chuck Kane, the game presents him the opportunity of possibly becoming the first Falcon coach ever to finish a season with an unblemished record.

Now a pre-game analysis of the game's probable starting players:

**Neshaminy Offense**  
Left End: Steve Gale (6-0, 175, sr.) — A consistently good blocker. Has excellent speed with a pair of gifted hands.

Left Tackle: Paul Grinups (6-2, 200, jr.) — A strong blocker whose biggest asset is his quickness. Replaced an ailing Jerry Coniglio (6-0, 205, sr.) the last few games. Coniglio, however, may see action if healthy.

Left Guard: Harry Cook (6-0, 200, sr.) — A good straight-ahead blocker. Has ability to pull out when needed. Provides good punt and pass protection.

Center: Mark Stevenson (5-10, 186, sr.) — Gets the job done. Gets quick jump off the ball.

Right Guard: Pat Romett (5-10, 175, jr.) — Has done fine job since called on to replace the injured Ron Rosenblatt (5-8, 160, sr.). Strong blocker with a good deal of quickness.

Right Tackle: Ben Watson (6-0, 205, sr.) — Probably the most

consistent offensive lineman for the 'Skins. Strong, very quick and has knack of picking up defensive changes quickly.

Right End: Tim O'Brien (6-0, 185, sr.) — Despite having average speed, can catch ball with the best of them. Has good hands and is a fine blocker.

Quarterback: Bob Grupp (6-0, 184, sr.) — Outstanding all-around football player. Great poise and speed. Threat to run or pass. Can throw long or short with accuracy. Good football sense.

Halfback: Joe Sroba (5-10, 180, sr.) — Does everything well. Blinding speed. Can make the big play either way. Top-notch receiver with all the moves. Rates among the finest breakaway runners.

Halfback: Mark Donahue (5-8, 170, sr.) — Not too big in size but has great desire and determination. Good receiver. Hard runner, picks holes well.

Fullback: Len Barker (6-3, 210, sr.) — Good speed despite size. Bruising runner. Excellent blocker.

Kickers: Grupp perhaps the best punter in Lower Bucks and the Big Seven. Brad Shenfelt (6-2, 180, sr.) has strong foot to put opposition deep in own territory on kickoffs. Matt Bahr (5-9, 150, jr.) a soccer-style kicker. Very accurate on placements. Can kick

field goal if need arises. Good range from within the 35.

**Neshaminy Defense**  
Left End: Bob Fox (6-0, 180, sr.) — Strong, can read play-action well. Has good speed.

Left Tackle: Mark Strawbridge (6-2, 210, sr.) — They don't come much better. Could go both ways if he had to. Extremely quick for size. Strong. One of the hardest hitters.

Middle Guard: Bob Miller (5-7, 185, sr.) — Calls defensive signals. Quick to read. Good lateral movement. A bruising tackler.

Right Tackle: Mike Hayes (5-11, 205, jr.) — Strong performer. Hard tackler. Gets job done.

Right End: Jack Wills (6-0, 190, sr.) — Consistently reliable performer. Has a good deal of quickness. Tough to get a shot at.

Linebacker: Frank Conger (5-8, 160, sr.) — Consistent tackler. Has good speed. Gets to zone very quickly on short passes. Has good football sense.

Linebacker: Ellis Connor (6-2, 170, sr.) — Has good range. Loves to hit and does so with authority. Can move to corner back if need arises. Good speed.

Halfback: Steve Gale (6-0, 175, sr.) — Only two-way performer for 'Skins. Quick to read. Reacts very well. Has good hands. Covers a lot of territory. Hits hard.

Halfback: Bart Smith (6-1, 170,

sr.) — Great speed. Has good hands. Covers a lot of territory. Hits hard.

Halfback: Don Driggs (5-10, 160, sr.) — Back from the injured list. Smart defensive player. Good speed. Seldom fooled.

Halfback: Bill Correll (5-9, 150, jr.) — Good reaction to passing situations. A strong tackler.

