

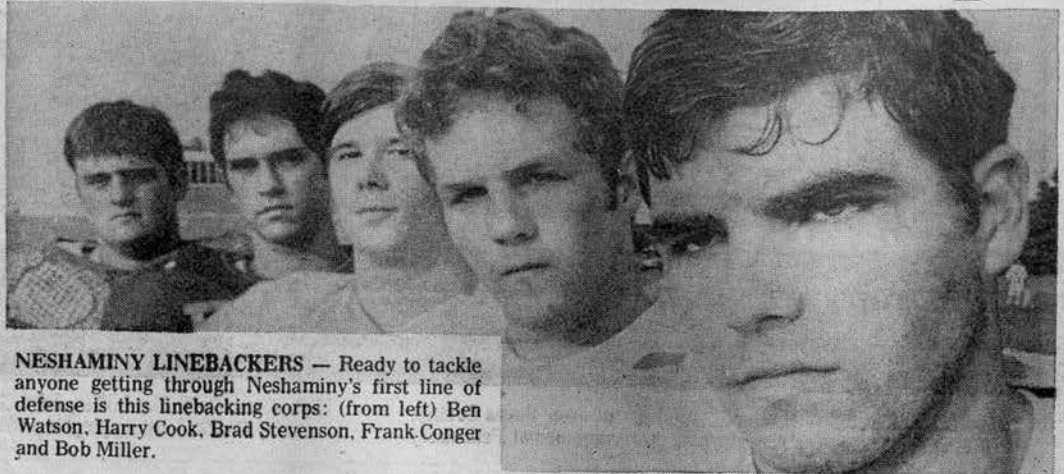
Neshaminy faces challenge

By RAY DI LISSIO
Courier Times Sports Writer

The 1972 football season could very easily be the most challenging ever for Langhorne Neshaminy High School.

Considering almost 75 per cent of last year's dynamic starting array — one which set countless records enroute to a remarkable 11-0 season — has disappeared from the scene, Jack Swartz is faced with a supreme task in this his already-announced final year as head coach.

"It all boils down to a complete rebuilding year. There are many holes to fill both on the offense



NESHAMINY LINEBACKERS — Ready to tackle anyone getting through Neshaminy's first line of defense is this linebacking corps: (from left) Ben Watson, Harry Cook, Brad Stevenson, Frank Conger and Bob Miller.

	Coach Jack Swartz			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
1968.....	3	2	0	7	4	0
1969.....	2	2	0	7	4	0
1970.....	3	0	1	9	1	1
1971.....	4	0	0	11	0	0
Totals.....	12	4	1	34	9	1

and defense. We can't concentrate on any one area. We don't believe in that. We're concerned with every area, with all phases," said Swartz.

Swartz, who plans to suit 45 of the 180 prospective candidates, will build his team around six returning starters.

Back on offense are tackle Jerry Coniglio, guard Ben Watson and halfback Joe Sroba. The latter, a 5-10, 180 senior, is a speedy breakaway runner who last season scored 66 points and was a first-team All-Area and All-Section One choice.

Coniglio (6-0, 210 senior) landed a second-team berth on the All-Section One unit and a third-team spot on the All-Area squad. Watson (6-0, 195 senior) was an All-Area and All-Section One first-team choice, and Swartz has indicated Watson "may be moved to tackle this year."

More Two-Way Men

Returning from the defense are tackle Mark Strawbridge (6-2, 210), end Steve Gale (5-11, 165) and secondary man Bart Smith (6-1, 175). All three are seniors with

Gale possibly being ticketed to move over to the offense as well this season.

"What happened last year and every year before that is now in the past. We must think about the present. Last year several men went both ways. According to how

we progress, it's possible we may do the same, maybe even more so, this year," added Swartz.

With Gale at one end on the offense, either Jim O'Brien (6-0, 180 senior) or Paul Laskey (6-2, 185 junior) will man the other side.

