

Liberty, Neshaminy Collide in Key Tilt

Dieruff Entertains Pennsbury Tonight; Allen at P-Burg

Football championships are not won in the middle of the season, but frequently there is a major matchup at this juncture that gives the survivor a controlling interest in the crown.

Such a matchup is Neshaminy-Liberty, and these rugged rivals will do battle at 8 p.m. today in Langhorne, with the winner expected to either win or claim a share of the Big Seven Conference.

While the Hurricanes and Redskins clash for the conference lead, once-beaten Pennsbury visits Dieruff for a 7:45 game in

ASD Stadium, and neither team can afford another league defeat.

Allen, which has lost four in a row and faced Pennsbury, Neshaminy and Liberty on successive weekends, gets little chance to relax when it travels to Phillipsburg to take on the improving Stateliners in a Big Six game. Bethlehem Catholic tries to rebound from its only severe beating of the season — a 35-0 shellacking by Easton — when it entertains Pine X in BSD Stadium. The Royals also will be trying to bounce back after a

narrow 13-12 loss to P-burg last year.

These are the most interesting games on a 14-game schedule that includes two contests in the Lehigh Valley League, one in the Lehigh-Northampton, three in the Box-Moat and an inter-league mismatch that has high-scoring and undefeated Stroudsburg visiting Pocono Mountain.

Neshaminy, which is rated the No. 1 scholastic team in Pennsylvania, hasn't lost in a year, and the winner in that contest was Liberty. The Hurricane pounded out a big 23-6 decision a

year ago in winning nine of 10 games and the conference title.

The Hurricane is still winning this season, having lost only to huge Thomas Jefferson of Brooklyn by a single point (23-21), but victory has been hard-earned and narrow in most instances. The most impressive win, particularly from a defensive standpoint, was the 7-0 decision over Pennsbury, which a week earlier had scored 61 points against Allen.

Liberty has an excellent all-around quarterback in Richie Wescoe, a power runner in John

Jennings and a line halfback in Kevin Wescoe. Richie Wescoe and Jennings have scored five touchdowns apiece, while Kevin Wescoe has tallied three times.

Neshaminy, 3-0 for the season with a 23-point average, has excellent all-around balance, a superb passing combination and huge running backs.

Quarterback Pete Cordelli and end Dale Forchetti have hooked up for at least one touchdown in each game, with the Redskin receiver making a number of remarkable catches.

Giving the Redskins power

running are Bruce Tracey, who scored four times against Allen, and Pete Schupakus. Tracey is 6-2, 205, Schupakus 6-3, 210.

If Liberty faces a difficult task, so, too, does Dieruff. The Huskies came out of last week's game with Neshaminy with a number of injuries and the possible loss of four key players. Defensive halfback Guy Kuti is out for the season with a shoulder injury. Jim Gaycheck has a pinched nerve in a shoulder, John Boynton a wrist injury and Mike Zambelli a back injury.

Pennsbury once again is huge and has excellent running backs in Brian Fitz-Maurice (6-1, 180) and Dale DeLise (5-7, 180). The Falcons also boast fine passing directed by quarterback Jim Young.

Allen, young and inexperienced, has shown a steady improvement despite its murderous schedule. The Canaries have an outstanding runner in Mike Squires, who has scored three touchdowns, including a long punt return against Neshaminy.

P-burg, which bowed to Northampton in its opener 6-0, moved the ball well in a 25-18 loss to Brick Township, then last week turned in a strong defensive effort to knock off Freedom 13-7.

- Pennsbury vs. Dieruff at ASD Stadium 7:45.
- Allen at Neshaminy.
- Allen at Phillipsburg.
- Pine X vs. Bethlehem Catholic at BSD Stadium 7:30.
- Catskills at Emmaus.
- Stateliner at Northampton.
- Stroudsburg at Pocono Mountain.
- East Stroudsburg at Perkasie.
- C. B. East at Pennington.
- Fighting at Boyertown.
- Upper Merion at Quakertown.
- Perkasie Valley at Spanglers.
- Perkasie School at Green Lane Institute 10:00.
- Weatherly at Mt. Airy.