

# Riley's Memory Helps Neshaminy

By TED SILARY  
Of The Bulletin Staff

As Neshaminy Langhorne High prepared for its next-to-last football game of the season versus Council Rock, two-way tackle Jim Riley immersed himself in some heavy thought.

The 6-2, 215-pounder flashed back to three years in the Redskins' oft-successful past, two of which he experienced first-hand and another which he remembered vaguely because of an older brother, Ed.

"All this week," said Riley, "I just kept thinking about how my high school career was coming to an end and how important it was to finish on a strong note.

"Two years ago, (fullback-linebacker) Tom Calkins and I were the only sophomores on the varsity and we tied for the Lower Bucks League championship. Last year, we were the veterans on a very young team and we took a pounding, two-and-eight.

"I kept thinking about all the guys on those two teams and how none of them were part of a team that won an outright title. Anyway, the rest of the linemen and myself got together and we really set that up as our goal — to get a title for ourselves and also for the guys who had missed out on one.

"There was one other thing, too. My brother played for the last great team here (1971, 11-0, 21-17 win over Pennsbury as climax) and he's now a AAA pitcher at Denver in the Montreal chain. I wanted to be equal to him."

Phew! As you can see, Jim Riley had a lot on his mind but last night it didn't have a negative effect on his performance.

Riley looked impressive all night on

offense and racked up an eight-yard sack in the waning moments on defense to help the Redskins post a 14-0 triumph over the Indians, defending champions.

Langhorne (4-1 league) next Friday night hosts Pennsbury in its scheduled finale while Bensalem (also 4-1) travels to Langhorne's sister school, Maple Point, next Saturday. If each wins, there will be a first-ever playoff for the title the following weekend.

"We really got hungry as the season went on," said Riley, after clearing the way for Steve (Mario) Fario's game-winning three-yard touchdown with 3:55 remaining. "We lost our first game to Bishop Egan and we kind of rationalized.

"We thought we could have won, but we forgot about it right away. As a team, we set our sights on the league title and the coaches really worked us hard along the way."

After just 2:29 last night, the Redskins got an immediate break when Gerry Wright blocked a punt and Dan Janzer carried the ball in from the four. But 1:40 before the half, the breaks evened themselves out as Redskin QB Bruce Cordelli fumbled on his one and Indian QB John Hayburrowed in two plays later.

On Langhorne's ensuing fifth play Tom Sager managed a 50-yard return with an interception and it became a 65-yard play when the 'Skins were called for a personal foul. With time running down, Bart Vattieri crotted on for a 41-yard field goal attempt. But Langhorne jumped off anti Vattieri, moving in to 36 yards, making the score 9-7.

In the third quarter, The Rock moved as close as Langhorne's 12 while the hosts marched to the 18. Fario's TD capped a 68-yard, 18-play drive, one of which was a costly interference penalty.

When the game was over, second-year coach Charlie Schmidt was high in his praise of Riley.

"We knew Jim was good, but he's exceeded our expectations," Schmidt said. "Somehow he began to rally the other kids and make them perform better. He's not a rah-rah, he leads in a special kind of way. He binds the rest of the team together."

And when he's doing that heavy thinking, he also ties things in with the past.

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Langhorne (Neshaminy until three years ago) hasn't beaten Pennsbury since '71.

Council Rock	0	0	0	0-0
Langhorne	7	0	0	3-14

NC—Janzer 4 with 1 block/punt (Bacon kick)  
CR—Havens 1 run (Kick Schell)  
CB—Vattieri 26 FG  
RL—Fario 2 punt (Bacon kick)