

Silver/Young Bucks Football Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 1

Fall 2004

Thanks To...

- Don & Bev Nicolls for hosting another great Nicolls Reunion.
- Everyone who contributed articles.
- Marty Bundy for the Turkey Bowl XXI photos.
- Jim Ridge for doing the game commentary and video.
- Barb Nicolls for providing the vintage photos.

Inside this issue:

2004 MVPs 2

Hot Item for Christmas 3

Rocky Reunion 3

Friday Night Surprises 3

National News 4

I Remember 4

Turkey Bowl 2004 4

Silver Bucks Overcome Young Bucks 14-12 in Snow Bowl II

New Castle, PA – The much anticipated Turkey Bowl XXI was played on the frozen tundra of Nicolls Stadium. The ground was covered with snow and large flakes were still falling from the cold, dark sky. Unlike the previous year when there were four new players, the harsh conditions meant that only hardened veterans would play in this game.

The Young Bucks were confident despite the revelation during the pre-Bingo ceremony that anyone engaged to be married in May 2004 did not meet eligibility requirements for being a Young Buck. The seldom cited section of the Turkey Bowl bi-laws was unveiled by Over-Forties Superstars co-founder, coach and legal representative of the Silver Bucks, **Big Don Nicolls**. The forward-thinking regulation written in 1968 resulted in **Ben "Big" Mack "Attack"** switching from the Young Bucks to the Silver Bucks.

Another seldom quoted bi-law regulation is that no two players are allowed to have the same nickname on the same team. Emilie Ridge formerly known as Emilie "Bulldog" Ridge graciously changed her name to **Emilie "Buckeye" Ridge** in honor of the 2002 National Championship team that she and **Jolt'n Jim** cheered on to victory in Tempe Arizona.

The Silver Bucks started off hot in spite of the cold conditions.



Greg Bubby Bundy started the game with three straight completions. **Game Breaker Bruce Nicolls, Gayle Sayers Ridge, and Too Small Dale Nicolls** each snagged one. The series ended, however with an incomplete pass in the Young Buck end zone. The Young Bucks came out determined to run the ball in the slippery conditions. **Edgerin James Bundy, Jonathan Speedy Bundy and Jamm'n Jake Grover** each carried the pigskin once.

The next Silver Buck offensive series ended in controversy. A fifth down pass from **Greg Bubby Bundy** to **Ben "Big" Mack "Attack"** appeared to give the Silver Bucks an early 6-0 lead. But Silver Buck Alum, **Hammerin' Hank Grover** called pass interference on the offense and the six points were removed from the scoreboard. The fifth down replay was thwarted when **Defender Joel Bundy** sacked the Silver QB. Momentum swung to the

(Continued on page 2)

Above—Team picture from Snow Bowl II (Turkey Bowl XXI)

Below—The field was covered in snow



The Young Buck MVPs (Defender Joel Bundy, Brad "BDog" Lawrence and Jeffrey "Bulldog" Grover) rush Silver QB Greg Bubby Bundy as Wild Bill Nicolls and Too Small Dale Nicolls provide protection.





Just before the half, the Young Buck defense made a goal line stand to keep the score 12-0 at halftime.

(Continued from page 1)

Youngs. **Jamm'n Jake Grover** scrambled to the 50 yard line. Then they confused the Silver defense when **Edgerrin James Bundy** took over as the Young signal caller. On his second throw, he found



brother **Jonathan Speedy Bundy** in the northeast corner of the end zone for the first score of the game. The two point conversion failed, so the score was Young Bucks 6 and Silver Bucks nothing.

Two plays after the kickoff, **Jamm'n Jake Grover** picked off a Silver aerial and returned the ball to the Silver Buck 10 yard line. The second pass play hit pay dirt as **Jamm'n Jake Grover** found **Edgerrin James Bundy** in the northeast corner of the end zone for a touchdown. The two point conversion failed, so the score was 12-0, Young Bucks.

The Silver Bucks tried to answer the score before the half, but their attempt fell short at the Young Buck two yard line.

The Young Bucks went into the locker room at halftime confident that the game was theirs. The Silver defense knew that it could not allow any more points so they decided to em-

ploy the BlitzBurgh defense. To blitz the QB, the Silvers looked to two Western PA bred members. Individually they are known as **Greg Bubby Bundy** and **Too Small Dale Nicolls**, but together they are known as **Quick** and **Quake**. I don't need to tell you which one is **Quick** and which one is **Quake**.

