

# Championship

## 2003 North Penn Knights vs. 1987 North Hills Indians

PLACE: HERSHEY PARK Stadium, Hershey, PA  
TIME: 1:00 PM  
TEMP: 21 F  
COND: Light snow  
WIND: 0-10 mph; NW  
LINE: North Hills by 4-1/2

### Indians Prevail over North Penn

What happens when you play a defense that takes away everything?

Answer: 177-yards of total offense, seven-points (32.6 under your average) and a 14-7 defeat.

The defense, the 1987 North Hills Indians, is arguably one of the best in high school history. Their opponent, from frigid Hershey, PA last night in the All-Time championship game, was the high-powered 2003 Knights of North Penn. NP averaged over 300-yards rushing per game, but was swarmed and smothered into a meager 151-yards in 43-attempts (3.5-yards per rush).

North Hills initial score was setup by a 56-yard punt from Jason Bender that pinned the Knights at their own one. On second down still at the one, NH's Gary Gorajewski shot through and dropped North Penn FB Jim Casertano in the end zone for a 2-0 Indians lead with 1:27 remaining in the first quarter.

Midway through the second quarter, North Penn marched to the Indians' one, but on first-and-goal, TB Kevin Akins was tackled for a two-yard loss. Then on second down, LB Eric Renkey stripped QB Adam Hearn on an option run with Jim Lash recovering for North Hills.

Still leading 2-0 at the start of the third, North Hills faced a fourth-and-inches at their own 29 on the opening series of the half.

A huge gamble by coach Jack McCurry failed as North Penn LB Andrew Brown blasted in and brought QB Greg Morris to the ground at the Indians' 27.

A pass interference penalty put the ball at the NH 14, where WB Jim Laky toted it in, giving the Knights a 7-2 advantage, 2:11 into the third.

Moving to the fourth, North Penn was ready to punt on fourth-and-seven from their own 37, but Tom Cohan blocked the kick and fell on it at the NP 28.

From there, North Hills navigated the short field in six-plays with Duane Hitchcock crashing over from the two with 5:30 to go in the game. Morris's pass was incomplete, keeping the score at 8-7, Indians.

The Knights used 14- and 15-yard rushes on their ensuing possession to move the ball to the NH 45, but faced a fourth-and-ten with just over three-and-a-half minutes left.

With all three timeouts, NP decided to punt and pin the Indians deep in their own territory.

Instead, another special teams mishap (a low, bouncing snap) resulted in a six-yard loss for North Penn.

NH took advantage and marched 49-yards in eight-plays, culminating with a two-yard touchdown run by Morris, to give the Indians a 14-7 lead with 1:13 remaining. A key play on the drive was a personal foul face-mask penalty against the Knights on third-and-nine that gave North Hills a first down.

The point-after was blocked, keeping the margin at seven, 14-7.

North Penn got a 30-yard return from Akins that gave the Knights the ball at the NP 43.

The Knights maneuvered to the Indians' 39, but faced a third-and-six with :24 seconds left

and zero timeouts.

Hearns was pressured by NH's Mark Ellermeyer and flipped the ball back to Akins. But unlike the magic produced in their semifinal victory over 1971 Neshaminy, the Knights ran out of good fortune when the tournament's Most Outstanding Player (Eric Renkey) tackled the North Penn runner at the Indians' 36.

The Knights hurried to the line on fourth down. They snapped the ball in time, but Hearns throw was knocked down by Chris Cisar at the 15, allowing North Hills to take home the title as Pennsylvania's Greatest Ever.

