

Turkey Bowl Newsletter

Fall 2018

Youngs Slip by Silvers 6 to 2

November 25, 2017
Nicolls Stadium
New Castle, PA

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Thanksgiving For:

- Uncle Don for hosting another great Nicolls Reunion.
- Chef Barb for her great meals.
- Everyone who contributed articles and pictures.
- Jim Ridge for taking the HD video of the game.
- Marty Bundy for the team picture.

The green grass could hardly be seen between the 24 gridiron greats on the field as the Silvers kicked off to the Youngs. The first series started with a 10 yard pass from **Bobby "Roadrunner" Nicolls to Marieta "Happy Feet" Nicolls.** The third pass of the game was tipped by **"Big Boy" Bob Nicolls** and then caught by **Yevgeny "EJ" Nicolls** at mid field. **PJ "Prime Time" Yoder** stopped two Young drives in a row when he recorded two interceptions deep in Silver territory. The defense on both sides was stingy. Despite both sides trying to mix the pass and run, the defenses were ready for whatever was thrown at them. The Silver's first offensive trip to the 50 yard line was quickly stopped when **Alex "The Great" Blucker** picked off the next pass and returned it back to the original line of scrimmage. On the quick turn around, the Youngs went for it all when **Bobby "Roadrunner" Nicolls** threw into the end zone where the ball was tipped by the Silvers and then fell into the waiting arms of **Jamm'n Jake**



Young Buck TD—**Bobby "Roadrunner" Nicolls** to **Jamm'n Jake Grover** for the only TD of the game.



"Big Boy" Bob Nicolls runs by the Young defense on this first half interception.



The game is won in the trenches. Turkey Bowl XXXV featured two strong defenses.

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This safety in the second half by "Game Breaker" Bruce Nicolls cut the Youngs' lead to 6-2.

"In all, four passes were tipped by the Silvers and caught by the Youngs including the only touchdown of the game"



Yevgeny "EJ" Nicolls and PJ "Prime Time" Yoder were the MVPs of Turkey Bowl XXXV.

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Grover. The Youngs were on top 6-0. The Silvers tried to respond but were thwarted when **Jamm'n Jake Grover** intercepted their second down pass. After the Youngs moved the ball to the 50, "**Big Boy**" **Bob Nicolls** picked off a pass deep in Silver territory and ran through the Youngs down the sideline to the Young 20 yard line. Time was running out in the half and the Young defense held for 5 downs inside the red zone. The half ended with the score 6-0 in favor of the Youngs.

The Silvers received the second half kickoff only down by one score. **Hillary "Killer" Wildt** caught a pass from **Micah "Remember the Titans" Delo** at the Silver 35. The opening drive of the half ended when **Jamm'n Jake Grover** recorded his second interception and returned the ball to mid field. **Jonathan "Illini" Wildt** returned the favor when he picked off the Young's third down throw. The Young defense again rose to the

occasion when "**Tornado**" **Tyler Mack** sacked the Silver QB. When the Youngs took over on offense, **Jamm'n Jake Grover** completed aerials to **Haven "Bulldog" Grover** and **Bobby "Roadrunner" Nicolls**. The reception by "**Roadrunner**" set up the Youngs with a 4th and goal but the Silver defense held on fourth and fifth down. The defenses dominated the next four series. **Jamm'n Jake Grover**, **Micah "Remember the Titans" Delo** and **Alex "The Great" Blucker** each picked off errant throws. For variety, "**Game Breaker**" **Bruce Nicolls** gave the Silvers two points when he sacked the Young QB in the end zone. The score narrowed to 6-2 with the Youngs hanging on to a slim margin. The Silvers received the free kick and had the chance to take the lead. **Micah "Remember the Titans" Delo** completed passes to "**Big Boy**" **Bob Nicolls** at the 50 and **Jacob "Darter" Bundy** at the Young 40 but that was all the fur-

ther they got on the drive. Time was running out on the Silvers. The church clock was about to sound the noon chimes. **Micah "Remember the Titans" Delo** gave the Silvers one last chance to win when he posted his second interception. The clock struck noon and the Youngs prevailed 6-2 in a hard fought defensive struggle. In all, four passes were tipped by the Silvers and caught by the Youngs including the only touchdown of the game. No one can say that the Silvers aren't good tippers [insert laugh track here].