**Pennsbury Offense**  
Left End: Terry Hoffman (6-0, 185, sr.) — Better-than-average speed. Has good hands. Deceptive runner. Comes up with big play often. Real good blocker.

Left Tackle: Gary Metroka (6-1, 215, sr.) — Consistent performer. Experienced at position. Excellent blocker.

Left Guard: Gary Pasek (5-10, 180, sr.) — One of the smallest guards in the league but with great technique. Does everything properly. Great blocker. Good drive after making contact.

Center: Mike Page (5-9, 170, sr.) — Key to offense. Has timing down perfect. Good football sense. Gets quick jump off the ball.

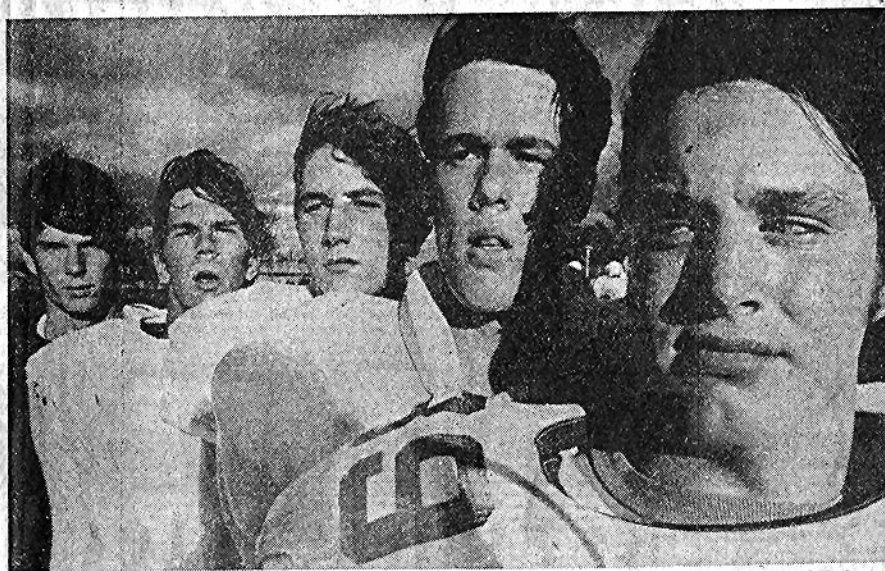
Right Guard: Pat Soriero (6-0, 190, sr.) — Strong performer. Vital man on potent Falcon trap plays. Has speed and ability to lead sweeps as well.

Right Tackle: Jim Kettles (6-3, 210, sr.) — Transfer from Indiana, but has learned Falcon system well. Very good blocker.

Right End: Don Breece (6-4, 190, sr.) — Has come on strong in latter part of season. Good speed and hands. Excellent in the clutch. Runs patterns extremely well. Very deceptive.

Quarterback: Gary Kutsmeda (6-0, 145, sr.) — After a slow start, has come on to do the job. Reads defenses well. Calls own plays. Throws with accuracy. Not much of a threat to run.

Halfback: Dale Delise (5-9, 170, sr.) — Elusive runner. Great balance. Good football sense. Knows when to make cut. Definite break-away threat. Usually comes up



Courier Times photo by Jay Crawford

**BRING ON THE REDSKINS!** — The undefeated Pennsbury Falcon defense braces for the Lower Bucks County League Section One showdown Saturday

against Neshaminy. (From left) Mike McGrath, Tim Miller, Warren Knop, Mike Caine and Kirk Harman.

Neshaminy leads series, 24-11

## Looking back to past games

By MIKE TASKER  
Courier Times Sports Writer  
"The Game" has finally arrived.

All the arguments will be settled on Saturday when Neshaminy High School treks to Falcon Field to play powerful Pennsbury High School to decide which squad is the Lower Bucks County League football champion this season.

Many comparisons have been made when someone tries defending why his or her team (Neshaminy or Pennsbury) will capture the all-important football classic.

Some cite Neshaminy leads the 42-year-old series 24-11, while Pennsbury supporters strike back with the fact that the Fairless Hills based school has won four of the last seven games played, including one tie.

