

Council Rock nips Neshaminy by 14-13 despite its mistakes

By Rich Fisher

INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

LANGHORNE — The Council Rock football team was called for 65 yards in penalties, missed two field goals, and coughed up a kickoff at its own 22.

Despite all that, Neshaminy fourth-year coach Mark Schmidt was the one shaking his head and calling it "the worst loss I've ever had since I've been here ... there were four different ways we should have won that game."

The Indians overcame their mistakes for a 14-13 win over Neshaminy Friday night in a Suburban One League National Conference game.

Harry E. Franks Stadium, known more commonly as "Heartbreak Ridge" for opponents, broke the home players' hearts this time. After the Redskins' Antoine Lovelace caught an 8-yard touchdown pass from Brian Sperling with 1 minute, 54 seconds remaining, a tie seemed inevitable — until Pat Dougherty blocked Mike Malen's conversion attempt.

"Nobody blocked me, I had a clear run," Dougherty said. "The wing acted like he was tight, but he went out and blocked the other guy so I ran in between them."

A frustrated Schmidt tried calling a time-out before the PAT to go for two points, but no one heard him.

Neshaminy (1-3 overall, 1-2 conference) had one last chance when Council Rock (3-1, 2-1) turned it over on downs at the 'Skins 41 with 13 seconds remaining.

A 22-yard completion to Lovelace put it at the 37, but an incompleton and sack ended it.

"We almost butchered it at the

end — that was my stupidity letting them get the ball back — but the kids bailed me out," Council Rock coach Mike Ortman said. "It was a good win, but the kids are unhappy with the way they played. We're doing things we shouldn't be doing."

The Indians' good news was the return of Adam Wade to full strength and a return to the end zone after an 11-quarter drought.

After Neshaminy took a 7-0 lead on Lovelace's 5-yard TD reception, Wade scored on touchdown runs of 13 and 2 yards in the first and second quarters. They were Rock's first TDs since its opening drive of the season.

Wade finished with 128 yards on 25 carries after a knee injury limited him to four carries the previous two games.

"It felt great for me and the whole team," said Wade, who is headed for Duke next year. "Not seeing the end zone after that first drive of the season is ridiculous. We've had so many opportunities and we just couldn't put it in."

Council Rock came up empty three times inside the 25, but it turned the tables on Neshaminy to start the second half. After Dan Morganti recovered a fumbled kickoff at the Rock 22, the Redskins eventually moved to first and goal at the 1-yard line but were stopped four straight times.

"Our defense came up big in a lot of different situations tonight," Ortman said.

Council Rock	7	7	0	0	—	14
Neshaminy	7	0	0	6	—	13

N: Lovelace 5 pass from Sperling (Malen kick)

C: Wade 13 run (Stapleton kick)

C: Wade 2 run (Stapleton kick)

N: Lovelace 8 pass from Sperling (kick failed)