



FOOTBALL NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007

THANK YOU :

- > **Bev and Don Nicolls for all you do to provide so many people with life-long memories.**
- > **Everyone who contributed articles.**
- > **Marty Bundy for the Turkey Bowl XXIV photos and Joel for emailing them to me.**
- > **Jim Ridge for taping the game.**

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TURKEY BOWL XXIV - HISTORIC SCORELESS TIE

New Castle, PA – Twenty-one players took the field on a beautiful day for a Turkey Bowl. The starting offense for the Silver Bucks was **“Wild” Bill Nicolls, “Game Breaker” Bruce Nicolls, “Too Small” Dale Nicolls, “Mad Dog” Gary Grover, “Big Boy” Bob Nicolls, Greg “Bubby” Bundy, “Cap’n Crunch” Kevin Blucker, Hillary “Killer” Nicolls, Jeff “Rocky” Zappieri and Eli “Manning” Martin.** On defense the Young Bucks started with **Jamm’n Jake Grover, Jeffrey “Bulldog” Grover, Edgerrin James Bundy, Jonathan Speedy Bundy, Defender Joel Bundy, Brad “BDog” Lawrence, Bobby “Road Runner” Nicolls, Danny “Bronco” Nicolls, Marieta Nicolls and A.J. Grainger.** The Silver Bucks won the 2-headed coin toss when, luckily, “Big Boy” Bob Nicolls called “heads.”

The Silver Bucks received the ball and surprised friends and foes alike when they ran the ball on the first three downs. People were looking around to see if Jim Tressel was calling the plays from the sideline or maybe Woody

Hayes himself was sending in the plays from above. Anyway, Jim Tressel was smiling somewhere when the Silvers punted and pinned the Youngs on their own two yard line.

The Young Bucks ran a West Coast offense, mixing in some runs with their passing attack. Both defenses dominated, highlighted by **Hillary “Killer” Nicolls’** interception at mid-field. “They finally threw to the girl”, exclaimed **“Killer.” Jeff “Rocky” Zappieri** also recorded the first tackle-for-loss in his young Turkey Bowl career.

The combination of **Jamm’n Jake Grover to Brad “BDog” Lawrence** was the Youngs’ most effective play, connecting four times in the first half. The lone reception of the game for the Silvers came when **Greg “Bubby” Bundy** hauled in a pass from **“Big Boy” Bob Nicolls.**

The half ended in controversy when on 5th down, the last play of the half, the Youngs tried some



Silver Bucks attempt one of their 20 passes.



Hammerin’ Hank Grover sets the ball ready for play.



Young Bucks offensive huddle—How can we score on this Silver Defense?

“trickeration” which almost backfired. **“Wild” Bill Nicolls** sniffed out the play and thought he had a safety but the Young Bucks said that the pass was released before the 2-

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“It was another 1st in the 24 year history of the Turkey Bowl and it was the third year in a row that the Young Buck “D” pitched a shutout.”

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hand tag. The half ended as it started, zero to zero.

The second half, like the first half, was a defensive battle. The Young Bucks picked off two passes and the Silver Bucks picked up one more of their own. **“Game Breaker” Bruce Nicolls** batted down a pass behind the line of scrimmage as both teams persistently blitzed from all angles. On offense, **Jam-**

m'n Jake Grover completed 5 passes. **Danny “Bronco” Nicolls** caught one pass and **Brad “BDog” Lawrence** caught four more passes to match his first half total. After eight offensive series for the SBs and nine offensive series for the YBs, the game ended in a scoreless tie. It was another 1st in the 24 year history of the Turkey Bowl and it was the third year in a row that the Young Buck “D” pitched a shutout.

Brad “BDog” Lawrence won the YB MVP for his game high and career high eight receptions. **Hillary “Killer” Nicolls** won her second straight SB MVP for her momentum changing interception and her overall clean, hard play.

They say that a tie is like kissing your sister, but one team seemed to be enjoying the outcome more than the other.

DEN

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE (OF SHOPPING)



St. Petersburg, Russia

Greetings from St. Petersburg, Russia! I’m here for a week under the guise of attending an International law convention, but, seriously, what would I know about that at this point?

