

# All-Area alignment is awesome



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1972

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Imagine yourself a linebacker on a high school football team, looking across the line into the opposing backfield. And there stand Neshaminy's Joe Sroba and Bob Grupp, Pennsbury's Dale Delise and Bristol's Bob Delia.

It's enough to make Dick Butkus turn tail and run.

But that awesome alignment is only one part of the 1972 All-Area football team constructed by the Bucks County Courier Times sports staff and 13 area coaches, with a blend of strength on defense and a scoring potential capable of winning on any high school field.

Delise, the mainstay of Pennsbury's backfield, played a major role in the Falcons' first undefeated (11-0) season. At 5-9, 170, Delise has the speed and hands to complement the power of Sroba and the outside threat supplied by Delia.

**Second Appearance**  
Sroba, at 5-10, 180, is not built along the lines of a classic power runner. But don't mention that to his would-be tacklers. Sroba, making his second appearance on the Courier Times All-Area squad, led

the Lower Bucks County in scoring and provided Neshaminy with an inside threat after the graduation of Bruce Traney, Mr. Inside on the 1971 undefeated Neshaminy team.

Bob Delia is the only Section Two player to crack the lineup on offense. Delia was the spark behind a surprise Warrior team, whose 6-3 record surpassed many pre-season predictions. Delia also proved to be a standout defensive player, grabbing six interceptions and two fumbles.

At quarterback, Bob Grupp succeeded at filling the giant shoes left by former great Pete Cordelli. Grupp added a new dimension to the Redskin backfield from the signal calling spot by showing an ability to run the ball. The 6-0, 184 senior threw for 16 touchdowns, scored five and handled the punting chores.

There is not much more to say about Pennsbury's Don Breece (6-4, 190) and Neshaminy's Steve Gale (6-0, 175) that hasn't already been said. Breece was at this same position on the All-Area team last year. While Gale was the only to see action on both offense and defense in the Neshaminy-Pennsbury game.

The writers and coaches had little trouble selecting the offensive interior line. Both Neshaminy and Pennsbury contributed a guard and a tackle, with the Falcons capturing the center spot.

Neshaminy's Ben Watson (6-0, 205) and Gary Metroka (6-1, 215) of Pennsbury had a lot to do with the success of Delise and Sroba this past year. Watson is an All-Area repeater, as is Pennsbury

guard, Gary Pasek (5-10, 180), who forms with Neshaminy's Harry Cook a formidable blocking tandem.

**Determined Center**  
Little Mike Page, the smallest man on the offensive team, at 5-9, 170, made up for his size with determination. Center Page ran up the highest margin of votes at any position on the offense.

There isn't a quarterback around who would relish calling signals against this year's All-Area

defense. Names like DiGiacomo, Dundala, Miller, Strawbridge and Johnson made this "demolition squad" tough against both the run and pass.

Phil DiGiacomo, a 6-3, 217-pound terror at defensive end for Archbishop Wood, was a near unanimous selection. DiGiacomo won the Philadelphia Maxwell Club Player of the Week award this season and also is the only repeater from last year's team on defense.

Anchoring the other side of the line is Kirk Harman of Pennsbury, a 6-0, 200-pound senior Harman was an outstanding pass rusher and turned many a sweep back into the middle of the Falcon line.

Which was a bad break for enemy runners, who then had to face the music with interior lineman Tim Miller. Miller used not only his 6-1, 212-pound size to his advantage, but "psyched out" many opponents with the best lines this side of Muhammad Ali.

