

Dundala Makes 'Most Important Play'



Photo by Joshua Bernstein, of The Bulletin

Pennsbury's Jeff Fitz-Maurice is hauled down after short gain against Neshaminy.

By JULIUS THOMPSON

Of The Bulletin Sports Staff

With 0:27 showing on the scoreboard clock, Ron Dundala made the most important tackle of his life.

Dundala smashed Neshaminy's outstanding receiver Joe Sroba down on Pennsbury's 11-yard line causing a fumble which John Lerch recovered for Pennsbury.

Pennsbury ran out the clock and held off Neshaminy, 23-21, before Homecoming crowd of 11,600 at Falcon Field.

"I played off the block and dropped back into my zone," Dundala said. "I saw someone crossing in front of me. I just hit him. I thought something happened when I heard the noise. It really was the most exciting play of my life."

Win Two Titles

The victory gave Pennsbury (11-0) the Big Eight, Lower Bucks Section One Titles and the Falcons first undefeated season in the school's history.

"This resulted from lots of hard work for a lot of deserving kids," said Pennsbury coach Chuck Kane. "I thought they were charmed as usual," Kane stated. "I was thinking they would try a field goal and our missed conversion would be all the difference in the world."

Pennsbury's defense limited Neshaminy to 29 yards rushing and 199 passing. The Falcons caused three key

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turnovers in the second half. "We had some hard hitting and created mistakes," Kane said.

Miller Is Key

Part of the reason was the play of 6-1 212-pound defensive tackle Tim Miller.

"We just had to take it in and suck it up," Miller said. "That last series was the most important one of our careers. I think we hit them the hardest they've been hit all year."

Neshaminy (9-2), with only an opening loss to Bishop Egan, beat Pennsbury, 21-17, last year in the "Poll Bowl" to decide the number one team in Suburban Philadelphia.

"I saw Sroba, (Bruce) Taney score on my side last year, and I just wasn't going to let that happen again."

The defense was outstanding, but the offense opened with a surprise play.

Timing Demanded

"We put a little wrinkle with me going in motion," said half-back Dale Delise. "It demanded timing."

Delise, who finished second in scoring in Lower Bucks with 136 points, went off Pat Soriero and Jim Kettles blocks 73 yards on the opening play for a touchdown.

"I didn't get hit at all, I

just ran," said Delise, who gained 143 yards in 22 carries and scored two touchdowns. "That's the way to start."

Pennsbury ran off 18 offensive plays in the first quarter to Neshaminy's nine. The Falcons put together a 65-yard drive and when it stalled, big 5-11 245-pound tackle John Giordano responded with a 25-yard field goal with 1:22 left in the quarter.

The field goal was his sixth and set a new Lower Bucks season record.

Neshaminy struck quickly in the second quarter when quarterback Bob Grupp hit Joe Sroba on a 63-yard pass-run touchdown. Sroba broke two

pass with 12 seconds left in the half.

Neshaminy marched 56-yards in 13 plays with Grupp taking the ball over 5 yards on an option left.

With 9:54 remaining in the game, Dundala recovered a fumble on the Neshaminy 44-yard line. The Falcons drove 45 yards with Delise blasting over from the one giving Pennsbury a 23-14 lead.

Egan Transfer

On the kickoff Mark Donahue, who transferred from Bishop Egan, took the ball on his own 15-yard line cut-up the middle and then down the right sideline 85-yards. Brad Shenefelt was successful on his third conversion.

With the score 23-21 Jack Swartz, who will retire after this game as Neshaminy coach, was in a position to receive a pleasant gift.

Pennsbury took the kickoff and marched from their own 18 to the 28-yard line. After an 11-yard punt, Neshaminy took possession on Pennsbury's 39-yard line with 3:05 remaining.

In six plays Grupp moved Neshaminy to the Pennsbury 14-yard line. It was third down on the 10, when he threw left to Sroba.

Enter Dundala and the pressure save.

"I knew it was over as soon as I saw that," Kane said.

The most important play became the most important game.

Neshaminy 0 7 7 7-21

Pennsbury 10 7 0 6-23

P—Delise, 73, run (Giordano kick).

N—Giordano, FG, 25.

N—Sroba, 6, pass from Grupp (Shenefelt, kick).

P—Hoffman, 6, pass from Kutsmeda (Giordano kick).

N—Grupp, 5, run (Shenefelt kick).

P—Delise, 1, run (run failed).

N—Donahue, 85, kickoff return (Shenefelt kick).

tackles when he sped down the right sideline. He caught 10 passes during the day for 171 yards.

Pennsbury responded with a 45-yard drive in 11 plays with quarterback Gary Kutsmeda hitting tight end Terry Hoffman on a 6-yard touchdown