

# Neshaminy keeps focus as C.B. West enters the picture

By Rich Fisher

INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

LEVITTOWN — Thanks to the proverbial "one-game-at-a-time" attitude adopted by the Neshaminy football team, Central Bucks West will not be the only undefeated team on the field Friday night at Harry Franks Stadium, better known as Heartbreak Ridge.

The Redskins have arrived at the toughest part of their schedule with a 4-0 record (3-0 Suburban One League National Conference) after defeating Harry S Truman, 35-7, in Friday's conference game at Henry C. Morgan Stadium.

Next up is a home game with West, followed by a visit to North Penn on Oct. 8.

Back-to-back games against two of the state's top teams could offer an excuse to look ahead, but Neshaminy has lived in the present.

"Every week, our players keep saying, 'One game at a time,'" said Chris Vincent, who rushed for 176 yards and three touchdowns against Truman. "You don't think about the future. You focus on one team a week and take it as it comes."

Neshaminy may have done a little peering ahead against Truman (1-3, 1-2) — the Redskins jumped to a 14-0 lead but led by only 14-7 at halftime.

"That wasn't C.B. West coming into play," linebacker-fullback Mike Crompton said. "We were still focused on Truman. I was in the huddle all the time, and it wasn't cockiness. We just started beating on ourselves, arguing in the huddle."

"They were trying to get in our heads, talking and stuff. We were trying to get them out of our heads and stay focused. You can't beat C.B. West by playing Truman, so you concentrate on Truman."

The Redskins' 14-0 lead came on first-quarter touchdown runs by Crompton and Vincent. After Vincent's TD, Truman's first play from scrimmage produced a 71-yard scoring run by Rondell Bradley to make the score 14-7. The play came on a double reverse, as the usually pass-happy Tigers stuck to the run in the first half.

"We kind of ran to throw off some tendencies, catch them by surprise," Truman coach Galen Snyder said. "Dropping back to pass didn't seem to work for C.B. East and Council Rock against Neshaminy. We didn't think we were going to drop back and pass with success. They're very aggressive on defense, and sometimes you can catch them."

"We did some things we thought would work, but what can I say? They're a good team and play good defense."

Neshaminy's offense went flat in the second quarter, though, leading to some rowdiness in the locker room.

"We closed the doors and it was all out," Crompton said. "There were questions, and we answered them in the second half."

What sort of questions?

"What's going on?" Crompton said with a laugh in providing an example. "We beat them off the line of scrimmage, but every time, they'd get one guy free. There can't be any guys messing up. Just do your job, and only your job."

Neshaminy responded with a dominating second half, as Vincent had touchdown runs of 12 and 5 yards and reserve Matt Cariola scored on a 35-yard run. Rob Fryer finished 5 for 5 in PATs.

Defensively, the Redskins surrendered just 115 yards, with Bradley gaining 109. They gained 310 of their 353 yards on the ground.

"We want to put teams away in the first half," said Vincent, who is a cousin of Eagles cornerback Troy Vincent. "I was disappointed at half-time, but we made some adjustments and we won."

That added more luster to Friday's game than there was last year, when Neshaminy carried a 1-3 record into its game against C.B. West. Coming off a 3-7 season, the Redskins already have surpassed their 1998 total.

"Leadership is the big difference this year," Crompton said. "There's not all these different cliques. There's one clique. We're all friends."

"We know what's in each other's heads when we're on the field. We know who's doing what. I know that one guy will be there and I can go here. We're doing our jobs, not everybody else's."

Neshaminy will need its best effort against West, which crushed the Redskins by 42-14 last season.

"They're a well-coached team," Vincent said. "They have great discipline and they get off the ball well. We can't give them any chances to put us away. We have to watch the penalties and be tight on everything, because they take advantage of everything you give them."

"We've kept our heads straight so far," Crompton said. "West always has heart. They've got the biggest heart anyone in football can have right now. We just want to get after them and play Redskins football."

Which means focusing on the task at hand.

The time has come to focus on Central Bucks West.

Neshaminy	14	0	7	14	—	35
Harry S Truman	7	0	0	0	—	7

N: Crompton 15 run (Fryer kick)

N: Vincent 29 run (Fryer kick)

T: Bradley 71 run (Onal kick)

N: Vincent 12 run (Fryer kick)

N: Vincent 5 run (Fryer kick)

N: Cariola 35 run (Fryer kick)