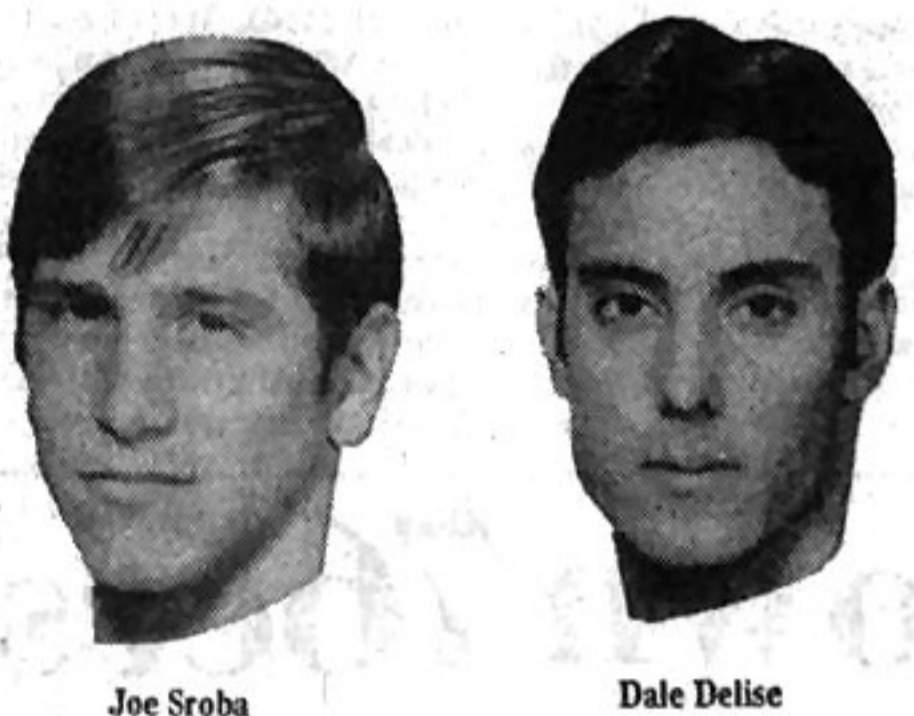
Neshaminy's defense was Mark Strawbridge. The 6-2, 210-pound senior provided the Redskins with solid line play and vital leadership. It was "Straw" who made the big play when the Redskin defense faltered against Woodrow Wilson and Pennsbury.

Tim Stough, a 6-1, 205-pound senior from Bishop Egan, mans the other interior line spot. Stough was instrumental in Egan's season-opening upset of Neshaminy, then went on to collect further plaudits for his play in the Philadelphia Catholic League.

What high school team could read a defense with linebackers like Pennsbury's Ron Dundala (5-10, 190), Bensalem's Bill Codutti (6-0, 190) and Morrisville's Jeff Johnson (6-1, 195)? Dundala was voted Most Valuable Player in this year's Pennsbury-Neshaminy classic. Codutti was the only Owl to make first team. And Johnson is the only junior to receive membership.

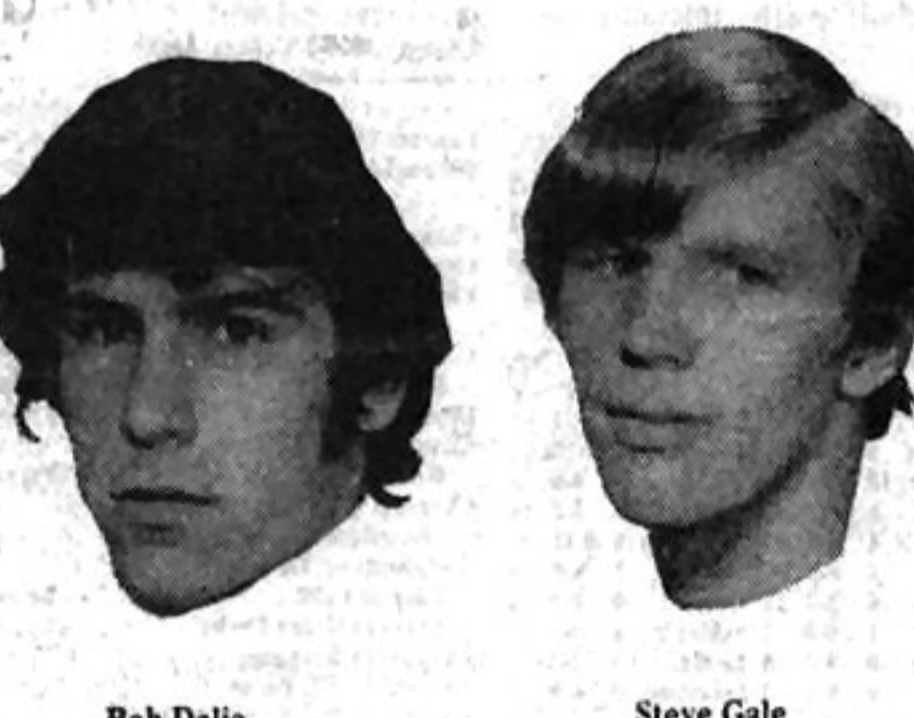
LBC coaches also felt this year's secondary was one of the best ever. Bill Struble of Wilson (5-11, 170) was one of the best to come down the road in a while, and the same can be said for Neshaminy's Bart Smith (6-1, 170) and Mike Curley of Pennsbury (6-0, 170).

Just for "kicks," don't forget John Giordano of Pennsbury. The burly (5-11, 245) placekicker set records for conversions and field goals and won the Neshaminy game with a 25-yard field goal.