The strategy paid off almost immediately. On the first series of the second half, **Quake** got his hands up and tipped a pass which was then intercepted by an alert **Ben "Big" Mack "Attack"**. On the third pass after the turnover, **Greg Bubby Bundy** hit **Game Breaker Bruce Nicolls** at the Young Buck 10 yard line. On the next play, **Greg Bubby Bundy** found **Too Small Dale Nicolls** in the end zone for the first Silver Buck TD. **Greg Bubby Bundy** tossed one to **Game Breaker Bruce Nicolls** for the two point conversion. The score was now 12-6 with the Silver Bucks only one touchdown from taking the lead.

After the Young offense started to move the ball, the Silver defense took over. **Wild Bill Nicolls** stopped up a run by the Young QB. Then **Game Breaker Bruce Nicolls** made a beautiful diving interception in the swampy part of the south end zone to swing the momentum back to the Silver Bucks. On the second play after the pick, **Greg Bubby Bundy** threw long to **Ben "Big" Mack "Attack"** who pulled it in and was finally chased down at the Young Buck 5 yard line. **Gayle "Sayers" Ridge** and **Wild Bill Nicolls** gave **Greg Bubby Bundy** time to throw as he scrambled, pump faked and finally connected with **Game Breaker Bruce Nicolls** for the second Silver TD. The two point conversion failed, but the Silver Bucks had taken the lead

for the first time in the game, 14-12. After the Young Bucks got the ball in good field position from a short kickoff, **Quick** decided to take over the game. With the Young Bucks already in striking position, **Quick** had three quarterback sacks in one series to preserve the precarious Silver lead. The ball was turned over to the Silver Bucks and the sun finally broke through the clouds. Was this a sign? Was the sun finally shining on the Silver Bucks once again?

The Silver offensive play calling turned more conservative than Ronald Reagan. The Young defense took over on downs as **Defender Joel Bundy** knocked down the Silver pass attempt. It was almost high noon and the Young offense had one more chance to win the game. **Jonathan Speedy Bundy** ran the ball to the Silver 40 yard line. **Jamm'n Jake Grover** completed a pass to **Edgerrin James Bundy** for a pick up of 10 yards. That is when **Quick** tallied his fourth sack of the game and pushed the Youngs out of scoring range.

The Silver Bucks ran out the clock as the church chimes rang out on fifth down. It was the sound of victory bells for the Silver Bucks.

The comparisons between this game and the '71 Snow Bowl go far deeper than the weather conditions. Yes, both games were played on snow covered fields. Both games saw the heavily favored Young Bucks jumping to a commanding half-time lead. And just as in '71, the Silver Bucks made an amazing comeback in the second half to win the game. And just as a young **Gary B. Bad Blucker** had played for the Over-Forties Superstars, so **Ben "Big" Mack "Attack"** played for the Silver Bucks.

"Was the sun finally shining on the Silver Bucks once again?"

Defender Joel Bundy, Brad "BDog" Lawrence, and Jeffrey "Bulldog" Grover were named the game's MVPs.



2002 Championship Stacker Dolls

Emilie Ridge, our reporter out of Moscow, has the latest on items available for those long-distance fans this season. What better gift for your mantle or office desk? And a bargain at only 650 rubles!

There are only 29 shopping days after Thanksgiving. So, get shopping!



Family Reunion in the Rockies by John Lewis

An unexpected Nicolls and Yoder reunion took place in the Colorado Rockies this year. Hosted by Bob and Kathy Nicolls with their family at Monarch Mountain Lodge, the other relatives included Bruce, Cindy, Ian and Hillary Nicolls, as well as Paul, Suzy, Allison and PJ Yoder.

In looking forward to a Colorado ski trip, Paul and Suzy checked the distance to Mon-

arch and found they were going to be close by. After contacting Bob, they learned that Bruce and Cindy were also planning a visit at the same time to see Ian and Hillary.

The result was a great time for everyone! The weather cooperated fully! Grown cousins were able to renew acquaintances, as well as meet new cousins, both in front of the lodge's fireplaces and on the slopes.

The younger ones were given ski lessons and then ventured out into new territory on the mountainside trails. PJ Yoder was rumored to have asked if he could sign up for the Ski Patrol next year!

Many thanks to Bob and Kathy for providing the locale and beautiful surroundings for the most enjoyable reunion!

