



# Silver Bucks/Young Bucks Football Newsletter

## Super Turkey Bowl Sees Silvers Win 16-14

DEN – New Castle, PA

I have seen and participated in every Turkey Bowl game, and in the humble opinion of this sportswriter, Turkey Bowl XV was the greatest Turkey Bowl ever played. It was reminiscent of the epic Snow Bowl game of 1971 when the Silver Bucks made a heroic comeback in the second half to snatch victory from the emerging Young Bucks. Maybe the return to the original 'Over-Forties vs. Young Bucks' format was responsible for awakening the memories of games gone by. Those who were privileged to watch the 1997 version saw great comebacks from Silver Bucks who had retired and the coming of age of the Young Bucks. In the end, the game was decided on the last play when the new "official official" ruled that the Young Bucks had been stopped one foot short of knotting the score.

Watching the game from their respective easy chairs were *Crazy Legs Lewis*, *Big Boy Bob Nicolls*, and *Paul Night Train Yoder*. *Hammerin' Hank Grover* traded his Silver Buck jersey for referee stripes. *Jolt'n Jim Ridge* and *Mad Dog Gary Grover* took a step up (the hill) from the gridiron to the press box. Making comebacks were *Wild Bill Nicolls*, *Dandy Dean Kauffman*, and *Nifty Neil Chessin*. *Jamm'n Jake Grover* and *Quick Kyle Kauff-*

*man* realigned themselves with the Young Bucks while *Too Small Dale Nicolls* graduated to the Silver Bucks. There were five newcomers. The Youngs drafted *Jonathan Jaguar Bundy*, *Jamie Jitter Bug Grover*, and *Jason Cougar McHenry*, while *Sam Pavelko* and *Erin Meister* joined *Emilie Ridge* of the Silvers to form the pass-rushing trio known as *The Three Amigos*.

The game kicked off under a cool gray sky. Initially, the offenses were as sloppy as the conditions, while the defenses were sharp. During the first five series, there were only two completions by the offenses, while the defenses snagged four interceptions – one each by *Greg Bubby Bundy*, *Too Small Dale Nicolls*, *Game Breaker Bruce Nicolls*, and *Jamm'n Jake Grover*.

*Jamm'n Jake* ran back his pick to the 50-yard line. Two plays later *Greg Bubby Bundy* scrambled out of trouble and launched a long pass to *Cap'n Crunch Kevin Blucker* who snagged it in the endzone for the first touchdown. *Speedy James Bundy* tried to outrun the Silver defense, but was stopped just short of the goal line during the PAT attempt.

The defenses took over again before the half. *Jamm'n Jake*



Referee Hank Grover kept the game under control.

and *Game Breaker Bruce* each snared their second interception as the clock wound down. The Young Bucks took a 6-0 lead into the locker room.

The second half started with the  
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Quick Kyle Kauffman caught the pass which pulled the Youngs within 2.

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- Thanks to Beth Nicolls for creating the banner.
- Thanks to Reporter Breakaway Bob Nicolls for his written contributions.
- Thanks to the many Nicolls Reunion participants who come from all over.
- Thanks to our gracious host and hostess Don and Bev Nicolls.



**Dandy Dean Kauffman was the comeback kid of the year with two TD throws**

**“The church bells chimed high noon in the background. But the fat lady wasn’t singing yet.”**



**Jamm'n Jake Grover had a Young Buck high four interceptions**

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Silvers peddling downhill. **Too Small Dale** stopped the Young Bucks on the third down of the opening drive by picking off a long pass. The Silvers then revealed their new offensive game plan – the no huddle offense. **Dandy Dean Kauffman** hit **Too Small Dale** with three consecutive quick passes to move the ball to the Youngs' 35. **Danny Dean** then threw the fly pattern into the lower corner of the endzone where **Game Breaker Bruce** pulled it in between two defenders to put the Silvers on the board quickly. The play capped a 4 play, 65 yard scoring drive. **Greg Bubby Bundy** intercepted the PAT, so the game was even at 6-6.

