

Colbert, Conger, Pursell On 'Big 33'

Three of the "Big 33" are Lower Bucks County gridders.

No, it's not a military code. It simply means that three local high school football players — quarterback Jim Colbert and guard Fred Conger of Neshaminy and tackle Dave Pursell of Pennsbury — have been selected to play with the Pennsylvania "Big 33" team against an all-star squad from Texas.

The third annual game will be played next August at Hershey. Pennsylvania won the first meeting between the two states, 12-6, but Texas evened the count this past August with a 26-10 victory.

The Harrisburg Patriot-News, which promotes the game, announced the team yesterday. For the first time, a 33-man high school coaches' panel assisted 45 sports writers throughout the commonwealth in selecting the squad.

Game Films Used

Game films were checked and college scouts were contacted for their evaluations.

Ben Borowsky, sports editor of the Courier-Times, served on the writer's panel. Although the names of the coaches who assisted in selecting the players were kept confidential, it is believed that a number of Lower Bucks County League head mentors were on the panel.

The structure of the squad was changed slightly with the final breakdown being six ends, 11 interior linemen, two centers, three quarterbacks and 11 offensive defensive backs. Eleven alternates were also selected and will be called up in the event any player is unable to compete in the game.

Schub Was First

Six former Lower Bucks gridders were selected in previous years and four actually played the game. Before the Texas-Pennsylvania series started in 1963, there were games involving Pennsylvania against an "All America" scholastic team and also some East vs. West games involving Keystone State gridders only.

Harry Schuh, the former Neshaminy and Memphis State star now with the Oakland Raiders, was the first to be chosen from Lower Bucks. He was picked after the 1960 season and played in the 1961 game.

Halfback Bob Baxter of Neshaminy and end Gary Steele of Wilson played in the 1964 game, while defensive tackle Dennis Woomer of Pennsbury played in this year's game.

Tackle John Carber (1961) and center Bob Cummings (1962), both of Neshaminy, were selected but were unable to participate in the games, because they were accepted by West Point and Annapolis, respectively.

Baughner Pleased

John Petercuskie, who just resigned as coach at Neshaminy, served as an assistant coach for the "Big 33" squad this past August. He was quite pleased with the selections. "I was sure Colbert would make the squad," he said, "because he has been the talk of the state this past season."

Petercuskie added that it was nice to have three boys from the Lower Bucks League on the squad. "Conger earned a spot on the squad, and from my experience with the 'Big 33', he is the type that will fit into their play pattern," Petercuskie said.

Pennsbury coach Erle Baughner was also pleased with the news. "I'm very pleased, naturally. I hope they can beat Texas and I'm sure that our boys, who were worthy of the honor, will do their best in representing Lower Bucks County," he said.

Approximately 600 boys were nominated for the squad. This was first trimmed in half, then to 80 and finally to 44, with 11 designated as alternates.

Three other Lower Bucks gridders earned honorable mention. They are tackle Ron Urban of Wilson, and backs Jim Broadwater of Pennsbury and Gerry Barr of Neshaminy.

The "Big 33" squad follows:

PENNSYLVANIA BIG 33 FOOTBALL SQUAD

ENDS: Paul Nagome, Norwin; Duane Puckon, Elizabeth-Forward; Rich Saut, Butler; Don Low, Brownsville; Steve Smear, Johnstown; McCort, Henry Brown, Middletown.

INTERIOR LINEMEN: Dave Pursell, Pennsbury; Mike McCoy, Erie Cathedral; Harry Popf, Philadelphia West Catholic; John Eberhart, Altoona; Dave Marcano, Monacahele; Keith Kleinbach, Upper Merion; Jim Bair, Belle Vernon; Ed Stulka, Johnstown; Walt Whitehead, Carlisle; Tom Templeton, Tyrone; Fred Conger, Neshaminy.

CENTERS: Fred Sample, Churchill Area; Mike Stubbjar, Steelton-Highspire.

QUARTERBACKS: Jim Colbert, Neshaminy; Jim Stosiek, Middletown; Charles Burkhardt, Monacahele.

OFFENSIVE - DEFENSIVE BACKS: Dick Beard, Altoona; Van Gulmont, Beaver Falls; Wesley Garrott, Pittsburgh Westinghouse; Jeff Zimmerman, Blue Mountain; Lon (Ray) Gillan, Uniontown; Phil Vassar, Uniontown; Terry Rettig, Butler; Tom Haller, Chief Logan; Jack Duffin, Pottsville; Frank Victor, Washington; Art (Buster) Ray, Harrisburg John Harris.

FIRST LINE ALTERNATES

ENDS: Glen Fawcay, Shikellamy; Mel Jenkins, Harrisburg John Harris.

INTERIOR LINEMEN: George Kelly, Butler; George Norshold, Carlisle; John Jones, Easton; Jeff Mapstone, Lock Haven.

CENTER: Chuck Hatchko, Monacahele.

QUARTERBACK: Joe Buchmaki, Mt. Carmel.

OFFENSIVE - DEFENSIVE BACKS: Jim Watson, Hempfield Area; Gerry Williams, Governor Mifflin; Pete Drehmann, Abington.