

# The sports gifts were many and varied in 1985

"Well, dearie, its not easy being Santa Claus," the jolly northerner settled into a philosophical mood.

"You'd know best Mr. HoHo," Mrs. Claus was fond of cute endearing monickers.

"There's requests. Inventory lists. Finding the right helpers. Paying the upkeep on reindeer pellets. And worst of all, you never know if everyone's happy." Considering the complexity of his mission HoHo's concerns sounded reasonable.

Always the staunch supporter, Mrs. Claus understood, "You rarely miss. Take the Bucks Coun-

ty sports scene for example. Last year you decided to forego the gimmick grabbers, media hype and junk food, and go with something real."

"I do recall a few requests for Arnie Action dolls, complete with self-destructo boots."

"True. But you went with class. Over at Neshaminy you gave them Earl Brown, a grappler whose exploits included a sectional, district and regional title."

"He was a good one. But what about those who wanted Commando Buddies, the total fighting unit."

"That's a bunch of plastic

## Sporting life/John Gleeson

You opted for Dick Bedesem and his Redskin footballers. Tim Ford. Tom Waterbor. Dan Santhouse. Those are gutsy kids who took Neshaminy to a final showdown before losing to Pennsbury for the Suburban One championship."

Though amazed that Mrs. Claus's in-lingo lacked gentility, old HoHo had to agree. "That was a thriller. But it still troubles me so. Some wanted Gorgeous Grace Dolls or Peter Perfect Pectoral, the complete anatomical toy."

"Can the pseudo requests, HoHo! You offered em beauty in the form of the Council Rock girls' gym team. Robin Seliga. Tracy Lassin. Noel Brachman. That's genuine two time state champ material."

"They were skillful...and so poised," Santa's reflections even obscured the awareness of his wife's hardened approach.

"As for muscies, you sponsored a real show at the Newtown Intermediate School. Remember John Franco's beautiful bod."

Mrs. Claus's replies had taken on a where's-the-beef tone.

"That was quite a dazzling display. Those athletes spent hours honing their skills."

"Right you are, Big Ho!"

"But still there were those who wanted Whacko the Wonder Weapon. That's the toy that makes hands obsolete." Santa's fraternal instincts never fade.

"Sometimes I think you should call it a career. Could anyone want more than Council Rock's duo doubles tennis team? Bill Mountford, Scott Glassford, Elijah Gowin, Joe Tustin. All that foursome did was finish one-two in PIAA state doubles competition. Talk about winning rackets."

"They were smashing. But still...some people requested Quick Kick the ultimate in martial arts instruction."

"And you gave them something better. You blessed them with the fastest footwork seen in the keystone state." Mrs. C. sensed she needed a real cruncher to break HoHo's mood. She resorted to jingle magic.

"Try this, jolly ole Ho. On Milligan, on Schmid, on Albertson and Tuscano. From the top of the league to the top of the state. Now boot away, boot away, boot away all!"

"That's precision." Santa's comment aimed more at CR's teamwork than Madame Claus's yodeling. "Yet, did I overlook the young ones? They spoke of the Gilda Grow-up Girl. She ages as your child does."

"Ho, its all done with mirrors. You backed the Newtown Little League team. That's real maturing in action. Goodfivuly. Aaron Kemble. Tony Cacciatore. Corey Havelka. Those kids

faced genuine competition and came out state beaters."

"But was there something for everybody!?!?" Santa's tone was absolute.

"You bet your waistband, Red Belly. For stickwork you had Neshaminy's hockey team. For endurance the Rock cross coutry team proved unbeatable. Aquatic buffs could cheer on the Indians. Reeser and McHugh always offer a good show... You know, the thing is..." Mrs. C paused for affect.

Thing was a bit vague for Santa's needs. "What?"

"Having done such a great job in '85, I know you'll be equally fine in '86!"



Neshaminy's Earl Brown won the sectional, district and regional wrestling titles.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GLEESON



Bill Mountford teamed with Scott Glassford to become Council Rock's state championship doubles team.