

## **Neshaminy, George School making a statement in boys basketball**

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One month into the season, 11 of the 13 Lower Bucks boys basketball teams are at or below .500. But two Lower Bucks teams — Neshaminy and George School — are well above .500, and playing great basketball, as conference play kicks into high gear.

Neshaminy is 8-2 overall and 2-1 in SOL National play. George School (7-3) has won seven of eight since starting 0-2.

Neshaminy is doing exactly what everyone expected, riding one of the area's best players, Chris Arcidiacono, and developing his supporting cast, specifically fellow seniors Danny Bodine, Charles Dominick and Anthony Papeo. Arcidiacono is averaging 25.7 points, 7.2 rebounds and 3.4 assists per game. No one else is averaging double-digit points, but Dominick and Papeo are both averaging more than eight, and Dominick is shooting an eye-opening 54 percent (21-of-39) from three-point range.

Neshaminy was at its best in a 68-54 win over Council Rock North on Tuesday night, with those four seniors all scoring in double figures. But the way it looked jumped out more than the final statistics. Neshaminy played a modern, drive-and-kick style that many college and NBA teams play now.

Arcidiacono played the ball-handling, creator role, driving the lane for high-percentage shots or kick-outs to open shooters, Dominick and Papeo, who continuously circled the three-point line. Bodine, a 6-foot-8 center with good hands, also gave Arcidiacono a drop-off option in the paint. It was a pleasing style to watch, and it could take Neshaminy far this year.

George School, since it's not in a league with any other area teams, is flying under the radar, but the Cougars are deep and multi-faceted.

Charlie Trey-Masters, a 5-foot-6 spark plug, is equal parts shooter and creator, making at least three threes in three different wins, posting five assists in two other wins. Masai Olowokere, Max Malavsky, Nazim Pierre and Darrell Edwards have all proven capable of scoring double-digit points and grabbing double-digit rebounds.

Just as Neshaminy was at its best in a recent win over CR North, George School clicked on all cylinders in a 72-60 win last Saturday over Cristo Rey. Trey-Masters dropped 22, including five threes. And Olowokere (18), Pierre (14) and Malavsky (13) combined for 45 points.

Now you know about the Cougars. Keep an eye on them as the season continues.

### **Lower Bucks Catholic League players lighting it up**

Archbishop Wood (4-4, 1-0 PCL) and Conwell-Egan (3-4, 0-2 PCL) are both at or near .500 after one month of boys basketball. Both teams challenged themselves with difficult nonconference schedules, which should prepare them for league play over the next month or so.

Four players, two on each team, specifically, are thriving and should remain among the PCL elite as the season continues. Wood seniors Andrew Funk (18.7) and Tyree Pickron (18.6) are both averaging almost 19 points per game, forming the best backcourt duo in Lower Bucks. Conwell-Egan senior Patrick Robinson leads the PCL in scoring, averaging 23.8 points per game, and teammate Eric Esposito is averaging 17.4 points.

Robinson and Pickron both averaged double figures last year, so this is nothing new. Both are just better and more prolific in 2017-18. Funk and Esposito did not put up nearly this many points a year ago, as both have improved and stepped into larger roles created by departed teammates.