

# Kapusta catapults unbeaten North Penn

The Knights senior came through on offense and defense in Friday's 29-6 win over Neshaminy.

By Rick O'Brien  
INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

LANSDALE — North Penn's Mike Kapusta thoroughly enjoys driving running backs into the ground and, whenever he gets the chance, carrying the football through the heart of an opposing defense.

Truth be told, though, some days Kapusta would prefer to be taking slapshots at a goal, hip-checking a player into the boards, and blazing past a lumbering defenseman.

"Yeah, I play a lot of roller hockey," Kapusta said after helping the still-unbeaten Knights surge past visiting Neshaminy, 29-6, on Friday night in a Suburban One League National Conference game at Crawford Stadium. "I've been playing the game for as long as I can remember."

Kapusta, a 6-foot-1, 215-pound senior fullback and middle linebacker, plans to play football in college. Wherever he goes, it's a good bet he will be taking a hockey stick along. The Lansdale resident and his older brother, Ron, play in a men's roller hockey league at Spring Valley Park in Montgomeryville.

"It's a lot of fun," Kapusta said. "My brother and I both enjoy it. It's a good way to unwind, burn off some energy or stress."

Kapusta made a team-high 10 tackles, including eight solo stops, as North Penn improved to 6-0 overall and 5-0 in the National Conference. The Knights kept pace with unbeaten Central Bucks West, a 17-0 winner at Council Rock, and kept alive a possible showdown for the league title when the squads meet Nov. 5 at War Memorial Field in Doylestown.

Against Neshaminy, North Penn — which has notched three shutouts and allowed only 15 points in six games — was clinging to an 8-6 lead at intermission. Meanwhile, the visitors had held standout senior tailback Hikee Johnson to 27 yards on eight carries.

With Neshaminy keeping Johnson in check, North Penn assistant Dick Beck suggested to head coach Mike Pettine that the Knights give the ball more to Kapusta.

Kapusta welcomed the increased work load, gaining 69 yards on 13 carries in the final two quarters. He scored from 2 yards out, leaping over a left-side pile of linemen, early in the third quarter. His 22-yard burst three plays earlier set up the touchdown.

Kapusta, usually a blocking back for Johnson, finished with a season-high 88 yards on 18 carries. The senior also rushed for a two-point con-

version after quarterback Joe Talese's 13-yard run in the first quarter.

"Neshaminy was doing a great job containing Hikee," Kapusta said. "The coaches decided to put things on my shoulders. That's a good feeling. I wanted to come through for them and my teammates."

Paving the way for his third-quarter touchdown, Kapusta rushed seven times for 50 yards. His first three carries of the 10-play drive were for 9, 5 and 10 yards.

"I was just trying to hit the hole fast, keep my legs pumping, and find daylight," Kapusta said. "We needed to step it up in the second half, and I think we did. The offensive line especially did a great job of opening up holes for the running backs."

The Redskins, trying to rebound from a 38-0 drubbing by West, made the score 8-6 midway through the second quarter on Chris Vincent's 62-yard touchdown jaunt. Vincent, a senior tailback who sat out most of the West game with an injured ankle, finished with 140 yards on 22 carries.

The visitors netted only 81 yards in the second half, all of them on the ground. They attempted eight passes in the game, seven by quarterback Kamal Woodson, and completed none.

"We knew that North Penn has a very solid offense," Neshaminy

coach Mark Schmidt said. "We were trying to control the ball, keep their offense off the field and our defense rested. That's why we didn't throw more."

Johnson (122 yards on 13 carries) broke through the middle early in the fourth quarter and went 80 yards for a touchdown. The Knights' fourth score came on a trick play, with Talese hitting a wide open Steve Francis over the middle for a 29-yard tally.

Francis is usually positioned at tight end. "They put me at left tackle," he said. "I just released outside, nobody followed me, and Talese put the ball right on the money."

Francis, who doubles as a linebacker, chipped in with seven tackles (six solo stops) and had a first-quarter interception. The squad's other senior linebacker, Mike Mohr, also was involved in seven tackles.

Kapusta said he maintained a 3.4 grade point average and had scored 1,410 (680 verbal, 730 math) on the Scholastic Assessment Test. He might turn to another sport after football season.

"I might wrestle this year," he said. "I wrestled when I was in ninth grade. If I do it, it will be just for fun. Nothing serious."

Neshaminy	0	6	0	0	—	6
North Penn	8	0	7	14	—	29

NP: Talese 13 run (Kapusta run)  
N: Vincent 62 run (pass failed)  
NP: Kapusta 2 run (Heinel kick)  
NP: Johnson 80 run (Heinel kick)  
NP: Francis 29 pass from Talese (Heinel kick)