Joe Sroba

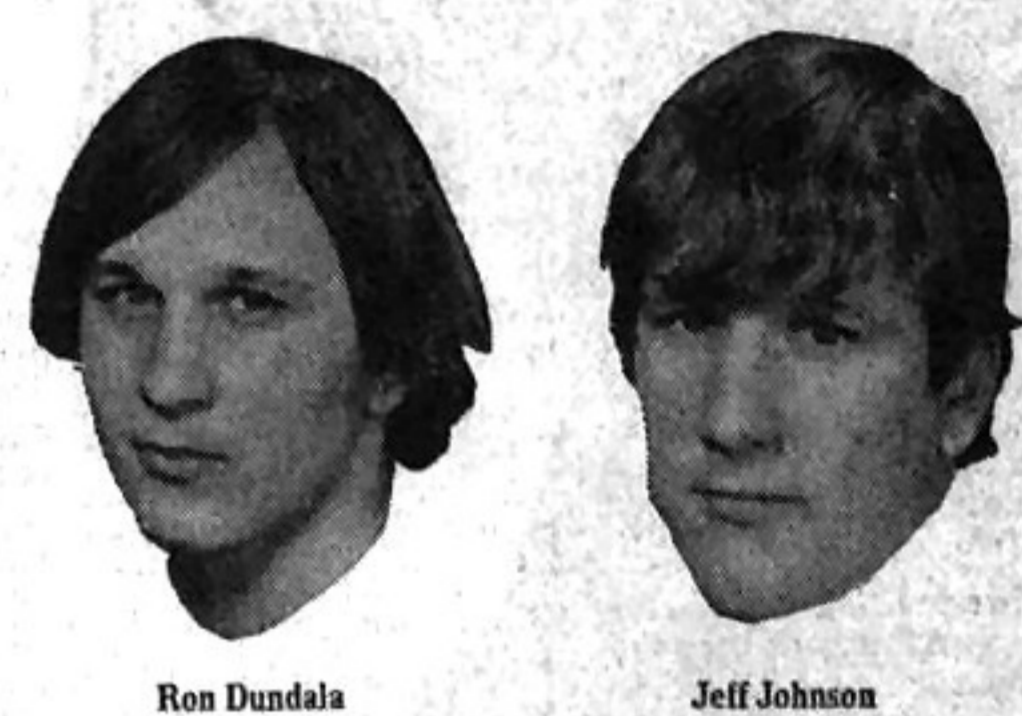
Dale Delise



Bob Delia

Steve Gale

OFFENSE					
E	Don Breece, Pennsbury	6-4	190		Sr.
E	Steve Gale, Neshaminy	6-0	175		Sr.
T	Ben Watson, Neshaminy	6-0	205		Sr.
T	Gary Metroka, Pennsbury	6-1	215		Sr.
G	Gary Pasek, Pennsbury	5-10	180		Sr.
G	Harry Cook, Neshaminy	6-0	200		Sr.
C	Mike Page, Pennsbury	5-9	170		Sr.
QB	Bob Grupp, Neshaminy	6-0	184		Sr.
RB	Joe Sroba, Neshaminy	5-10	180		Sr.
RB	Dale Delise, Pennsbury	5-9	170		Sr.
RB	Bob Delia, Bristol	5-10	180		Sr.
K	John Giordano, Pennsbury	5-11	245		Sr.
DEFENSE					
E	Phil DiGiacomo, Arch. Wood	6-3	217		Sr.
E	Kirk Harman, Pennsbury	6-0	200		Sr.
IL	Tim Miller, Pennsbury	6-1	212		Sr.
IL	Mark Strawbridge, Neshaminy	6-2	210		Sr.
IL	Tim Stough, Bishop Egan	6-1	205		Sr.
LB	Ron Dundala, Pennsbury	5-10	190		Sr.
LB	Bill Codutti, Bensalem	6-0	190		Sr.
LB	Jeff Johnson, Morrisville	6-1	195		Jr.
DB	Bill Struble, Woodrow Wilson	5-11	170		Sr.
DB	Bart Smith, Neshaminy	6-1	170		Sr.
DB	Mike Curley, Pennsbury	6-0	170		Sr.