“An unexpected Nicolls and Yoder reunion took place in the Colorado Rockies this year”

Friday Night Surprises by Dale Nicolls

- **Aunt Betty** opened a present just before Bingo and found a doll with her face on it. I hope she is getting royalties from the doll maker.
- **Hanz and Franz** made a surprise video appearance. The last time they appeared at the Nicolls Reunion was 1988. Inspired by their cousin's political recall victory in California, they decided to spearhead the recalls of the Ohio and Pennsylvania governors. We are sorry to report that Hanz and Franz failed in their attempts. How-

ever, Hanz's suggestion to send all Ohio weaklings to the "Land of Little Girlie Men", Michigan, is currently under consideration in the Ohio legislature.

- **Big Don Nicolls**, Silver Buck coach and attorney, cited a little known clause in the Turkey Bowl bi-laws that anyone engaged to be married in May, 2004 must play on the Silver Bucks. The bi-laws were written back in 1968. The Young Buck bloggers examined the documents. They noted that the type was in a proportional font and

that dates had superscripts. They contend that this technology was not available in '68. The documents looked like they had been created on a computer. Big Don Nicolls says that this kind of typeface was commonly available in '68, especially in law firms. He continues to stand by the integrity of the documents. Some Young Buck bloggers say they have traced the origin of the documents and claim that they were faxed from a Kinko's in Westerville, OH.



That face looks familiar. Does it sing a song about a farm in Iowa and do a dance?



The girls table—
Thanksgiving '64

National News by Donald Nicolls

Bill has shaved off his beard; and he looks so young now that he will have to play with the "Young Bucks" this year.

Some of the "Young Bucks" were filmed last July in the Grand Teton National Park

practicing plays for the Turkey bowl Game. The best play was called "Throw high to Jake."

I understand that Bob, Kathy and family are planning to come all the way from Colorado just to "experience" a repeat performance of Mickey's "He Haw." Don't worry, Betty,

your performance of "Down on the Farm" is not in jeopardy.

Gene has set the next weekend at Wilson Lodge in Oglebay Park for May 13, 14 & 15, 2005. Mark your calendars now.

I Remember...

- The thing that gave me that special edge (and poundage) on the line of scrimmage back in the day

was the extra chocolate drop cookies Grandma used to hide in the special back stairway

cupboard. No matter how well she thought she hid them, I could always sniff them out. For me, those made up the true 'breakfast of champions'.

By **Bill Nicolls**

- What sticks in my memory of Grandma (when ever I think of her), is that smile and the sparkle in her eyes. It was hard not to feel good around her.

By **Bruce Nicolls**

- How the heck did all of us fit in this house where we now live with no room to spare???? Were the turkeys smaller or what? By

Gayle Ridge

- Remember the Ohio license plates in the garage.
- Grandma was always positive even though she struggled with Parkinson's disease. She was always able to laugh at herself. By

Dale Nicolls



The grown up
table —
Thanksgiving '64

Turkey Bowl 2004 circa 1971 by Bob Nicolls II

With less than one month to go before game time, I can only hope that conditions will be similar to the epic game of 1971. After missing the last several years of titanic struggles, the only panacea to this absence from the gridiron will be conditions so miserable to more than compensate.

In retrospect, I can see how we lost the game that day. It was during the day before and the morning thereof. Instead of watching game film and practicing plays, we

Young bucks were clearing the field of snow. The Over Forties had fired the grounds crew, and had feigned postponement to the game

that year. We fell for it and got about the task of clearing 10 foot deep of wet snow from the field over the course of 48 hours.

Personally, I remember waking up at 4am Saturday morning, half an hour after I went to bed, to continue rolling snow off the field. Those sly Over-Forties had gone to bed knowing that they'd won without yet stepping on the field.

By game time, exhausted as we were, our adrenaline took over and we stormed to a big half-time lead. The coke, cookies and candy bars that were sent to our locker room prior to the game by an "unidentified fan" had buoyed our energy, spirit and effort for 30 minutes.

Indeed, the real effect was to wring every last ounce of energy from our system so that by kickoff of the second half we were a drooling mess. Those lead footed Over Forties now became fleet gazelles compared to our now drained and limp physiques.

Laughter and cackling could be heard from the opposition huddle, but we had no answer, only a hapless futile lunge or grasp. In the end, we simply could not hold on and it wasn't till just now, after reviewing game tape of the last 40 years that I have come to fully understand what happened. Brains versus Brawn, Strength versus Intelligence. There's no way I'm going to fall for that one again, this time I'll bring a shovel.

When we were
too young even to
be Young Bucks—
Thanksgiving '64

