

Langhorne loosens CR's grip on crown

By Mike Ferretti
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The day before his team's game with Council Rock Friday night Neshaminy Langhorne's Jim Riley gathered the senior linemen for an informal meeting.

"I asked them to remember when we were all sophomores together," said Riley, a 6-2, 215 senior who is an offensive guard and defensive tackle. "I told them that everything we worked for for three years is on the line right now. I reminded them about all the sweating we did in summer practices and the good times we've had together."

Riley's oration apparently had an effect on his linemates. The defensive line accounted for one touchdown and the offensive line opened the holes for the other as the Redskins slipped past Council Rock, 14-9.

The win put the 'Skins into a first-place tie with Bensalem (which beat Woodrow Wilson, 17-7 Friday night)

STATISTICS		CR	NL
First downs	.....	11	12
Yards rushing	.....	101	133
Passes attempted	.....	11	12
Passes completed	.....	5	3
Interceptions thrown	.....	0	2
Yards passing	.....	89	58
Net yards	.....	190	191
Punts	.....	x-5	3
Punting average	.....	26.6	29.0
Fumbles lost	.....	0	1
Yards penalized	.....	105	51
x- Includes one blocked punt			

SCORING	
FIRST:	N - Janzer 4 run with blocked punt (Baun kick).
SECOND:	CR - Haydu 1 run (kick failed); Vattieri 36 field goal.
THIRD:	None.
FOURTH:	N - Fario 4 run (Baun kick).

for the Lower Bucks County League lead. Both squads are 4-1.

The loss dropped the Indians to 4-2 and greatly reduced their chances for a second LBCL crown in as many years.

Only can hope

"Now," admitted Council Rock coach Walt Snyder, "we have to hope."

Ironically, the Indians were in the driver's seat in Friday night's contest well into the fourth quarter.

Langhorne had opened the scoring with 9:31 left in the opening period when Riley blocked Tom Murray's punt at the Indians' four and Dan Janzer ran it in for the touchdown.

Dave Baun's point after kick was good and the score stayed at 7-0 until lightning struck late in the second quarter.

Redskins' quarterback Bruce Cordelli had problems with a handoff at his own four and the Indians' Tom Konowalczyk pounced on the loose ball at the one. Two plays later Council Rock quarterback John Haydu dove in for the touchdown.

Lee Martucci, who had suffered a bruised shoulder in practice and was unable to take his regular turn in the defensive backfield, missed on the extra point attempt with 55 seconds remaining in the half.

Field goal

Shortly after that Tim Sager intercepted a Cordelli pass at the Indians' 12 and ran it 50 yards to Neshaminy's 38. A facemask and offsides penalties against the 'Skins put the ball on the 18 and Bart Vattieri booted through a 36-yard field goal with just four seconds remaining to put CR up, 9-7, going into the half.

"They (Council Rock) did sort of control us the first half," Riley said.

"We wanted to open it up the first half," said Neshaminy coach Charlie Schmidt, "but we couldn't get the field position."

"Council Rock shut us off the first half. And we had penalty problems (51 yards worth) that kept pushing us back."

"But the defense played a clutch game and gave us the plays when we needed big plays. Going into the fourth quarter I felt one touchdown would win it."

Midway through the final period the offensive line started to bear down and open up the holes for running backs Tom Calkins and Randy Valone.

Final drive

Langhorne, with the aid of a pass interference call on a crucial third and nine play, drove from its 31 (where it took a Council Rock punt) to the Indians' five in 10 plays.

With 3:55 left in the game Steve Fario swept in for the winning score.

Riley and Steve Tibbles came up with back-to-back sacks on Haydu deep in Council Rock territory to put the icing on the cake with less than a minute to go.

Although the Council Rock quarterback did manage to complete a 22-yard pass to Bill Campbell with half a minute left it wasn't enough.

"Early in the game we gave them a touchdown, which hurt us," said Snyder. "That interference call also hurt us. It kept their momentum going."

"In the third quarter we started running the ball pretty well (the Indians reached the Neshaminy 19, but saw Haydu's pass into the end zone on fourth down early in the fourth quarter fall short), but we couldn't get that one drive to put it in."

"Council Rock was a tough team," said Schmidt. "But tonight there was no playing around. The kids really wanted this one."

Need proof? Just ask Jim Riley.

EXTRA POINTS: Council Rock, which is finished league play, must now hope that Neshaminy Maple Point beats Bensalem and Pennsbury beats Langhorne to create a three-way tie for the top spot ... The Redskins host Pennsbury Friday night ... Calkins was impressive, chalking up 44 yards on the ground for the 'Skins. Valone also played superbly, bursting for 57 yards on 13 carries ... CR's Campbell led all runners with 77 yards ... Don D'Amico also had an interception for the Rock ... Haydu's second quarter pass intended for Konowalczyk in the end zone (from the two with 8:06 left) was broken up by the Redskins' Fario.

COUNCIL ROCK

RUSHING: Campbell, 22-77; Franco, 13-32; Haydu, 10-(8), 1 TD.

PASSING: Haydu, 5-11-0, 89 yards.

RECEIVING: Konowalczyk, 1-27; Murray, 2-22; Campbell, 1-22; Randolph, 1-18.

NESHAMINY LANGHORNE

RUSHING: Valone, 13-57; Calkins, 10-44; Fario, 8-20, 1 TD; Bebey, 1-8; Horton, 2-5; Cordelli, 7-(1).

PASSING: Cordelli, 3-12-2, 58 yards.
RECEIVING: Hill, 3-58.