**MOP: North Hills' LB, Eric Renkey**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>T</b>
North Penn	0	0	7	0	7
North Hills	2	0	0	12	14

**Scoring summary-**

- 1st-  
NH- 01:27- Safety, Jim Casertano tackled in end zone; 0-2
- 2nd-  
no scoring
- 3rd-  
NP- 09:49- Jim Laky 14-yard touchdown run (Jon Striefsky kick); 7-2
- 4th-  
NH- 05:30- Duane Hitchcock 2-yard touchdown run (pass failed); 7-8  
NH- 01:13- Greg Morris 2-yard touchdown run (kick failed); 7-14

**Team statistics-**

	<u>NP</u>	<u>NH</u>
<b>First Downs</b> .....	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
Rush .....	9	9
Pass .....	1	1
Penalty .....	1	1
Rushing att .....	43	45
<b>Yards Rushing</b> .....	<b>151</b>	<b>179</b>
Pass att .....	13	7
Pass comp .....	3	3
Had int .....	1	0
<b>Yards Passing</b> .....	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Plays</b> .....	<b>56</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Total Yards</b> .....	<b>177</b>	<b>197</b>
Ave. per play .....	3.2	3.8
Fum/ lost .....	3/1	2/2
Penalties/ yards .....	5-42	8-67

Punts .....	5	5
Yards .....	113	204
<b>Ave. per punt .....</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>40.8</b>
Punt returns .....	3	3
Yards .....	41	27
<b>Ave. per return .....</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>9.0</b>
Kickoff returns .....	3	1
Yards .....	64	25
<b>Ave. per return .....</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>25.0</b>
Interceptions/yds .....	0-0	1-19
Fum ret/yds .....	0-0	0-0
3rd Down .....	4-13	2-11
4th Down .....	0-2	2-4
Poss. Time .....	24:34	23:26
Sacks/yds .....	0-0	0-0

**Individual statistics-**

**2003 North Penn**

<b>Rushing</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Net yds.</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Ave.</b>
Kevin Akins .....	22	74	0	17	3.4
Jim Laky .....	4	38	1	15	9.5
Adam Hearn .....	7	26	0	12	3.7
Jim Casertano .....	9	19	0	5	2.1
TEAM .....	1	-6	0	-6	-6.0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3.5</b>

<b>Passing</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Comp</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>Int</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Sack</b>
Adam Hearn .....	13	3	26	1	0	12	0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Receiving</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Ave.</b>
Deanco Oliver .....	2	23	0	12	11.5
Jim Casertano .....	1	3	0	3	3.0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8.7</b>

<b>Punting</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>Ave.</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>In20</b>	<b>Blocked</b>
Chad Finney .....	5	113	22.6	34	0	1
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>Returns</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Punt Yards</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Kickoff Yards</b>	<b>Long</b>
Kevin Akins .....	0	0	0	2	52	30
Deanco Oliver .....	3	41	22	1	12	12
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>30</b>

**Missed field goals-** none

**Defense**

Int/yds- none  
 Sacks/yds- none  
 Tackles- Jeff Ball 9, Chris Tribanas 7

**1987 North Hills**

<b>Rushing</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Net yds.</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Ave.</b>
Duane Hitchcock .....	16	74	1	20	4.6
Pat Carey .....	10	58	0	30	5.8
TJ Schmitt .....	7	27	0	8	3.9
Greg Morris .....	11	16	1	8	1.5
Chris Cisar .....	1	4	0	4	4.0
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>45</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4.0</b>

<b>Passing</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Comp</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>Int</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Sack</b>
Greg Morris .....	7	3	20	0	0	19	0
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Receiving</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Ave.</b>
Chris Cisar .....	2	20	0	19	10.0
TJ Schmitt .....	1	0	0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6.7</b>

<b>Punting</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>Ave.</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>In20</b>	<b>Blocked</b>
Jason Bender .....	5	204	40.8	56	1	0
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>5</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Returns</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Punt Yards</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Kickoff Yards</b>	<b>Long</b>
Chris Cisar .....	2	27	22	1	25	25
Tom Cohan .....	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>

**Missed field goals-** none

**Defense**

Int/yds- Greg Morris 1-19  
 Sacks/yds- none  
 Tackles- Eric Renkey 14










































