The guards, more than likely, will be juniors Pat Romett (6-0, 185) and Ron Rosenblatt (5-8, 165). At center, Swartz is leaning heavily toward huge Rich Eccles, a 6-4, 255 junior. "Despite his size, Eccles is quick and gets off the ball fast," said assistant coach

Jerry Levans.

The all-important job at quarterback will be in the hands of senior Bob Grupp (6-0, 185). "Bob is a very capable quarterback. He's a good boy all-around. He's quick and has plenty upstairs," commented Swartz.

In addition to Sroba, the other halfback slot is up for grabs with senior Mark Donahue (5-7, 170), a transfer from Fairless Hills Bishop Egan High School, having the inside track. Others are juniors Fred Prendegrass (5-10, 165) and Dave Miller (5-11, 175).

Senior Len Barker (6-3, 205) has people buzzing at the Ridge Barke, with plenty of speed to complement his size, should be a rugged fullback for the 'Skins.

Looking at the defense, Swartz is a little concerned about the center of the line. "For the last three years we've been gifted with tremendous linebackers. Boys who could read well, call off the offensive sets quickly and make the necessary defensive adjustments

Big Problem

"Our biggest problem will be in finding the personnel capable of plugging up the middle."

Right now it looks like senior Bob Miller (5-7, 175), who Levans feels is a "good hitter," will be at middle guard with Watson and senior Harry Cook (6-0, 205) at linebacker.

The ends will be manned by senior Chris Larkin (6-2, 170) and either senior Bob Fox (6-0, 180) or junior Scott Cliver (6-2, 185). Strawbridge and Coniglio are expected to be the tackles.

The secondary, which assistant Pal Allison feels "confident will do the job," consists of Smith, Gale, and seniors Ellis Connor (6-2, 180) and Don Dripps (5-10, 165).

"We know everyone is after us. That's to be expected. But we're going out and play football the way we know how rough and tough," added Swartz.

Neshaminy once again looks toward Fairless Hills' Pennsbury High School as a chief threat in both the LBCL and Big Seven.

"Easton and Freedom (Bethlehem) should also be tough in the Big Seven," interjected Allison. "Easton has 23 seniors listed on its roster this year. Freedom, although having a new coach, has some 30 lettermen back."

Swartz and his coaching staff, which also includes John Watto, realize they have a tough task before them.

"Don't worry. These boys have pride. When they (the opponents) leave the Ridge, they'll know they've been hit," ended Levans.

LOWER BUCKS COUNTY FOOTBALL
Annual "Coach of the Year" Award

Year	Name, School	League			Overall		
		W	L	T	W	L	T
1954	Harry Franks, Neshaminy	7	0	0	10	0	0
1955	Al Matuza, Pennsbury	5	2	0	7	2	0
1956	Fred Prender, Bristol	5	2	0	8	3	0
1957	Gordon Davies, Morrisville	5	2	0	5	3	0
1960	Marion Van Horn, Bensalem	7	1	0	8	2	0
1961	John Petercuskie, Neshaminy	3	0	0	11	1	0
1962	John Petercuskie, Neshaminy	3	0	0	10	0	1
1963	John Petercuskie, Neshaminy	3	0	0	9	0	1
1964	Lou Sorrentino, Woodrow Wilson	1	2	0	8	2	0
1965	John Petercuskie, Neshaminy	3	0	0	9	0	1
1966	Andy Tryens, Lower Moreland	5	0	0	7	1	1
1967	Dick Bedesem, Bishop Egan	6	1	0	11	1	0
1968	Jack Swartz, Neshaminy	3	2	0	7	4	0
1969	Erle Baugher, Pennsbury	4	0	0	8	2	0
1970	Dick Bedesem, Bishop Egan	7	1	1	8	3	2
1971	Jack Swartz, Neshaminy	4	0	0	11	0	0

(Editor's note: No selection made in 1958 and 1959.)