



Egan rides rocky road to victory

Courier Times photo by

Congested traffic

Egan's Joe Karpa (with ball) takes on a host of Neshaminy tacklers on Friday.

It seemed only fitting the band should play the theme song from "Rocky."

For although the challenger — Neshaminy Langhorne — didn't win the fight, it sure as Heartbreak Ridge made sure the champion — Bishop Egan — knew it was in one.

How in were the Eagles? Let Egan coach Bill Travers tell you.

"We were so pumped up that when we won the toss, our co-captain Cliff Hagan shouted 'We'll defend that goal!' And I wanted to have us receive."

That's the way it went, from start to finish... a throwback to the Egan-Neshaminy battles of yesteryear. It took an 11-yard pass from Mike Reil to Mike Seger with only 68 ticks of the clock remaining to end the struggle on Friday night, giving Egan a 12-7 decision in Langhorne.

Emotional game

It was a frustrating defeat for Neshaminy Langhorne coach Charlie Schmidt, who saw his young, underdog club rally from a 6-0 deficit in the fourth quarter to take a 7-6 lead with only 5:25 left. The loss was painful but the second-year coach had to be heartened by what he saw.

"It was an emotional game because of the tradition and the way the

Passes attempted.....	18	5
Passes completed.....	7	0
Interception thrown.....	0	0
Yards passing.....	133	0
Net yards.....	173	208
Punts.....	6	6
Punting average.....	28.3	29.5
Fumbles lost.....	2	1
Yards penalized.....	25	30

kids played," he said. "You saw how they put out the extra effort."

Schmidt, however, thinks his team's initial performance might have a positive effect.

"If we're strong, we'll recover from it (the loss)," he said. "We thought we played well...on the series after we scored we shut them down defensively. One of the kids came up to me after the game and said he was sorry. I told him he had nothing to be sorry about."

Seger's night

The play of Mike Seger, the senior split end whose brother plays running back, helped the Eagles avert an upset.

After a scoreless first half, which saw the Redskins' drive to the Egan 28 (second quarter) as the deepest penetration of the half, quarterback Reil connected with Seger on a little turn-out pass at middle'd halfway through

jaunt. The conversion failed but Egan held a decisive edge.

Neshaminy Langhorne refused to buckle. The Redskins drove into Egan turf in the third quarter and set up good field position for the fourth quarter.

Scoring drive

Neshaminy quarterback John Flaig mixed his running plays well as Tom Calkins, Steve Fario, Steve Walsh and Randy Valone shared the ball carrying load. A fumble recovery by Calkins at the Egan 38 with 10:50 remaining set up the 10-play scoring drive, with Valone hammering over from six on fourth down.

Not done

Neshaminy's Mike Ferri booted the conversion and the Redskins led, 7-6. But Egan wasn't done yet.

With 2:32 to play, Reil and Seger got their act together. In short order, Reil hit Seger with three quick "outs", good for 30 yards. Then a 22-yard heave to Len Rodak put the ball at the Neshaminy 11.

Reil misfired on a pair of throws, then found Seger free in the end zone for the game-winner.

"The out-pattern is the most difficult pass to throw but it's also the most difficult to defend," said Travers. "Especially against Mike, who

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