

OUT OF

Ben's Bullpen

By Ben Borowsky
SPORTS EDITOR



Story Behind Egan Victory

Don't read anything into Egan's 41-0 rout of Neshaminy last Friday night that doesn't belong there. In other words, Neshaminy isn't that bad and Egan isn't quite ready to take on the Texas all-state team.

Egan's football teams for years have "matured" slowly. Some put the blame on the coaching staff for failing to condition the team properly. I'm sure head coach Dick Bedesem thought of this angle, too. But after careful examination, he dismissed it.

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In past years, when he had the horses, his teams didn't seem to hit their peak until mid-season. Bedesem guessed at what the trouble was and decided to change tactics this year.

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For the past three years, Egan has opened against Neshaminy. The game in just a half-dozen years had built itself into a modern day scholastic classic. The Egan coaching staff couldn't sell their boys on the idea that the Neshaminy game was just "another" game, and that the league (Philadelphia Catholic) season was more important.

So Bedesem went along with the idea that Egan's football schedule must have two climaxes. The Neshaminy game and the league season. This year, we've learned, Bedesem brought his Eagles along at a slightly slower pace.

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They didn't get to contact drills as quickly as in past years. Bedesem wanted them hungry and at their peak for the Neshaminy game. In past years apparently, they reached their peak before making the journey to Playwicki Field. The Egan Eagles now carry an extra burden. They're the boys who knocked Neshaminy off, and every team they meet from now on will try to do the same to them.