

With its offense making noise at last, Neshaminy wins one

The Redskins were 0-2 and TD-less before Mike Weaver and Mark Esposito ran wild in a 20-0 victory over Bensalem.

By Jay Nagle
FOR THE INQUIRER

BENSALEM — Neshaminy finally found its way into the end zone Friday night. Not surprisingly, the Redskins also found their way into the win column for the first time.

Backup tailback Mike Weaver ran for 179 yards and two touchdowns on 21 carries and starter Mark Esposito added 98 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries as the visiting Redskins, their own worst enemies in two early-season losses, bounced Bensalem, 20-0, in a Suburban One League National Conference

football game.

Neshaminy (1-2 overall, 1-1 conference), which had managed a total of three points in setbacks by Allentown Dieruff and Central Bucks East, discovered its offensive rhythm against a Bensalem defense that was manhandled at the line of scrimmage.

Weaver, pressed into service after Esposito suffered a sprained left ankle on the second play of the second quarter, led the way.

Running through gaping holes, the 5-foot-11, 190-pound senior paced an attack that rolled up 428 yards of total offense, includ-

ing a staggering 369 on the ground.

Neshaminy amassed 21 first downs to the Owls' 10 and enjoyed a time-of-possession advantage of 8 minutes, 50 seconds.

Along the way, the Redskins' running backs carried the ball 52 times. Nearly one-third of those plays — 16 — produced 10 yards or more.

But the key, coach Mark Schmidt said, was Neshaminy's ability to take care of the ball.

The previous week, in its 35-0 loss to East, Neshaminy turned the ball over six times — three on fumbles, three on interceptions — effectively nullifying a 336-yard offensive outburst. On Friday, Neshaminy had one turnover.

"I'd like to think we were a better team than we showed the last two weeks,"

Schmidt said. "Tonight, we got some things done because we were able to hang on to the football."

Esposito, who is expected back for the Redskins' home game Friday night against Council Rock, put Neshaminy on top its first possession, racing in from 6 yards out to cap a nine-play, 69-yard drive. Rob Fryer added the extra point.

Neshaminy made the score 14-0 in the second quarter when it marched 85 yards in 11 plays. Weaver, who carried six times on the drive, went in from the 5 with 6 minutes, 38 seconds left in the second quarter. Fryer again kicked the point-after.

Weaver's second touchdown, a 3-yard burst with 8:44 left in the third quarter, ended any hopes Bensalem had of a come-

back. The point-after attempt failed.

Bensalem's loss was its second straight after a season-opening victory against Archbishop Wood. It left coach Biz Keeny searching for answers.

The Owls (1-2, 0-2), who also were shut out at Council Rock in their previous game, have not scored a point in their last eight quarters. On Friday, they got 132 yards on 22 carries from tailback Carlos Hernandez, but little else.

"Obviously, we have to find a way to put some points on the board," Keeny said.

Neshaminy	7	7	0	6	—	20
Bensalem	0	0	0	0	—	0

N: Esposito 6 run (Fryer kick)

N: Weaver 5 run (Fryer kick)

N: Weaver 3 run (kick failed)