

## Football Notebook

# Lovelace's good hands save Neshaminy

By Frank Bertucci  
INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

Antoine Lovelace always thought of himself as a basketball player first, so he was a bit bemused when Northwestern offered him a football scholarship last summer.

The Neshaminy senior accepted, made football his focus, and has been putting together a solid season despite the Redskins' 2-5 record.

With five pass receptions, two for touchdowns, in Neshaminy's 21-14 win over Truman on Saturday, the 6-foot-2 Lovelace has caught 28 (five for TDs), just eight below his total for last season.

"Now I'm going against double and triple coverage," Lovelace said. "Last year, I don't think anyone knew who I was."

"Antoine's been seeing different looks this year," Neshaminy coach Mark Schmidt said. "We have to get him open. We've changed formations, put him in motion."

"He's starting to understand football. Last year, he freelanced more. Now people know he's got to be taken care of."

"He had two TDs against Truman, but he made the biggest play of the game in the fourth quarter. We needed eight yards for a first down, Antoine got nine, with two guys coming right at him. We got the first down and never gave them the ball back."

Neshaminy suffered tough losses to two of the stronger teams it has faced. Council Rock beat the Redskins by one point and Norristown defeated them by three. Lovelace may have been at his best in those two games, with a total of 11 receptions covering 155 yards, with two TDs against Rock.

He also has had to learn to work with a new quarterback. Jim Dietz has gone off to Lafayette after passing for more than 4,000 yards in two seasons. The new Neshaminy quarterback, Brian Spertling, passed for fewer than 100 as Dietz's backup last season. But Spertling is just short of 1,000 yards for this season going into Friday night's home game with Abington.

"He's looking for me," Lovelace said. "He's finding more ways to get me the ball."

**Pushing Troy.** Norristown's Troy Swittenberg credits his backup, Audley Stewart, with helping him get the big rushing yardage he has been getting.

"Audley makes me work harder," Swittenberg said after he rushed for 179 yards and two TDs in the Eagles' 12-10 win over Central Bucks East on Saturday. "He's the most versatile player on the team."

Stewart, a senior, stepped in for an injured Swittenberg, a junior, against Bensalem on Oct. 2 and rushed for 239 yards and three TDs. Against East he gained 36 yards on six rushes.

Swittenberg now has gained 858 yards rushing this season, lifting his two-season total to 2,331 yards.

"I've got a lot of weapons," said Norristown coach Roger Grove. "I have to get them all involved."

With a 6-1 overall record, 5-1 in the league, the Eagles are tied with C. B. East and North Penn for sec-

ond place behind Central Bucks West in the Suburban One National Conference, and in the District 1 Class AAAA playoff standings. Those three teams can't afford a second loss, but one will get that on Friday night because East hosts North Penn.

Norristown, with all of it weaps, has a tough test of its own against Council Rock, which has finally come to life with two straight 24-point wins.

**Young guns.** Methacton is a surprising 3-4, and leads the Suburban One American Conference's Freedom Division with a 2-0 record.

And the Warriors have done it behind one of the youngest teams in the area.

Sophomore Jeff Brennan starts at quarterback, with another sophomore, Jason Adamek, lined up behind him at halfback. Freshman A. J. DiNardo is a wide receiver, and another sophomore, Scott Thompson, starts at tight end.

Brennan has thrown seven touchdown passes, while Adamek has run for three TDs, scored another on a reception, and passed for three more.

"The last time I played as many sophomores was 1974," Warriors coach George Marinkov said. "These kids are great natural athletes. I feel very comfortable going with them the rest of the year."

But Brennan and Adamek have not been the only sophomore backs who have been lighting things up in the American Conference this season. Pennridge's Jason Rhoades and Bob Travaglini at Plymouth-Whitemarsh have emerged as the top ball-carriers for their teams.

**Records.** Central Bucks West's 62 points against Bensalem on Friday night was a record for the Bucks, breaking the one-game mark of 59 against Upper Darby, which had stood for 43 days.

West beat Upper Darby, 59-7, in the season opener.

Pennridge took a lot longer, 64 years, to reset its one-game scoring mark.

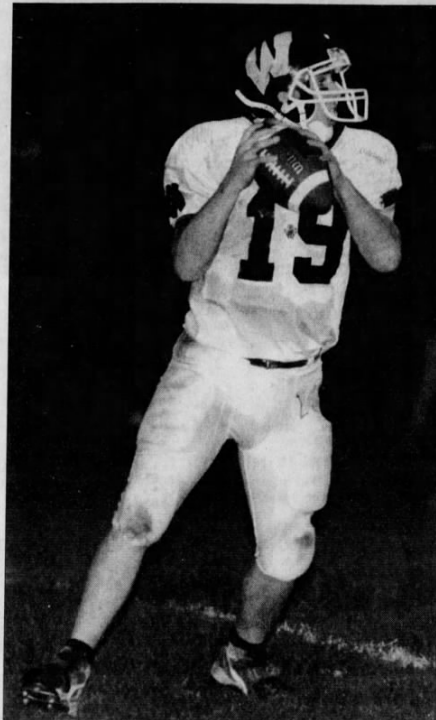
The Rams' 61-0 win over Wissahickon on Friday bettered the former record of 55 set against Souderton in 1934.

**Three straight for George.** George School rolled to its third consecutive win, 32-20, at St. Andrews School in Middletown, Del., on Saturday, three weeks after the Cougars ended a 16-game losing streak.

The Cougars (3-3) fell behind on the game's first play from scrimmage, but senior quarterback Chris Haines passed for two TDs (22 yards to Shaun Greene, 45 yards to Eric Mount), and fullback Andy Ambler rushed for two more TDs to clinch the victory.

Haines completed 9 of 20 passes for 166 yards, and sophomore Greene rushed for 109 yards on 16 carries.

The game was the Cougars' last against a private school this season. They will host Bristol and Lower Moreland on the next two Saturdays.



For The Inquirer / JOAN FAIRMAN KANES

**Brian Hirschmann of Archbishop Wood** looks for a receiver against Conwell-Egan. Wood won Saturday night's game, 12-0.

## Montgomery and Bucks County Football Top 10

Rk.	Team	Rec.	Comment
1.	C.B. West	7-0	The Bucks have scored more than 50 points 3 times; they will visit Truman on Friday.
2.	North Penn	6-1	The Knights and 1,000-yard rusher Hikee Johnson face a major test Friday at C.B. East.
3.	Norristown	6-1	The Eagles' balanced run-pass attack will play at suddenly resurgent Council Rock on Friday.
4.	C.B. East	6-1	Injuries are taking a toll on the Patriots, who will host North Penn on Friday.
5.	La Salle	6-0	The Explorers can clinch a Catholic playoff berth by beating winless Dougherty on Saturday.
6.	Pennridge	6-1	The Rams set a school record with 61 points vs. Wissahickon; next is Cheltenham on Sat.
7.	Lansdale Catholic	6-1	Joe Judge has impressive passing numbers for the Crusaders; they host Pottsgrove on Friday.
8.	Ply.-Whitemarsh	5-2	Playoff hopes are fading as the Colonials travel to Quakertown for a Friday game.
9.	Perkiomen Valley	6-1	The Vikings look like a sure AAA district playoff team. They visit St. Pius X on Saturday.
10.	William Tennent	5-2	Thousand-yard rusher Phil DeCecco will go for more Friday against Souderton.