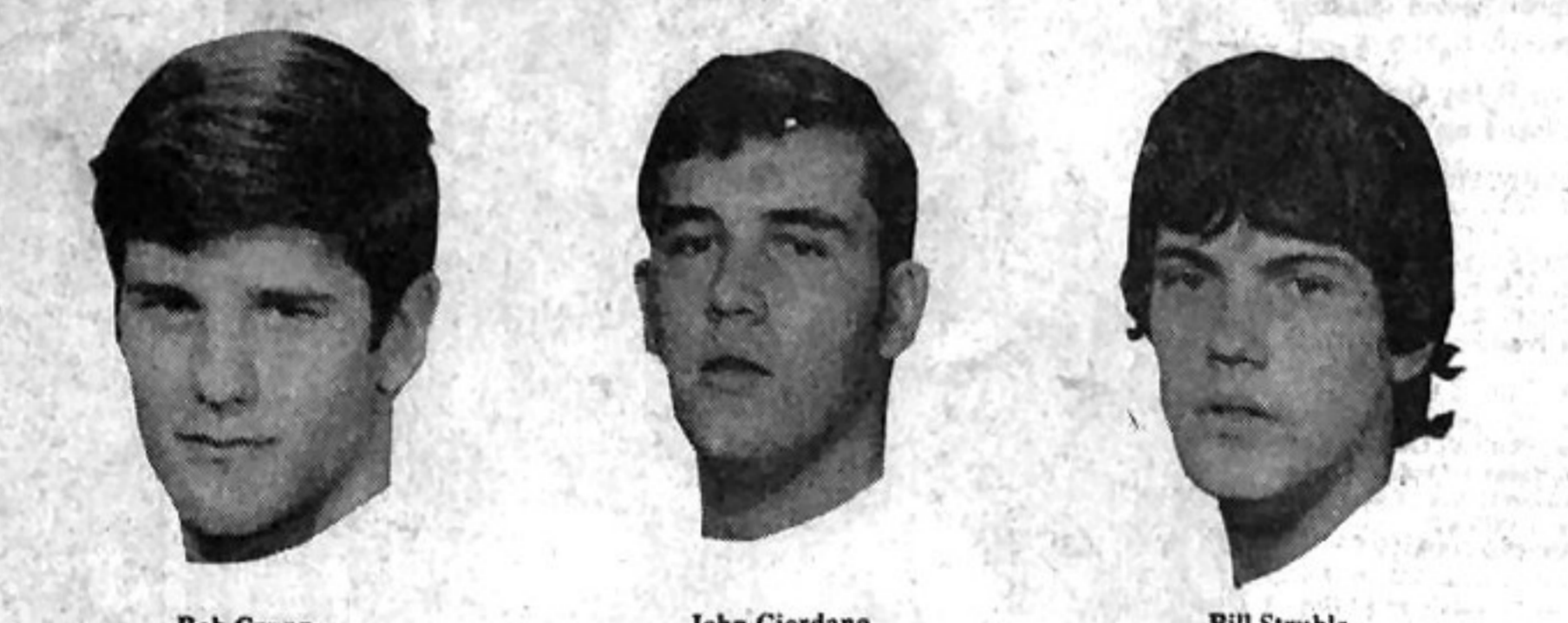
Ron Dundala

Jeff Johnson



Bill Codutti

Mike Curley



Bob Grupp

John Giordano

Bill Struble



Ben Watson

Harry Cook

Mike Page



Mark Strawbridge

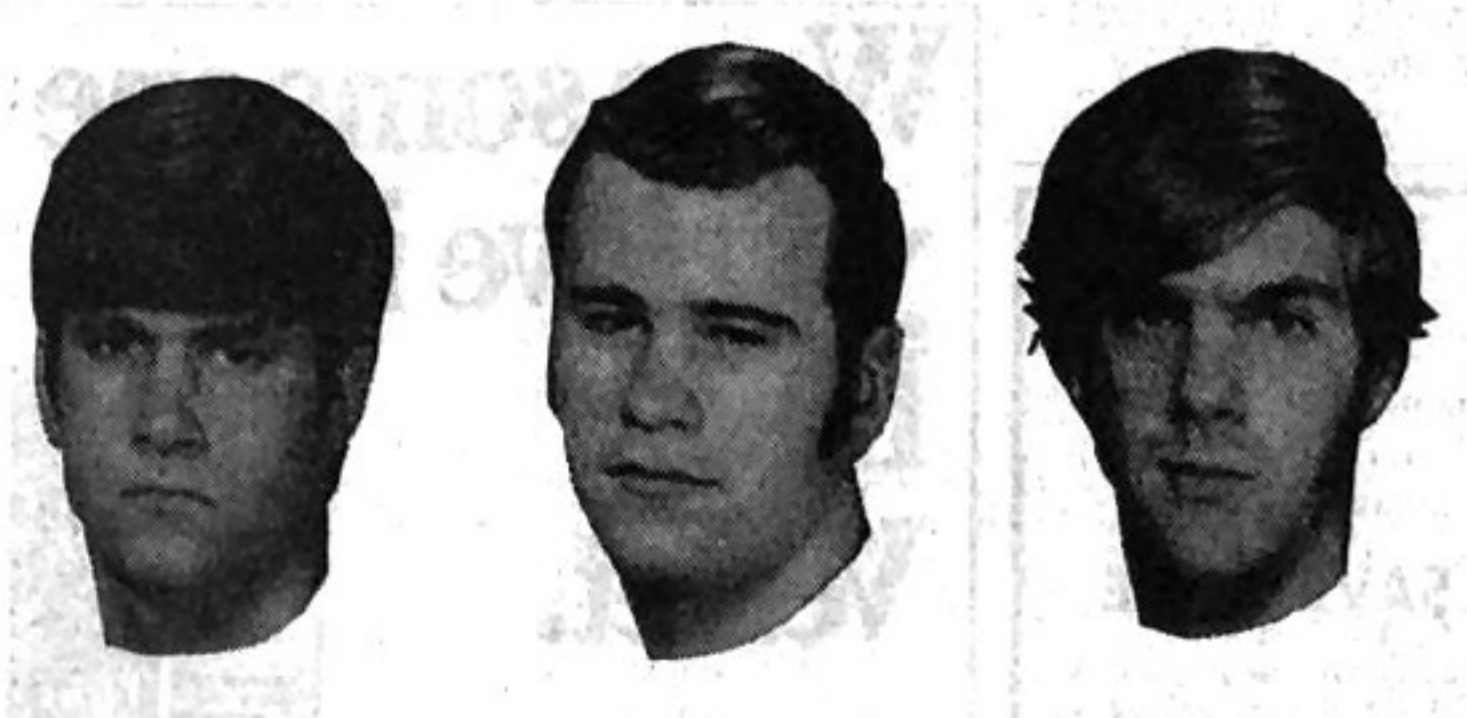
Kirk Harman

Bart Smith

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE				
Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Class
E	George Scherer, Jenkintown	6-0	175	Sr.
E	Joe Fisher, Bishop Egan	6-1	205	Sr.
T	Joe Lentz, Archbishop Wood	6-2	205	Sr.
T	Joe Ventresca, Archbishop Wood	5-10	200	Sr.
G	Mike Cappella, Jenkintown	5-9	195	Sr.
G	Mario Caione, Bristol	5-10	175	Sr.
C	John Russell, Bishop Egan	5-10	180	Sr.
QB	Paul Kershaw, Jenkintown	6-3	190	Sr.
RB	Bob Sabol, Archbishop Wood	5-11	177	Sr.
RB	Lonnice Manai, Archbishop Wood	5-10	171	Sr.
RB	Mike Tenaglia, Woodrow Wilson	6-1	185	Sr.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE				
Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Class
E	Gary Davis, Morrisville	6-0	190	Sr.
E	Jack Wills, Neshaminy	6-0	190	Sr.
