

The Turkey Bowl Newsletter

Fall 2022



“Roadrunner” Bobby Nicolls with proper throwing form



Jonathan “Illini” Wildt attracts a crowd



How could the ball hit the ground?



Good Game!

Silver Bucks Win 28-24!

Turkey XXXVII

November 27, 2021

Doppleganger Makes the Difference

The Silvers trailed much of the 2021 Turkey Bowl - down 12-6 at half and 24-12 mid-way through the second half. That is, until “Blockin” Bob Nicolls finally started making some (offense-friendly) calls in the second half. A very similar looking player was also seen blocking on the offensive line during the second half, though few in the crowd were paying attention. The game ended on a miraculous “Hail Mary” touchdown pass on the last play of the game from Jonathan “Sweet as Honey” Wildt to “Skiin” Ian Nicolls - another call

which fortunately did not have the benefit of instant replay on the field. Silvers win 28-24.

After the game, Bob explained his unconventional approach: “Let’s face it - the first half was really boring, and we’re not putting cold butts in seats with that old-school three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust business. We gave the people what they want - and that’s offense. Lots of it.” Blockin’ Bob subsequently came under severe criticism for his controversial calls as well as unverifiable claims that he was in fact the doppleganger. Following the game, the Silver Bucks immediately negotiated an innovative “player and/or ref” contract extension for Bob through 2030.

By Jake Grover

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Thanksgiving For:

- Bruce and Cindy for organizing and making the arrangements.
- All those who provided food and accessories and all those who cooked.
- Everyone who contributed articles.
- Marty Bundy for photos.
- All those who come and keep the traditions.



Defender Joel Bundy was the Young Buck MVP



The crowd was near capacity



The snow stayed away until Saturday evening when we sang White Christmas

Game Summary of Turkey Bowl XXXVII

By Jake Grover

1st Half

- Silvers kicked off
- Youngs scored, Bobby to Tyler, 6-0
- Silvers scored, Jonathan to Jake, 6-6
- Youngs score, Bobby to Joel, slapped down but caught, 12-6
- Silvers turnover, interception?
- Youngs turnover, interception by Jake
- Silvers punt?
- Youngs last possession, interception to Jonathan, flip to Kevin
- 12-6 at the half, Youngs

2nd Half

- Youngs kick off
- Silvers score, Jonathan to Jake again?, 12-12
- Youngs score, Bobby ran it in? 12-18
- Silvers TO on downs?
- Youngs scored, Bobby to Joel - caught in corner, 12-24
- Silvers score, Jake to Ally, 18-24
- Two point conversion, Jake to Ally?, 20-24
- Youngs march down the field, ball dropped in endzone on 5th down
- Silvers last possession, move the ball down the field
- Last play, Jonathan tosses it up, Ian "catches" it, 26-24
- Two point conversion to run it up, Jake runs it in on QB keeper, 28-24

Turkey Bowl XXXVIII will be on Saturday, November 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Invasion of Southern France By Bob Nicolls

All of my Uncles were in the Service. That includes Uncle Dunk and John. My Dad was in the Army and went to North Africa after the initial invasion, and was part of the Invasion of Southern France. This Invasion is not well remembered as it came over two months after Overlord into Normandy, but was said to be the most successful Invasion the Allies had in WWII. I think it's a combination of lessons learned from Normandy and that the Germans had moved several of their best Divisions there to help in Normandy. In any case, there was a link up to Patton's Third Army in just less than a month. It was supposed to take 3 months.

My Dad was initially a radio man for an artillery battalion. Later he became the first sergeant for another battalion that was split off from his original battalion. He has written about it, some of you have seen this document, but it is too long to include in the Turkey bowl newsletter. One great story is him calling back and getting a hold of Uncle Dave (a radio man too) on the USS Philadelphia. He was calling in coordinates to shell from the sea in support of the French taking Marseilles.

Kathy and I had visited a town that Dad was stationed in after the War. The GI's

helped to transition Germany once the war was over. I though had always wanted to take the track of the Invasion from near Nice up to the crossing of the Rhine. I got the opportunity in October after an annual visit for work to London.