After **Game Breaker Bruce** stopped the second Young Buck drive on third down with an interception at the Silver 10, the Silvers went right into the no huddle offense again. They marched down the field with **Dandy Dean** connecting on three of five passes, but they ran out of downs on the opponents 35 as the Young defense adjusted to the new strategy.

The defenses dominated play for the next seven series. There were 6 interceptions, two sacks and one slobber-knocker. **Too Small Dale** and **Jamm'n Jake** each had two picks (with an assist on Jake's second one by **Jason Cougar McHenry**), while **Skiin' Ian Nicolls**, and **Big Don Nicolls** each had one pick. In one series, two of the three amigos registered sacks. **Erin Meister's** sack stopped the Youngs on fifth down and **Emilie Ridge's** sack earned her the privilege of kicking off the next time the Silver Bucks scored. **Wild Bill Nicolls** registered a slobber-knocker by driving a Young Buck runner into the pine trees. **Bobby Bubba Smith** and **Jamie Jitter Bug Grover** also put a lot of pressure on the Silver QB.

When **Big Don** intercepted a pass at the Youngs' 35-yard line, it looked like the Silvers would take the lead, but the Young defense rose to the challenge and stopped the Silvers at the 6-inch line on downs. As **Jolt'n Jim Ridge** pointed out from his announcing spot – you could barely see the mud between the ball and the goal line.

The Silver bullet defense, hungry to get the ball back, intercepted the second Young Buck pass to put them back into scoring position at the Young 35. **Dandy Dean** hit **Nifty Neil Chessin** at the 10 and then **Big Don** at the 5. The Silvers next took a page out of the Youngs' playbook. **Dandy Dean** threw the fade pattern to the high side of the endzone to **Too Small Dale** to capture the lead for the Silvers. For the PAT, **Dandy Dean** threw a strike to **Nifty Neil Chessin** in the low corner of the endzone to make the game 14-6 in favor of the Silvers. The two points seemed like icing on the cake at the time, but it proved to be the game winning score. **Emilie Ridge** got her chance to kick off.

It was very late in the game, but the Young Bucks did not let down, even after **Sam Pavelko** completed the **Three Amigos'** sack trilogy on second down, and **Game Breaker Bruce** registered his fourth interception on third down giving the Silvers possession at their own 10 yard-line. The game appeared to be over. The Silver plan was to run out the clock as the church bells chimed high noon in the background. But the fat lady wasn't singing yet. **Greg Bubby Bundy** patiently waited for the right moment. On second down (the last down before the Silvers planned to punt), **Bubby Bundy** timed his break on the ball perfectly and stepped in front of the Silver receiver and raced down the side line to the Silver three

yard-line. The Young Bucks knew to strike fast while the Silvers were reeling. **Greg Bubby Bundy** rolled to his right and spotted **Quick Kyle Kauffman** who hauled in the pass and did a tightrope act in keeping both feet in bounds in the endzone. It was now a two point game – 14-12. There was no decision for the Young Bucks. They had to try to force an historic first time Turkey Bowl sudden death over-time. Hearts were racing on both sides and the crowd was on its feet. **Bubby Bundy** rolled to the left and found an open receiver in the endzone who caught the pass. But wait, the receiver came back for the ball and **Referee Hank Grover** ruled that the catch was just a foot short of the endzone where the receiver was driven out of bounds by **Nifty Neil Chessin**. The Silvers held on to win the game but the Young Bucks played their hearts out and made it a game to remember – the greatest Turkey Bowl ever.

## Turkey Bowl XVI

The Turkey Bowl XVI kickoff will be Saturday, November 28, 1998 at 10:30 a.m. in Nicolls Stadium, New Castle, Pennsylvania. As usual the starting time is tentative because NBC has not finalized its schedule.