Yevgeny "EJ" Nicolls was voted the MVP of the Youngs and **PJ "Prime Time" Yoder** was MVP for the Silvers.

DEN



The Nicolls Family 2018 and Beyond

Well, 2018 has been quite a year. With the passing of our patriarchs Hank and Uncle Don (Dad), it is an end of an era. However, at the same time, I am hoping it will be the beginning of a new era for the family. Family was important to both Hank and Dad. I can hardly think of a family gathering that Hank didn't attend in the past 20 years. Of course Dad's role in Thanksgiving and Teton trips is hard to overstate. In their memory, I am hoping we will find ways to continue the get-togethers. Bob and Kathy have given us an amazing start on this with the Cousin Reunions in Colorado every other year.

Those of us on Facebook began a conversation about alternative get-togethers. Doing a Thanksgiving gathering this year was a stretch, but a number of us felt we would like to see it resume next year. It would be different as the Don and Bev Nicolls house is pretty much empty now and is on the market. We would look for a hall or event room, probably in Poland. Jake and others have suggested the idea of continuing the bingo with each person bringing a gift or two. After years of bingo, I think we all have a pretty good idea of the kind of stuff to bring. We did save the

By Bruce Nicolls

bingo supplies.

We also had discussions about holding an event in the years opposite the Colorado Reunions. Possibilities are a summer picnic in Poland or Cindy and I have considered hosting an autumn long weekend here in Dubois (I think I talked to her about that)...

Anyway, I feel so blessed to have an extended family of cousins and second cousins that get together. I am hopeful we will continue to find ways to get together. Dad, Hank, and all those who went before them would want it that way.



Big Don Nicolls and Hammerin' Hank Grover. Neither snow nor rain ...

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A Tribute to Attorney Donald J. Nicolls

We know our parents and family members in certain contexts, but often there are areas of their life that we do not have much insight into. I knew Dad (Uncle Don) as a parent (a task master, not that much fun) as a church member, friend to his friends, fun-loving guy, master of ceremonies to family gatherings, and as grandpa to my kids. However, I didn't know much about his work life. I knew he was a pretty good attorney because I saw the ratings. Martindale and Hubble gave him an 'A' rating and he was 5/5 stars on lawyers.com.

On July 18, 2018 the Court of Lawrence County, PA held a "Court of Remembrance" for Donald Nicolls. Beth, Cindy and I attended. About 50-60 people were

there. Most were lawyers, some clerks and secretaries as well. All five judges came in and they called the court to order, stenographer and all, and took testimony about Donald Nicolls. Some things were no surprise like the story of the Bar Association sled riding party where he showed up with a giant inflatable animal of some kind to ride down the hill on. I am sure we can all imagine that. One partner also told of how Don had various toys and gadgets delivered to the office to "test them out". But those in the office suspected he just wanted to play with them himself first.

Also, they all spoke of his knowledge of the law. One judge said that in Lawrence County, any

By Bruce Nicolls

legal debate on real estate, municipal law, or probate law was settled once someone said; "well, Don Nicolls said it was this..." They said you knew his opinions in those areas were both legally and ethically correct. Another area they agreed on was that Uncle Don's standards for work and ethics were so high, as one attorney said; "He made all of us in the Lawrence County Bar better attorneys."

Philip, a former partner of Uncle Don's told of going rafting on the Youghiogheny River one time. As they were getting ready, Philip noticed Don was wearing both a huge life jacket and a flotation belt. When he asked about it, Don confessed that he was not a good swimmer and

was afraid of water. Bill and Pattye Ann, I guess that explains why he sent us down the river that first time, but only photographed from the shore. Philip then looked at the courtroom and said; "he was afraid of water, but he was doing this because his kids were interested in it. That's all I need to say about parenting."

