

# Turkey Bowl Newsletter

Fall 2024

## *Youngs Edge Silvers 42 to 12*

### Inside this issue:

<i>Superstar Ky was MVP</i>	2
<i>Ride on the Rhine</i>	3
<i>Thanksgiving Thanks</i>	4
<i>DC to UCLA</i>	4
<i>Completed Archive</i>	4

### Special Thanks for:

- Bruce & Cindy organizing & making the arrangements, etc.
- Beth & Sid for bringing food, accessories and for cooking lunch and breakfast.
- Everyone else who brought food and helped cook and brought BINGO prizes.
- Marty for providing photos.
- All who come and keep the traditions going.

**Turkey Bowl XXXIX:** The Young Bucks Beat-Down The Graybeards

On a beautiful, sun-filled day on God’s green gridiron, the prospects looked good for a classic battle of football between archrivals, the Silver Bucks and Young Bucks. A rabid throng of 5 spectators were giddy with delight as they settled in for a back-and-forth “Thrilla in the Villa”. Both teams were champing at the bit awaiting the referee’s whistle to turn them loose. One could feel the electricity in the air as it was anticipated to go down in family lore as the battle royale of the century.

It was anything but.

The Silvers won the coin flip for a record 38th consecutive game (about the only thing they CAN win these days) and elected to kick-off. On the very first play, Jammin’ Jake Grover threw a loonngggg touchdown pass to Tornado Tyler Mack to set the tone for the remainder of the game. The extra point failed, but it hardly mattered in the end. The Silvers needed to answer that opening salvo but regrettably went 5 and out. On the Youngs’ second possession, Jammin’ Jake did quite a bit of scampering around to eat

up yardage against a porous and gassed D-line of the Silvers. Jake topped off the drive with a brilliant pass to Jumpin’ Jonathan Bundy in the end-zone. After another failed PAT conversion, the score was

12 – 0.

Noticing the sinking spirits of his wheezing teammates, Jonathan “Honey” Wildt brought in some help from the bench. Although he didn’t exactly meet the age requirement for being on the Silver team, The Reel Man Ken Wildt lined up to provide an infusion of young blood to this elderly aggregate. Sure enough, the rookie recruit grabbed the Young’s kickoff and started gobbling up yards by juking back and forth up the gut before being brought down at midfield. The crowd went wild for the rookie and assured themselves that they would now see the classic that they had expected.

It was not to be.

The next play turned into an interception by Tornado Tyler. Now the Youngs could smell blood in the water and attacked like a school of piranhas chomping through the Silver

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Turkey Bowl XXXIX action*



*The battle of the trenches*



*Three yards and a cloud of dust*





*(Continued from page 1)*

D-line on their way to the goal line. The Youngs brought in a rookie of their own in the person of Superstar Ky Wildt who would chew up some serious yardage. It culminated with a pass from Jake to Steely Sam Mack for the TD. The Youngs also had their first successful PAT with Tyler passing to Jake for 2 points making the score

20 – 0 in favor of the Young Bucks.

The Silvers finally broke through on their next possession, thanks in large to the rookie Ken who rushed numerous times and eventually into the endzone. PAT failed. The scoreboard now read Youngs 20 and the Silvers 6. The Youngs came right back with time ticking down for the first half by yet another Jake to Ty bomb into the endzone. Rookie Superstar Ky took the ball and jumped onto Jake's back - the 'ole "pigskin piggyback" - and bulldozed in for an extra 2 to make the score 28 – 6 at the half.

**Superstar Ky took the ball and jumped onto Jake's back - the 'ole "pigskin piggyback" - and bulldozed in for an extra 2**



*Rookie Superstar Ky Wildt with a little help from his friend*

While the Silvers went into the clubhouse for a hit on the oxygen tanks and an infusion of plasma, the cocky Youngs were playfully throwing the ball around knowing full well that the game was in the bag.

Would overconfidence rear up and bite them on their back-sides?

No.

Silvers received the second half kickoff and Jonathan "Honey" Wildt was QB. The opening drive was another bust accentuated by a sneaky sack of the old man by Superstar Ky. The rest of the half was almost a carbon copy of the first. Youngs score again on a Jake to Ty pass, Silvers huff and puff a 5 and out.

Youngs score again with Jake's long bomb to Jumpin' Jonathan Bundy with an extra 2 by Jonathan.

Silvers crawl to a 5 and out. The score was now Youngs 42 to the Silver's 6 with the clock running down. The Youngs were licking their chops thinking about the sweet bubbly

grape juice awaiting them in the clubhouse and high-fiving each other. They were so much into the revelry of the moment that they allowed holes to open up in their D. They failed to notice that Granddaddy Greg Bundy had slipped into the endzone and took a long pass from Honey Wildt for a garbage time TD to finish the scoring for the day. Final Score: Youngs 42 – Silvers 12.

Also playing in this donnybrook for the Silvers was Wild Bill Nicolls at center, Killa Kevin Blucker who was a triple threat as a safety, linebacker, and kicker. Bruiser Bruce Nicolls at the linebacker position and taking an occasional pass. For the Youngs, A-Bomb Anthony Blucker was continually smashing through the Silver's O-line. Young's MVP was Superstar Ky and the Silver MVP was Bruisin' Bruce.

Thus, the final curtain was brought down on what turned out to be a rather one-sided laugher. There's always next year.