## Memories of Turkey Bowl XV

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- ✦ The muddy slippery field. Everyone's uniform was muddy and wet. But, did you see **Big Don's** uniform? Clean and dry.
- ✦ **Gayle Ridge's** Oscar winning performance of sideline cheer leading.
- ✦ The take-charge attitude and control of the game by Referee **Hank Grover**.
- ✦ The Young Bucks last minute controversial second touchdown.
- ✦ The 14 to 12 score was the closest in Turkey Bowl history.
- ✦ **Jonathan Jaguar Bundy's** run around the right end for good yardage.
- ✦ **Dandy Dean Kauffman's** long passes. Three in a row were caught by **Too Small Dale Nicolls**. Too Small Dale and **Game Breaker Bruce** each caught passes for touchdowns and **Nifty Neil Chessin** caught a pass for the extra point.
- ✦ **Greg Bubby Bundy's** long run along the sideline after faking a pass.
- ✦ **Emilie Pancake Ridge's** sack of the quarterback. Doesn't she like QBs?
- ✦ **Cap'n Crunch Kevin Blucker** rolling in the mud on many plays.
- ✦ The interceptions – four each by **Greg Bubby Bundy**, **Game Breaker Bruce Nicolls**, **Too Small**

**Dale Nicolls**; three by **Jamm'n Jake Grover**, and one by **Big Don Nicolls**. The "Interception Bowl"?

- ✦ The retired Silver Bucks – **Breakaway Bob Nicolls**, **Hammerin' Hank Grover**, **Dandy Dean Kauffman**, and **Mickey Maurader Nicolls** – were honored during the Friday evening pre-game festivities.



Emilie, Erin and Sam – the Three Amigos from Poland – used their speed to each get a quarterback sack.

## Grandma Grover Says/Gary Mad Dog Grover Says

CRN

- ✦ The best time to do something is between yesterday and tomorrow.
- ✦ The best way to predict the future is to create it.
- ✦ Sometimes the road less traveled is less traveled for a reason.
- ✦ You've got to be willing to give up good to become great.
- ✦ Of course, I want my children to be a credit to me, but not on my card.

### Gary On Aging:

- ✦ "He turned 40 this year. He's not over the hill, but he's on the top looking down."

### Gary On Food/the 17 Turkey Bowl Interceptions:

- ✦ "I haven't seen this many turnovers since the last time I was in Dunkin Doughnuts."

### Gary On Politics:

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- ✦ "I think the ball has changed sides more often than Bill Clinton's story in a political crisis."

### Gary On Fashion:

- ✦ "You have to be really suspect of anyone who wears Dockers in a game like this – they're afraid to get them dirty."

"He turned 40 this year. He's not over the hill, but he's on the top looking down." - Gary Mad Dog Grover on the Aging Too Small Dale Nicolls

## The Natural Order of Things

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The Realignment Agreement of 1997 was the biggest shakeup in the Nicolls Football League in many years. It was rumored that negotiations went on all summer in an attempt to add young players to replace the retired Silver Bucks. From the inside we learned that negotia-

tions broke down until Silver Bucks Coach, **Big Don Nicolls**, who also owns the Nicolls Stadium, the parking lot, the restaurant, and the hotel, and also owns the franchise on the Silver Bucks, dictated: "Anyone over forty years of age will play for the Silver Bucks – Period. That's final." End of negotia-

tions. The Silver Bucks picked up **Too Small Dale**, a great addition to the team.



Emotions ran high in Turkey Bowl XV – the closest game yet.

## Big Don Says, “Just Win Baby”

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**New Castle** – Our reporter, Ima Dogginit, asked **Big Don Nicolls**, coach of the Silver Bucks about last years Turkey Bowl game;

**Ima:** The realignment of the league seemed to favor the Silver Bucks. How do you –

**Big Don:** Well, we did pick up *Too Small Dale*, but we gave up some young fast players. It was a fair deal. All over-forty players will be Silver Bucks. Period. A distinct alignment.

**Ima:** Your team looked sluggish in the first half. The Silver Buc –

**Big Don:** Now, remember, we were working together for the first time. We gave up a TD in the first half, but we made some adjustments for the second half and got back

into the game. Now, let me tell –

**Ima:** Coach, how did you get **Dandy Dean** to come out of retirement? His passing game was a plus for the Silver Bucks. Did you –

**Big Don:** Yes, **Dandy Dean** gave us a lift. Well, we lost **Jolt’n Jim Ridge**, **Crazy Legs John Lewis**, and **Hammerin’ Hank Grover**. Crazy Legs John and Hammerin’ Hank suggested that we offer Dandy Dean an incentive. That meant big bucks. You know – **Quick Kyle** is in college now and **Lovely Lindsay** soon will be. That’s big bucks. So, money talks and Dandy Dean listened and took the bait.