My true mission is two-fold: I’m working with the legal counsel for the Denver Broncos on getting better contracts for the Young Bucks, while also learning the intricacies of determining the true age

of those who try to pretend that they are young when, in fact, should be playing for the Silver team. He has also agreed to file a motion to force local cable companies to pick up the Big Don Network at no additional cost to its customers.

My second, and more important, reason for being here is to find the cutest new uniforms for the cheering Buckettes. It is

about time **Aunt Ellen** and her squad got new, skimpier outfits to cheer on the Bucks. Heaven knows, the Silver Bucks could use a boost! And they have SO MANY charming little boutiques in this town. Not to worry, girls, I know how to shop!

Reporting from the Winter Palace (right next to those adorable clothing outlets)

Emilie “Pancake” Ridge

NUMBER ONE FOOTBALL FAN

Number one football fan, **Betty Grover**, really enjoyed the annual Ohio - Michigan match up on October 13th, cheering the Buckeyes on to a 48-42 victory.

"It was a great game this year, one of the best I can remember" said **Betty**. "At first, I was disturbed by the Buckeyes' uniform change from the traditional school colors. But as the game

progressed I realized that with darker colors and 'OHIO' on the helmets it was much easier for me to spot the Buckeyes on the field".

By Hank Grover



New and Betty Approved

POLAND TRACK

A Keith Martin who was inducted into the Poland High Sports Hall of Fame in September for his track accomplishments is writing a book on Poland track teams. He has suggested to **Gene** and I that all four of us brothers be inducted into the Poland Sports Hall of Fame as a group. The four of us probably did earn more letters for sports than any other family.

Sorry, **Betty**, he didn't mention your name, and apparently, **Ruth**, it does not include cheerleaders.

Bob, Dave and I partici-

pated in football, basketball and track, and **Gene** participated in basketball and track. **Gene** did not go out for football because "he would rather hit on girls than opposing football players."

Keith said that he has every article of Poland track from 1926 to the present. He sent me a copy of the 1944 state track meet results where **Gene** took first in the pole vault at 11 feet 2¼ inches. I took fifth in the high jump and then, in 1945, I took third in the high jump at the state meet at 5 feet 7½ inches.

We told Keith that, although we very much appreciated his suggestion, we felt that that was well over 60 years ago, and there are not very many people today who would even remember who we were.

Gene said that he always wanted to be a great basketball player, but said that he spent most of his time on the bench next to the coach telling the coach what the score was since the coach's eyesight was so bad, he could not see the score board.

Go Bulldogs and Bucks!

By Don Nicolls



Old School

"1944 state track meet results where **Gene** took first in the pole vault at 11 feet 2¼ inches. I took fifth in the high jump"

OGLEBAY PARK GROUPIES

By Gene, Ellen, and Don Nicolls

On October 20, **Don** and **Gene** hosted another great family retreat in their lavish accommodations at Oglebay Park Lodge.

Those who attended were, **Don, Gene, Beverly, Ellen, Betty, Gayle, Jim, Mary, Mickey, Martha, Beth Ann** and a friend. They spent

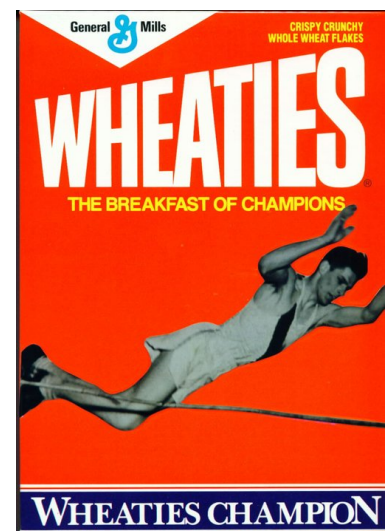
the day talking; walking; looking at family pictures; watching the OSU-Michigan State football game in their private living room; and non-stop eating.

Mark your calendars. Reservations have been made by **Don** and **Gene** for rooms 873 & 875 on:

- May 2-4, 2008
- October 17-19, 2008

Make plans for attending on Saturday for the day or make reservations for the weekend.

See you there!!



