

Stronger Bensalem out to avenge 42-14 defeat

By Wayne Fish
Courier Times Sports Writer

Raise your hand if you picked Bensalem Township and Neshaminy Langhorne to finish in a tie for the Lower Bucks County League football title. Okay, the two of you move to the head of the class.

As unlikely as it might sound (considering last year's records), the Owls and the Redskins will square off at Henry C. Morgan Stadium tomorrow night at 8 p.m. It's winner take all.

The game promises to be an interesting matchup. The two teams met earlier this season and Neshaminy came away with a 42-14 decision. Since then the Owls (9-1 overall, 5-1 in the LBCL) have steadily improved. But so have the Redskins (7-3 overall, 5-1 in the league).

"Yes, it should be interesting," said Neshaminy coach Charlie Schmidt. "They've improved quite a bit since the last time we played. Especially in their passing game."

Not much time

Both teams agree there isn't much time for preparation. Neshaminy Langhorne has the edge in this department, getting an extra day's rest after defeating Pennsbury last Friday night, 20-7. Bensalem played on Saturday, downing Neshaminy Maple Point, 14-7.

"That's probably the biggest problem we have now, the short amount of time," said Bensalem coach Bob Hart. "We had some kids injured in the Maple Point game (including defensive back Al Kramer, who broke a wrist), so it will be a disadvantage to us to play so soon."

"Kramer will be missed a great deal," Hart added. "He's not a very big player but he was probably the most consistent one we've had on defense."

Both coaches believe the recent emergence of Bob Dietz as the Owls' quarterback could play a major role in making the score a lot closer.

Stop Price

"We're faced with two problems," said Schmidt. "We have to stop the running game of (Eric) Price, which we did in the first game pretty well, and we have to stop the roll-out threat of Dietz. Their passing game has really come along with him in there."

"Dietz seems to be getting better and better with each game," said Hart. "He didn't come into his own until the Council Rock game."

Schmidt points to his offensive line as the catalyst for a strong second half of the season.

"They've really done the job for us — Chris Cechak, Alex Puketza, Steve Goodman, Bruce Moyer and Gary Ro-

"In the early part of the season, things were happening like the year before," he said. "We broke down once in a while. But we came back and have become much more consistent. It's not something that just happened overnight — it took a while."

Bensalem has also been a mild surprise and Hart keeps getting asked the same questions.

"They want to know how we stay in there with the size we have," said Hart, who once served as assistant coach at Neshaminy. "They want to know how after losing so many players from last year's football team we were able to do as well as we have done."

"The only thing I can answer with is size is not that big a factor. If you give them 48 minutes and they all stick together and concentrate on what they're supposed to be doing,

they seem to have a great deal of confidence."

Concerned

Hart is concerned about the 42 points Bensalem surrendered in the first encounter.

"It will be tough to stop Calkins, Horton and Valone. They are great running backs and have the ability to score when they want to. This is one of the most balanced teams Neshaminy has had in a while."

Regardless of the outcome, Hart admits this is the most satisfying season of his head coaching career (which spans six seasons, three at Delhaas, three at Bensalem).

"Mainly because not too many expected us to do that well," said Hart. "It's hard to explain but the team concept seemed to catch fire with our players. Whether that team concept is going to be able to stand up against players who are larger and maybe more talented, I don't know."

Stay tuned for a 'family feud'

By Steve Gordon
Courier Times Sports Writer

Tomorrow night's Lower Bucks County League football playoff game between Bensalem Township and Neshaminy Langhorne at Woodrow Wilson's Henry C. Morgan Stadium has a few strange twists in the coaching ranks.

Bob Hart, the head coach at Bensalem, was a Neshaminy assistant for several seasons before taking over the reigns at Delhaas for a couple of years and then moving to Bensalem three seasons ago.

And Joe Ramos is a former player under Hart at Neshaminy and has coached with Hart from Delhaas right over to Bensalem.

Meanwhile, on the Neshaminy side of the field, assistant coaches Jack Klebe and Eric Dietz are former Bensalem players and Dietz' brother, Bob, is the starting quarterback for the Owls.