**No Consequence**  
It seems no matter how you look at the game over the years, statistics, arguments pro and con are of no consequence in a game

of such magnitude. Last year Neshaminy came into the showdown boasting a 10-0 record and claiming it was the best in the state.

Obviously its convictions proved true as the Redskins went on to beat Pennsbury (9-1) in a 21-17 thriller, which really could have went either way.

Ironically, Pennsbury goes into Saturday's tilt with a 10-0 record, is considered one of the best clubs in the state, and Neshaminy comes into the clash with a 9-1 slate.

Who can you pick?

**Runaway Once**  
Out of the last 10 years the game has been a runaway once for each club in 1962 and 1966. Pennsbury has won by a 21 point spread in 1967, while all other games have had a seven point and below spread for the victor.

A look back through the past decade shows how the rivalry continues to receive top billing almost every season.

1966 — Pennsbury shook the foundations of the '66 LBCL football scene, handing Neshaminy an awesome whipping. This score marked the biggest output by either team in the 42-year-old rivalry. It also marked the first time the Falcons had beat the Redskins since 1957. Pennsbury 60, Neshaminy 0.

1967 — Defensive end Dave Billy and Mike Farley were the heroes for Pennsbury as they put two touchdowns on the scoreboard easily in the same quarter that chilly afternoon. Billy picked up a Redskin fumble and jaunted 68-yards to paydirt, while Farley recorded a 56-yard punt return. Pennsbury 28, Neshaminy 7.

1968 — Duke Baugher's foot proved to be the winning edge for Pennsbury as he kicked two extra points and a field goal. Pennsbury

1962 — Neshaminy exploded for 33 points in the second quarter. Junior Bob Baxter tallied four touchdowns for the Redskins and booted two extra field goals for a total of 26 points. Teammates Bob Barr notched two TD's and Bill Brundzo picked up one.

Neshaminy 51, Pennsbury 26.  
1963 — It looked like a repeat of the game played in '62 as Neshaminy jumped to 14-0 lead, but Pennsbury tied it up at the half. Pennsbury took the lead in the fourth quarter and failed to make the point after attempt. Bill Brundzo struck back for the Redskins with a 27-yard pass to Tommy Dee to knot the score at 20 all in the waning minutes of the game. Baxter, who was playing in his last year for the Langhorne based club, made the point after kick and won the game. Statistically, Pennsbury rolled up 337 yards and 23 first downs, as compared to 132 yards and four first downs for Neshaminy. Neshaminy 21, Pennsbury 20.

1964 — Neshaminy produced the same amount of points (14) as it did the year before in the first quarter. But in this game the Redskins had to hold on to the scoring edge for dear life. Bill Kaminski got six on a 39-yard run for Neshaminy and quarterback Jim Colbert sneaked over for the winning one point edge. Pennsbury had a chance to tie the game, but Bob Burkhart of Pennsbury dropped the chance on an extra point attempt as he fumbled. Neshaminy won the LBCL championship with the win. Neshaminy 14, Pennsbury 13.

1972 — Pennsbury 14, Neshaminy 13; Neshaminy 28, Pennsbury 7; Pennsbury 14, Neshaminy 14. What's your guess? Pennsbury —. Neshaminy —.

1973 — Pennsbury got the short end of the stick again. Gerry Barr scored with 7:36 left in the game from 48-yards out. The game marked four wins in-a-row for Neshaminy in the last four meetings with Pennsbury. Shouts of "We'll gettum next year" were heard from the Pennsbury fans as they filed somberly out of the stadium that day. Neshaminy 7, Pennsbury 0.



Courier Times photo by Mike Karnicky

**NESHAMINY DEFENSE** — This defensive unit hopes to make things tough for the Pennsbury offense Saturday when the Redskins travel to Falcon Field for the Lower Bucks County Section One show-

down. First row (from left) Jack Wills, Mike Hayes, Brian Esslinger, Mark Strawbridge, Bob Fox. Second row: Frank Conger, Mark Stevenson, Bob Miller and Ellis Connor.