

Neshaminy hires Winter

By TOM WARING
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Dan Winter's Neshaminy wrestling roots run deep.

Winter grew up wrestling for the youth team, spent four years on the high school varsity team and was an assistant coach for the last four years.

On Friday (5/30/08), he was named the Neshaminy High School head coach, replacing Mike Ortman Jr., who resigned to spend more time with his family.

"It feels really good," Winter said. "I grew up through the system, and it's nice to come back to the place I went to school."

Winter, 27, is a 1999 Neshaminy graduate who works in the science department for the school district. He wrestled for coaches Ed Curran and Vic Stanley. As a freshman, he was a member of a Suburban One League championship team. As a senior, he was captain and part of a squad that captured the Class AAA Southeast Regional. He finished 28-7 that year at 145 pounds, winning a match at the PIAA tournament.

At Lycoming College in Williamsport, he wrestled for Roger Crebs, a former coach at William Tennent, and earned a degree in biology in 2003. He was a two-time captain and two-time Division III Academic All-American. He went 10-1 as a senior at 165 pounds before a back injury ended his career.

Neshaminy hadn't won an SOL championship since Winter's freshman season until this year's improbable run to a co-National Conference championship with Penridge.

"That was a great championship," Winter said. "The kids worked so hard, and Mike did a great job rallying the troops."

Winter, who lives with his wife Leah in Warrington, expects assistants Neal Oberto and Kevin Romano to remain on staff. The Redskins will spend the summer at a camp at Kutztown University, competing in a dual meet league and focusing on conditioning and lifting weights.

Top returnees include Nick Russell, and Winter likes what he sees of the middle schools and upcoming freshmen.

"We'll have a young team and we'll build off the success of last year," he said.