"My wife teaches there (Bensalem) and my father works there as a maintenance man," said Klebe. "But as far as my coaching ability, my alma mater in a game that could give them their first championship (Lower Bucks County League), I haven't really thought about it."

"I am pleased that they have developed a good program," said Dietz. "I realize my brother is on the team and I am happy for him. He's a good athlete. But I have been at Neshaminy for three years now and the kids I coached as sophomores have developed and I am pleased with that too."

"We're having a lot of fun," Dietz said of his family still having ties to Bensalem while he coaches at Neshaminy. "They rib me a lot and there's a lot of excitement at home and I get on them about the 42-14 game we won during the season. But it's all in fun."

A 42-14 win is pretty one-sided and that's what happened when the two teams met during the regular season five weeks ago at Bensalem Stadium.

"That 42-14 game is forgotten. We're going into the game like we never played before," said Dietz.

That might sound like an unusual statement from the team that won the game until you understand the logic behind it. "The kids realize they had a few breaks in that game and they don't want to take ~~Ben~~ over them again."

"It has been blocked out of their minds and they are going into the game as if they were playing another good team," Dietz explained.

(Faunce) and some of the guys stop in once in a while," Sangillo said. "And I see Kenny (Kauffman) once in a while. We like to talk over old times." When Redskins of the 1953-54 era get together somewhere in the discussion the Bensalem-Neshaminy game comes up. "We talk about it," Fred said with a chuckle.

Tomorrow night Bensalem Township (9-1) will collide with Neshaminy Langhorne (7-3) in a playoff at Levittown Woodrow Wilson to determine the champion of the LBCL. The Owls and Redskins ended tied with 5-1 records. "I really believe it should be played off. It will be good for everyone and football," Sangillo said.

"Who are you going to pick, Bensalem or Langhorne?" Richie asked. "Langhorne already beat Bensalem once," Scott said. "Who will you pick?" Richie asked again.

Langhorne is the choice...the score is still being considered...Langhorne walloped the Owls 42-14 on Oct. 1...

HULMEVILLE'S NED MOYER has a deep interest in the Bensalem Township-Neshaminy Langhorne playoff. Ned's son Bruce is a senior offensive guard for Langhorne. Bruce is a 5-9, 170-pounder.

Ned played three campaigns for the Redskins, including seeing action in Neshaminy's 7-6 loss to Bensalem in 1953. Moyer was a sophomore then

changes coming in that direction. "You can say the information reaching your desk is that coach Chaump will be at Maple Point next year," Harry Franks, athletic director said.

Franks was referring to an article in the Sunday Courier Times that Chaump's coaching position could be in jeopardy. In three varsity seasons the Cougars are 11-19 including this year's 4-6 record. The published report also said Franks had given Chaump three

Pennsylvania State College football championships. Millersville will host Clarion for the title.

COACH DON COLBERT'S Hightstown (N.J.) High School is undefeated in eight games. His Rams (8-0) have qualified for the New Jersey playoffs in his second season as head coach. Colbert is a former Neshaminy High School player and brother to Neshaminy All-State quarterback Jim Colbert (1965). Jim is now a football assistant at Davidson.



BOB FRANTZ



FRED SANGILLO



KEN KAUFFMAN



NED MOYER

BENSALAM TOWNSHIP		NESHAMINY LANGHORNE	
13.....	Central Bucks East.....12	7.....	Bishop Egan.....12
15.....	Bons. Bonner.....7	14.....	Abington.....0
35.....	Mastbaum.....0	7.....	Frankford.....26
14.....	Nesh. Langhorne.....42	42.....	Bens Township.....14
14.....	Trenton.....0	19.....	Delhaas.....0
20.....	Delhaas.....0	0.....	Nesh. Maple Pt.....7
13.....	C. Rock.....0	55.....	Trenton.....6
10.....	Pennsbury.....3	34.....	W. Wilson.....15
17.....	W. Wilson.....7	14.....	C. Rock.....9
14.....	Nesh. Maple Pt.....7	20.....	Pennsbury.....7



Courier Times Photo by Harry Sircely