Gene Nicolls—
1944 state champion in the pole vault

SHAKE UP IN NICOLLS CATERING CO. EXECUTIVE CHEF ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

NEW CASTLE, PA., November 1 – An announcement was made today by a representative of the Nicolls Catering Co. that **Beverly Nicolls**, executive chef for the legendary Nicolls Thanksgiving Weekend, has stepped down after 36 years. The news of her resignation has shocked and appalled loyal customers, causing widespread panic and speculation about the reason for this decision. “It’s very simple,” she said in a press conference this morning. “I have been married for 54 years and 7 months. Because my husband refuses to eat chicken, turkey, fish, and anything with ‘things in it,’ I have often cooked two dinners in one night: one for him and one for the rest of my family. I have estimated that during my married life I have cooked over 31,000 dinners. If that isn’t reason enough to retire, I don’t know what is.”

Though those present reluctantly accepted this reason for **Mrs. Nicolls’s** sudden departure, they were not mollified. “But who will take over?” rang from various parts of the room. “Who will replace you?” “Who will make those cheesy potatoes?!” they shouted in despair.

Mrs. Nicolls smiled indulgently and raised her hand for silence. “Ladies and gentlemen of the press, please control yourselves. I understand your con-

cerns, and I can only assure you that I have given this matter a lot of thought. I have decided to appoint as my successor my *sous-chef* and daughter **Barbara.**” Stunned silence met this declaration until the spell was broken when one person sprang out of his chair and ran out of the room screaming.

The culinary career of **Barbara Nicolls** has been a controversial one. Though a member of the family-owned catering business for many years, her radical approach to food and her rebellious attitude have caused friction. Temperamental and exacting, she has been known to order people out of the kitchen. Her use of kosher salt, fresh herbs, and organic ingredients has earned her the nicknames “Fusspot” and “Food Nazi.”

She began humbly enough in the early ‘70s, standing in the catering company’s kitchen next to her mother and making “bear milk” with a pink bowl and aquamarine spoon. In high school she once forgot to add the sugar while making brownies with her friend Bev, and on another occasion when she made cookies with her friend Rhonda, the dough spread out across the sheet while baking, forming a uni-cookie. Rhonda’s father upon sampling part of it said, “It would be fine if it were only individual!” In

her college years, she became editor of the amateurish *Home James, Dinner at Eight: The Nicolls Family Cookbook*, which met with a limited amount of success.

But it wasn’t until the ‘90s that she became more serious about cooking. This newfound enthusiasm was sparked by the creation of the Food Network. Before long she was trying new recipes, collecting cookbooks, buying various types of whisks (balloon, bread, Swedish, French, and palm spring), and amassing an excessive collection of Le Creuset. She can pronounce *mirepoix*, knows the difference between a *ceviche* and a *carpaccio*, has used a *ban marie*, and has come to realize that the “bear milk” she used to make was really a slurry. And just last weekend she was sighted at Whole Foods Market in University Heights, Cleveland, inspecting an ostrich egg and buying *Parmigiano Reggiano* cheese.

Perceiving the apprehension that the announcement of her promotion had caused, **Ms. Nicolls** was quick to reassure. “I have no intention to change anything in the menu that our customers have enjoyed over the years, and I will strive to uphold the high standards set by my predecessor and mentor. No grated nutmeg will touch the corn pudding, no

By Barb Nicolls



Cake baked by newly appointed executive chef.

fresh thyme will find its way into the green beans, and no imported aged English cheddar will be used in the cheesy potatoes. I will use the original recipes and cook them in the traditional manner.”

Clearing her throat nervously she continued, “The fact that last year when I was partly in charge of lunch we ran out of hotdog buns I hope will be marked down as a rookie mistake. And the knowledge that during all the years I have been preparing pasta and tomato sauce for the Friday night dinner I have only managed to get it on the buffet on time once will not prejudice you against me. Perhaps during my first year in charge the Nicolls Catering Co. will not run like the well-oiled machine of old, however I will do my best to give satisfaction.”

Stunned silence met this declaration until the spell was broken when **Ms. Nicolls** sprang out of her chair and ran out of the room screaming.