The President Judge, who had been a partner of Uncle Don's at one time, spoke several times of how faith influenced Uncle Don's work as an attorney. He summed up at the end by saying; "It seems Don's attitude was that for him he would always try to do the right thing and let God take care of the rest." It was a very enlightening session which let us see how loved and respected Uncle Don was by his peers. I was so glad to have had the opportunity to attend.

The NFL Declares a Yearlong Moratorium to Honor Pioneer Founder and Longtime Referee

By Bill Nicolls

The Nicolls Football League has suspended the annual Turkey Bowl Game for 2018 to honor the memory of founder and longtime starting center Donald J. Nicolls along with once feared star player, turned referee, Haven "Hank" Grover. Both irreplaceable stalwarts have passed on to that giant gridiron in the sky and we shall never see their like again.

In the late '60s, it began as a simple game to work off the paunch of the typical Nicolls Thanksgiving food-frenzy. However, the enjoyment of that initial game stirred an idea in Don Nicolls' mind that this should become an annual tradition. He bought property on Fairhill Drive that would allow for Nicolls Stadium to be established in his own backyard. Unlike the sterile pro football stadia, this one would have challenging quirks like high and low area end zones. There was a sideline row of evergreens that would eat players up and at the very least, leave them abraded and bleeding. There were also sloping hills on both sides that would twist ankles,

wrench knees, or send players tumbling head over heels. Mr. Nicolls began spending money to provide proper uniforms and prizes along with field markings and graphics. Film crews were also provided and game tapes (and later DVDs) became widely popular among the fans. The game created stars of the video play-callers over the years. Names like Robert Nicolls, James Ridge, Gary Grover, Jeff Zappieri deserve mention in the broadcaster's hall of fame.

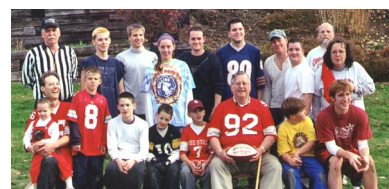
Both Don Nicolls and Haven Grover starred on and off the field; leading exemplary lives in their communities and playing with tremendous energy and derring-do on the gridiron. They were shining stars on both sides of the ball. Don set a world record that will never be broken by playing center right up until the age of 70. Remarkable! "Hank" was a triple threat at numerous positions with his size, speed, and agility. "Hammering Hank" was a beast. Unfortunately, both men succumbed to career-ending knee inju-

ries. Yet, they continued in important roles on the field. Don became full-time commissioner and final arbiter of disputed plays while Hank became a greatly respected (by the Silver Bucks) referee, who with his "level-headed" cap and 2-heads coin set a new standard for game officiating.

Elder cousin Bill Nicolls is currently in negotiations with the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH to open an amateur wing in their facility to honor those who keep football interest ablaze with the old sandlot tradition. There can be no other amateur game in the nation that has the gravitas and bona fides that the Nicolls Football League has built up through the decades. Once this goal is attained, the annual amateur voting will take place on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. The Nicolls Elder Cuzzins' committee will proudly place the names of Donald Nicolls and Haven Grover on the first nomination ballot. They will no doubt be first ballot winners.



1st Game at Nicolls Stadium



Turkey Bowl XIX—2001



Nicolls Stadium—Cheap Seats



What about Bingo!?

"Mack Truck" Prepares to Replace Bosa

By Bill Nicolls



Tyler Mack has shown tremendous promise on the gridiron this past season. Junior High quarterbacks around the Toledo area have taken serious lumps and bruises from the crushing beat-downs inflicted by Springfield's spitfire. In the first game

of the season, Tyler continually punished the QB resulting in a new nickname for him. The QB said after the game: "I feel like I've been hit by a Mack truck!" Soon, word spread that the "Mack Sack Attack" was

unstoppable. Young Mack hopes to stir interest in Columbus and aims to fill the roll of defensive end for the Buckeyes. The future looks bright for this up and coming blue chipper.