**Ima:** How does the team look for this year, Coach. Any

changes or –

**Big Don:** We’re pretty well set with **Dandy Dean**, **Game Breaker Bruce**, **Nifty Neil Chessin**, **Too Small Dale**, and **Wild Bill**. We should win by two touchdowns. You see, we –

**Ima:** Coach, what about **Big Boy Bob Nicolls**? **Coach Greg Bundy** of the Young Bucks says that Big Boy Bob will play for the Young Bucks since he’s forty – not over-forty – and the ‘realignment’ stated that those over-forty will play for the Silver Bucks.

**Big Don:** Now, that’s his interpretation. I would say, and I’m sure that our legal counsel will agree, that over-forty includes any date past the fortieth birthday. Now, you’ll have to excuse me. I’ve got to



**Big Don – Silver Buck Coach since 1968**

check on the concessions and the parking.

**Ima:** Coach, one last ques –  
**Big Don:** Sorry – I’m out of here.

## Young Buck Coach Fighting Over-Forty Rhetoric

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**Columbus** – Our reporter, Justa Dogleg, recently interviewed **Greg Bubby Bundy**, coach of the Young Bucks about last year’s Turkey Bowl game:

**Justa:** Your team looked pretty sluggish –

**GBB:** Yes, our defense and offense just didn’t get rolling in the first half. We did score a TD on my pass to **Cap’n Crunch Kevin Blucker**, but then we stalled. We did contain the Silver Bu –

**Justa:** What was the crucial play for your team, Coach?

**GBB:** Well, I thought that I had scored when I intercepted a pass and ran for the TD, but the official called me out at the one yard line. We should have won that game. Oh, so close.

**Justa:** Coach Bundy, the grapevine tells us that **Big Boy Bob Nicolls** will be here for this year’s game.

**GBB:** Yes, he and his family will fly in and –

**Justa:** Our sources tell us that he will play for the Silver Bucks since he –

**GBB:** Wait a minute – Big Boy Bob is still a Young Buck. He’s on our –

**Justa:** We know that he’s forty years old and –

**GBB:** You’re right. That puts him on our team. The *Realignment Agreement of 1997* says, and I quote, “All players over the age of forty shall play on the Silver Bucks team.” Now, that’s pretty plain that Big Boy Bob is a Young Buck until he is past forty years of age to be spe-

cific – until his forty-first birthday next June.

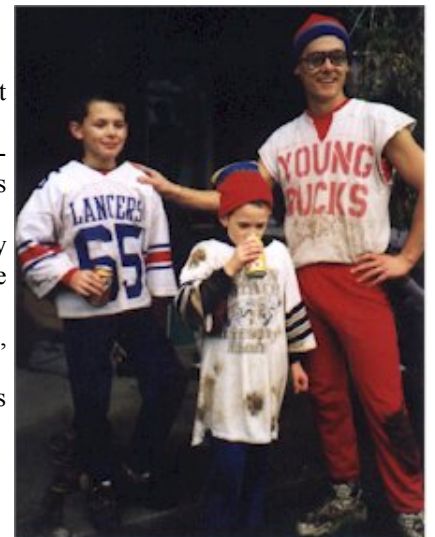
**Justa:** Coach, do you foresee any hassle over this issue?

**GBB:** Oh, no – it’s pretty cut and dried. Just read the terms of the agreement.

**Justa:** Can I quote you, Coach?

**GBB:** Certainly. Thanks for asking.

*Greg Bubby Bundy was co-founder of the Turkey Bowl newsletter and co-revivalist of the Turkey Bowl game in 1987 – eleven years ago. He is an original member of the ‘new’ Young Bucks.*



**New Young Buck coach Greg Bubby Bundy along with his new recruits James Speedy Bundy and Jonathan Defender Bundy.**