Dad came into a beautiful beach near St Tropez. Bridgett Bardot was discovered there some 15 years later. The Allies fought in hilly terrain and some resistance for two weeks before securing deep water ports in Marseilles and St Toulon. They then broke into the flat and wide Rhône valley. The Germans then, retreated as fast as they could, as there was no defensible terrain till the Vogues mountains in northern France.

There are hardly any markers in this part of France for the invasion, but some. We do have two American cemeteries on the Invasion path. Americans can be proud of the way they are impeccably maintained. They too have historians assigned to them. I got to speak to each while visiting. They had a wealth of info on the Invasion.

Not to be too long, but I did visit a WWI museum and trenches, and a Maginot Line fort and museum too. Just driving this track and seeing the sites of battles (no evi-

dence today of anything) helped me understand the Operation of which I've read two books.

The last piece I'll share is that Audie Murphy, the movie star, was in this Invasion. He won many medals during it. The last was winning the Medal of Honor. I went to the site where he won it. There is a big marker and description of what he did. As a Lieutenant, he ordered his company back into woods as heavy strength Germans with tanks and half tracks came out of a village and into a clearing to engage his company. The company's two tank destroyers got knocked out. Audie, from a bomb crater kept calling in artillery strikes on the advancing Germans. Then, when they were right to his position, he jumped onto one of the TD's and started firing from the 50 Caliber machine gun for an hour till his ammo ran out. He killed over 50 Germans and forced the Armour to retreat back to the village. When asked later why he stayed behind he answered, "Because they were trying to kill my friends".

Later JFK made an unrelated statement, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country". I am well certain that all my Uncles did.



Uncle Bob and his jeep in Southern France, August, 1944



A big gun—"Hot Stuff II"

"My Dad was initially a radio man for an artillery battalion. Later he became the first sergeant for another battalion"



Its over, over there! Home again!

Nicolls Open Snow-Golf Tournament By Dee C. Washington

The inaugural Nicolls Open was a resounding success. The innovative snow-golf tournament was held at Pine Lakes Golf Club on Bingo Friday last year. Entrants included Cody "Coldfinger" Grover, "Birdie" Bill Nicolls, and Jake "Gimmie" Grover. "Dr. Duff" Dettling wisely did not participate after one look at the weather.

"Birdie" Bill was declared the winner after Jake was disqualified after the first hole for blatant cheating and recording an incorrect score and Cody withdrew after the third hole citing hypothermia. But the snow didn't even really start coming down until the fifth hole!

Despite the near-death

experience had by all and the fact that this is clearly a bad idea, today the NGA (Nicolls Golfers' Association) announced that the second annual Nicolls Open will be played on Friday, November 25th, teeing off at noon. Contact Jake if you're interested in playing.



"Coldfinger" Cody moments before he withdrew - there was hardly even any accumulation yet!

New "Median Age Rule" Takes Effect By Dee C. Washington

The Nicolls Football League was up-ended on November 27th, 2021, as the NFL Commissioners revealed a new rule that sent shockwaves through the mostly empty Pine Lakes Mansion Stadium. In an uncharacteristically rational decision, league

management determined that a new "Median Age Rule" would immediately take effect, whereby players were humiliatingly lined up according to their age and then split down the middle - half to the Youngs and (the better) half to the

Silvers. This unexpected new rule ripped father from son and instantly shifted some players to the Silvers years ahead of their contractual obligations. If the rule sticks, the move could shift the advantage to the Silvers for years to come.



Remembering Jan Blucker By Dale Nicolls

Unfortunately we lost another cousin this year, Jan Blucker. For me, Jan will always be a part of my Thanksgiving memories. When Grandma passed away, Jan stepped in and cooked the Thanksgiving turkey.

She stayed up all night to baste the turkey to make sure that it was moist for all the turkey lovers, like myself. Grandma would have been proud of her. She did a great job. I always looked forward to the turkey, stuffing,

mashed potatoes and gravy. I can still see her sitting in the corner of Aunt Betty's kitchen looking exhausted because she had been cooking all night. Jan, you are missed.



Thanksgiving, 1968 in Poland, OH