***By Bill Nicolls***

## *Down the Rhine and the Danube*

By Bruce Nicolls

Cindy and I just returned from a trip through Europe. We started in Amsterdam and traveled down the Rhine River, along the Main River, down the Danube to Budapest and then overland to Prague. We covered 761 miles of river plus the land portion. This is the land of the fairy tales of my youth, of the Sound of Music, and of many a “Wonderful World of Disney” show. It was magical.

However, the trip was bookended at the start with the Anne Frank House and our last tour was of the Terezin Prison and Concentration Camp in the Czech Republic. Perhaps that set a tone, but I was struck by how the shadow of World War II was always there. Our ancestors of the generation now gone lived that and a number of our fa-

thers and uncles served during that war. You couldn’t go through a city or town in the countries we were in that they didn’t talk about which parts were bombed and which parts had survived. At Terezin, I said to our guide that my generation is aware of World War II because our parents participated, but the subsequent generations generally aren’t aware of it except for conjuring up the name of Hitler from time to time. He agreed that it was the same in Europe. He then added that he grew up in Communist Czechoslovakia, but his own kids know little about that. Yet, we didn’t have a guide (even a few Gen Zs) who didn’t talk about the effects of World War II on their area. Also there were lots of reminders of how politicians and others had re-defined borders often with little or no input

from the residents. The Czech Republic was a great example. It had been part of other empires and Czechoslovakia was created basically by Woodrow Wilson after WWI, then Chamberlain gave part of it to Germany in 1938, upon which Hitler took the rest of it in 1939. It then was basically given to Soviet influence after WWII, became free again in 1989 only to divide itself in 1992 into two countries by political will, not the will of the people.

So, why bring all this up? It made me realize how thankful I am that I live in this country. Imperfect as it may be, it is a great blessing to live here. I am also thankful for those of my parents’ generation who participated in removing the tyranny of the Nazi reign. I am thankful.

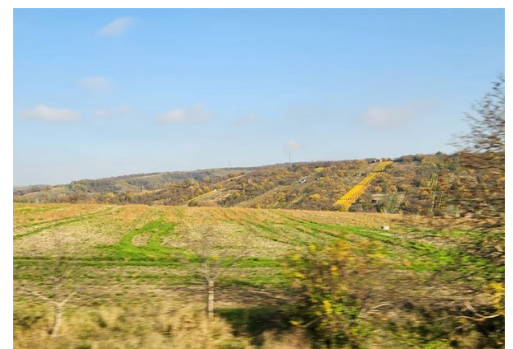


*Uncle Bob on a German rooftop during WWII*

**“I was struck by how the shadow of World War II was always there”**



*Uncle Bob had boots on the ground in Europe*



*Moravia in the Czech Republic*

# Thoughts on Thanksgiving By Bob Nicolls

Thanksgiving has turned into a massive holiday from the first time I can remember it. I don't think we had Friday off from school originally. Nor did my Dad have the day off work officially. I don't remember either, but could look up, when the term "Black Friday" was originated. In college, while I think we had Friday off, classes certainly were held on Wednesday. The 3 man house I was in made a turkey dinner for our pals who were not able to go home for the weekend.

For the Nicolls family, it was always huge. Not big enough

to rival Christmas or Easter for the nuclear family, it presented the perfect time to assemble all for several days. Food, more food and even more food framed card games, visiting, home movie and slide watching with a heavy dose of football on TV.

Us'n kids found all kinds of ways to goof off, run pranks and play games. The parents took turns yelling at us when the jocularity got out of hand. The Nicolls baby boom was not quite as prolific as the country's, but the monster at the door still commanded a huge presence.

Somewhere along the line, the idea arose to play a football game against the Dads. If it was their idea, I'm sure they wanted to put us in our place....for a few hours. If it was ours, it was certainly to best the old men. It too has survived the test of time and plays on.

Glad the tradition lives and that this one time of year a Nicolls feels the call to return to the good ole Youngstown area. When I tell people where I'm going, the general response is sorrow and remorse. They just don't know what they don't know.



1968—Watching movies at Grandma's

1969—The boys table



# Dr. Dettling Tries Out the 'Ole Blue and Gold By Dee C. Washington

Lisa is currently on sabbatical at UCLA for the fall semester and living in Santa Monica through the end of the year. This all sounds fine and well, except that UCLA this year became part of the "Big 10" (of 18 teams). They also happen to wear blue and gold - a combination worryingly similar to the

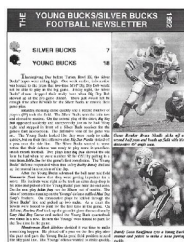
"maize and blue" scheme that is banned from all Nicolls family reunions and related activities. Sadly, this is par for the course given previous allegiances to the University of Maryland and family ties to a certain team up North. The horror. As a result, until she is able to prove her loyalty to The

Ohio State University, Dr. Dettling has been uninvited from Bingo and the Turkey Bowl this year. She was overheard saying "Fine, I hope it snows. I'll be on the beach." (Just kidding... Lisa couldn't make it this year and bleeds scarlet and grey!)



# The Archive is Complete By Dale Nicolls

The archive of past Turkey Bowl Newsletters is now complete. The original 1971 flyer, the 1987 flyer through the 2024 newsletter are now available at [cenicolls.org](http://cenicolls.org) under the Newsletter section.



1989 was the first 4 page newsletter inspired by a team that wears blue and white. 1995 was the first "color" newsletter.



The black and white era of the early 90s (using copiers at Kinkos) was replaced by full color newsletters printed on inkjet printers. The 1987 flyer was handwritten!

