

But one thing can't be

Opposing linemen have great deal in common

By JOE GROSS
Courier Times Sports Writer

Pennsbury High School's Gary Pasek and Neshaminy High School's Ben Watson who don't even know each other yet, will be "enemies" Saturday afternoon when the two schools meet in their traditional football rivalry. However, the two have a great deal in common.

Pasek was an All-Lower Bucks County offensive guard last year, Watson was an All-Lower Bucks offensive tackle. Neither gets a great deal of publicity since he is a lineman, and offensive linemen rarely get the credit due them. Both are seniors. Both want to be on the winning team Saturday.

"I'm really excited about the game," exclaimed Watson, taking a moment out from a tough Neshaminy practice session. "Even more than last year. I think the fact we're in the position Pennsbury was in last year makes the difference. This year Pennsbury is the unbeaten team and we have one loss. Last year it was the other way around."

Watson, who outgrew Neshaminy head coach Jack Swartz calls, "one of the best blocking tackles ever at the school," spoke rapidly, exhibiting a great deal of nervous energy in anticipation of the big game — THE GAME.

Pasek seemed to pick his words more carefully — speaking slower — as he discussed the upcoming battle. "I'd say the



GARY PASEK

game means more to me this year because I'm a senior — it's my last shot at Neshaminy. And, of course the fact we are undefeated makes it more important, too," explained the small, but tough, lineman.

"The same thing is at stake — Big Seven and Lower Bucks County League Section One championships — but it somehow has more meaning than last year."

Pasek noted, "there is more tension at practice this week. I, and I think most of the other players, are trying harder and doing better than other usually."

Both Watson and Pasek agree the Courier Times Football Poll



BEN WATSON

— which has their respective teams tied for the top spot among the major schools of the area—means little incentive-wise. "The ratings make no difference now," said Watson. "The titles at stake mean more than the poll," stated Pasek. "The poll champion will be decided Saturday."

Ironically, Pasek started his football career as a defensive tackle in fifth grade and didn't become a fulltime offensive guard until his junior year at Pennsbury and Watson was a defensive end until midway through his junior year when he made the switch to offensive tackle.

"I liked playing defensive

end," says Watson, "but I love playing offense. It seems a lot of the guys like defense better. Not me. I really love offensive tackle," reiterated the six-foot, 190-pounder.

That weight, by the way, is not the program weight, which brings up another point the opposing linemen have in common. "I'm really only 5-8 1/2," explained Pasek, "but Gordon Davies who played here a while back is smaller than me now and when he was a senior he had 5-10 in the program. I made a deal with the coach and I got a 5-10 in the program too." Watson is in the Neshaminy program as being a 205-pounder. Pasek tips the scales at "just about 165."

Watson, who lives in the Cobalt Ridge section of Levittown, like Pasek, has no friends or acquaintances on the opposing team. However Watson has taken a bit of chiding from a neighbor whose nephew is Mike Caine, the Pennsbury defensive lineman who will be playing over him.

"I don't actually know him (Caine), but I sort of feel like I do. I guess I'll meet him Saturday," said Watson with a smile.

Ben Watson and Gary Pasek are looking forward to the encounter of their teams — they can not personally meet on the field since both play offense — they both know the game will be a good one.

And each knows his team will win.



FALCON FRONT — The Pennsbury High School football team's offensive line is anxiously awaiting to show Lower Bucks County fans on Saturday at Falcon Field it's second to none — especially Neshaminy. They are (from left) Jim Kettles, Pat Soriero, Mike Page, Gary Pasek and Gary Metroka.

Courier Times photo by Jay Crawford



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Strengths complement weaknesses

"Skins and Falcons very even on paper

By ED CHRISTINE

Courier Times Sports Writer Statistically speaking, this year's Neshaminy-Pennsbury High School game should end in a draw. Each squad's strength appears to be the other's weakness.

But, as has been so often stated before, "for this game, previous statistics don't mean a thing."

A look at the charts shows the teams almost evenly matched offensively.

The Redskins of Neshaminy hold a slight edge in the passing department, due mainly to the pinpoint accuracy of quarterback Bob Grupp. Neshaminy has produced 1,282 yards through the air compared to 953 for Pennsbury. Grupp has 15 TD passes to Gary Kutsmeda's 12.

The Falcons boast a 168-yard bulge in rushing (1916-1749) and have outscored the Redskins on the ground, 32 TDs to 25.

Kicking has been a Pennsbury plus for the past few seasons, and coach Chuck Kane has another top notch booter in John Giordano.

Giordano has connected on 45 extra point attempts, and his five field goals are just one shy of the Lower Bucks County League mark.

In all probability soccer star Matt Bahr will handle the placements which Redskin coach Jack Swartz hopes will be many. Bahr has 23 PATs to his credit this sea-

son. Pennsbury's Mike Curley has punted 28 times for a 37-yard average, while Grupp has a 34-yard average for the Skins.

Neshaminy's Joe Sroba (140 points) and Pennsbury's Dale DeWise (124 points), the LBC's top two scorers, should also help make things interesting.

Neither team likes to cough up the ball as Pennsbury has commis-

ed only 14 turnovers to Neshaminy's 21.

In the most important statistic of all — points scored — Pennsbury leads 396-310.

