

# Turnovers help Neshaminy dump Abington

By Rich Fisher

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LANGHORNE — The Neshaminy High football team is making a late push to salvage its season, although the biggest challenge to the reclamation project lies ahead.

For the first time this season, the Redskins have a winning streak — their 35-6 victory over Abington on Friday night was their second in a row.

But powerful North Penn, which will visit Heartbreak Ridge on Friday, will present Neshaminy (3-5 overall, 3-4 Suburban One League National Conference) with a somewhat more formidable foe than winless Abington (0-7, 0-7).

Coach Mark Schmidt knows that the Redskins have to put together 48 complete minutes to spring the upset.

"If we don't come ready to play, North Penn's going to smack us," Schmidt said.

"North Penn's a good team, and we really have to work hard and keep our heads up," said junior Chris Vincent, who scored two touchdowns. "We don't want to lose this winning streak."

Senior running back Mark Esposito, who rushed for 174 yards, including a 52-yard touchdown run, believes the Redskins are finally rounding into shape physically.

"Each game we go week by week," said Esposito, who missed two games with crushed ligaments in his ankle. "North Penn will be a tough game. I think we definitely have more confidence now, but we're not going to get a big head about it. We just want to build from this week's win."

Neshaminy survived a shaky start defensively against Abington, allowing the Ghosts 96 of their 137 rushing yards in the first half. But Abington beat itself with four turnovers in the game, including a killer on its first possession.

After driving to the Neshaminy 41, John Conner fumbled and Vincent picked the ball up and raced 55 yards for the score. Rob Fryer nailed the first of five extra points to make it 7-0.

Vincent made it 14-0 when he scored on a 3-yard run one play into the second quarter. Abington then drove from its 30 to the Neshaminy 8-yard line, but came up empty when a fake field goal turned into an incomplete pass.

Vincent's 40-yard kickoff return to start the second half set up Esposito's touchdown, which came on the first play from scrimmage. Quarterback Brian Sperling, whose 81 passing yards put him over 1,000 for the season, scored on an 8-yard run late in the quarter.

Abington's touchdown came when Doug Mouat recovered a Neshaminy fumble in the end zone after a bad snap on a punt attempt. The Redskins' final score came on a 5-yard run by sophomore reserve tailback Tyrone Daye, who gained

75 fourth-quarter yards.

Despite 288 rushing yards and 369 yards of total offense, Schmidt was less than pleased.

"I'm not happy with our consistency," the coach said. "When we have a chance to go out there and execute, we have to do it."

Conversely, Schmidt defended a defense that appeared susceptible to Abington's option attack.

"Tell me when Abington has not moved the ball," he said. "They scored 21 points against Norristown, they moved it against Council Rock. We made them make mistakes, we made them not execute. We bent, we didn't break. We made some things happen, put them in situations, and capitalized."

Abington	0	0	0	6	—	6
Neshaminy	7	7	14	7	—	35

N: Vincent 55 fumble return (Fryer kick).

N: Vincent 3 run (Fryer kick).

N: Esposito 52 run (Fryer kick).

N: Sperling 8 run (Fryer kick).

A: Mouat fumble recovery in end zone (kick failed).

N: Daye 5 run (Fryer kick).