IL	Don Stone, Woodrow Wilson	6-5	230	Sr.
IL	Joe Ventresca, Archbishop Wood	5-10	200	Sr.
IL	Jim Ely, Morrisville	6-1	210	Jr.
LB	Bob Miller, Neshaminy	5-7	185	Sr.
LB	Ed Hinkle, Bishop Egan	5-11	195	Sr.
LB	Herman Klinger, Archbishop Wood	5-8	168	Sr.
DB	Joe Clark, Archbishop Wood	5-10	172	Sr.
DB	Bob Delia, Bristol	5-10	180	Sr.
DB	Kevin Gravatt, Jenkintown	5-10	160	Sr.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**ENDS** — Steve Wall, Council Rock; Rick Woelk, Bensalem; Bob Weller, Woodrow Wilson.  
**GUARDS** — Mike Rigney, Bensalem; John Sellen, Council Rock;  
**TACKLES** — Scott Simms, Council Rock.  
**QUARTERBACKS** — Bruce Reiprich, Bensalem; Bob Hinton, Woodrow Wilson; Gary Kutzmeda, Pennsbury  
**RUNNING BACKS** — Bill Wiggins, Council Rock; Vince Thompson, Woodrow Wilson; Joe Mattiacci, Bensalem.  
**LINEBACKERS** — Mark Cribbs, Council Rock; Bill Walsh, Woodrow Wilson.  
**DEFENSIVE BACKS** — Mark Donohoe, Council Rock; Russ Killion, Woodrow Wilson.



Gary Pasek

Gary Metroka

Don Breece



Tim Stough

Phil DiGiacomo

Tim Miller