Defensively, Pennsbury has almost completely stifled opponents' running games, while Neshaminy has been impenetrable through the air.

The Falcons have given up the fewest first downs, yards rushing, touchdowns rushing and total net yards. They have also forced the opposition to the punting lines 59 times.

The Neshaminy linebackers and secondary have given up less than five pass completions per game and have been "burned" only three times. The Redskins have also recovered more fumbles than the Falcons (15-12), but Pennsbury has given up the fewest points (164).

The Falcons have recorded four shutouts to Neshaminy's three.

The game should end tied because Neshaminy is strong in the passing department, while the Falcons secondary is seemingly weak. Pennsbury murders people on the ground, and the Redskins haven't handled the rush well. All things point to a high scoring deadlock.

But, don't bet on it. The game won't end tied if for no other reason than it's Pennsbury vs. Neshaminy.

Team statistics

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS		Nesh.		Penn.	
First Downs	31	41	31	41	31
Yards Rushing	181	192	405	181	192
Touchdowns Rushing	7	7	2	7	2
Passes Attempted	149	149	141	149	141
Passes Completed	47	65	62	47	65
Yards Passing	619	823	312	619	823
Passes Intercepted By	17	12	12	17	12
Completion Percentage	31%	46%	31%	31%	46%
Touchdowns Passing	3	6	6	3	6
Net Yards Allowed	1682	1234	1641	1682	1234
Fumbles	22	24	24	22	24
Fumbles Recovered By	15	12	12	15	12
Total Points Allowed	25	64	64	25	64

OFFENSIVE STATISTICS		Nesh.		Penn.	
First Downs	123	141	141	123	141
Yards Rushing	1745	1916	1749	1745	1916
Touchdowns Rushing	25	32	25	25	32
Passes Attempted	120	122	122	120	122
Passes Completed	68	59	59	68	59
Yards Passing	1282	953	953	1282	953
Passes Intercepted	6	6	6	6	6
Completion Percentage	57%	47%	47%	57%	47%
Touchdowns Passing	15	15	15	15	15
Net Yards	3630	2589	2589	3630	2589
Net Yards	28	28	28	28	28
Punting Average	34	37	37	34	37
Fumbles	15	15	15	15	15
Total Points Scored	310	396	396	310	396

Champion will be decided Saturday

Neshaminy, Pennsbury tie, but this is the last time

The tie lingers on for another week, but it's demise is imminent. After the five-week co-leaders, Neshaminy and undefeated Pennsbury, clash Saturday afternoon at the Fairless Hills school, only one team will remain atop the major schools in the Courier Times Football Poll.

That is, of course, unless the two teams tie in their last game of the season, a prospect which would cause cries of anguish to spring forth from partisans of both sides.

For both teams, a tie would be more painful than a Sunday sunburn, less appealing than cold oatmeal and more difficult to live with than chronic poison ivy on an unscrutable portion of the body.

A tie would mean co-championships in Section One of the Lower Bucks County Football League and the Big Seven Conference.

An even score would prevent either team from laying claim to LBC supremacy, and arguments would rage for years over who was better in '72.

Equal Again?

And finally, a tie would force the Courier-Times pollsters to cast

their first-place votes equally once more, for the sixth straight week.

Close games between the two have been the rule rather than the exception in recent years. Three of the last four contests were decided by less than a touchdown, while the other, in 1970, ended in a 7-7 tie.

MAJOR SCHOOLS		
Rank	School	Pts.
1.	(tie) Neshaminy (9-1) (5)	95
1.	Pennsbury (10-0) (5)	95
3.	Archbishop Wood (8-1)	80
4.	Council Rock (4-5)	69
5.	Bensalem (5-3)	58
6.	Bishop Egan (5-5)	52
7.	Woodrow Wilson (2-8)	41
8.	(tie) William Tennent (0-9)	25
	Delhaas (1-7)	25

SMALL SCHOOLS		
Rank	School	Pts.
1.	Jenkintown (8-1) (10)	100
2.	Bristol (6-2)	90
3.	Morrisville (4-5)	77
4.	Lower Moreland (3-5)	70
5.	George School (4-3)	63

Both teams lived up to their top billings last week, as Pennsbury swamped Reading, 63-0, for its 10th straight win and Neshaminy slammed Council Rock, 34-8.

Only two changes were registered among the major schools in this week's poll. Bensalem Township jumped from seventh to fifth by virtue of its 19-17 win over Woodrow Wilson, while Wilson fell to Bensalem's former position. And Delhaas, which lost to Lower Moreland, 7-0, cornered enough votes to tie William Tennent for eighth.

Archbishop Wood retained a strong hold on the third spot with a key 7-6 win over LaSalle in the Northern Division of the Philadelphia Catholic League. The win earned Wood a playoff spot opposite Bishop Kenrick for the Northern Division championship. The two will meet at 1 p.m. Sunday in Villanova Stadium.

No changes were made among the small schools.



Courier Times photo by Mike Karacis

SET TO GO — The Neshaminy High School football team's offensive line will be raring to go this Saturday as it tries to knock Pennsbury High School from the ranks of the unbeaten. They are (from left) Tim

O'Brien, Ben Watson, Pat Romette, Mark Stephenson, Harry Cook, Paul Grinups and Steve Gale.