

Neshaminy QBs Stage Big Reunion

By **BILL FLEISCHMAN**

NEWARK, Del.—They're holding a Neshaminy High alumni reunion between the goal lines at Delaware Stadium tomorrow. Jim Colbert and Ernie Forchetti will say hello before the football opener for Delaware and West Chester State, then go out and try to send their teams off and winning toward the expected successful season for both.

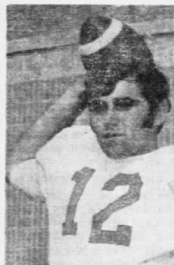
Colbert is the Penn State transfer with the great advance billing. The 6-2, 215-pound junior has never started a game at quarterback for Delaware, but he has the potential to overwhelm the proud records established by his predecessor, second-team Little All-American Tom Dimuzio.

Forchetti was Colbert's successor at Neshaminy. Last year as a sophomore, Forchetti took over early in the season and directed West Chester to the Pennsylvania Conference title.

"**JIM AND I** are best friends," says Forchetti. "After our spring game, I went down to Delaware to watch their spring scrimmage. I thought Jim has really improved since high school—and he was good in high school. Now he picks out his receivers much better. Of course, his big asset is his running."

Delaware impressed Forchetti on that May afternoon. "They're tremendous—I know if we're to compete with them our defense will have to stop their offense. Delaware keeps coming at you until you make a mistake."

When people talk about West Chester's defense this year, their eyes swing to the all-new secondary. Senior Wayne



ERNE FORCHETTI
... West Chester ace

Kirchgasser (Nether-Providence High), juniors Mike Doorey (Monsignor Bonner) and Tom Lopta (son of ex-Phillie Stan Lopta, from McDewitt High) and soph Earle Mosley (Lansdowne - Aldan) will find out fast about their abilities against Delaware's busy offense.

"**YES, THEY ARE** all untried," said West Chester Coach Bob Mitten somberly. "You never know how they'll do, especially playing one of our biggest games first."

Mitten admits West Chester, coming off a 2-8 record, has more good football players than he has ever seen on the attractive Chester County campus. Does this mean the Rams have their best chance of beating Delaware following losses of 28-0 and 24-8 to the Hens' Lambert Cup and Boardwalk Bowl champions of the last two years?

Mitten smiled and said, "I felt we had a chance to beat them the last two years. On paper we're stronger depth-wise than last year, but I feel Delaware has better depth,

And it always bothers me playing down there in front of a big, hostile crowd."

As gloomy as that sounds, Mitten still likes the Rams' chances. When you have quarterbacks such as Forchetti and soph Tom Pierantozzi, you can be confident.

PIERANTOZZI is the 6-2, 195-pound soph from St. James High who guided the Rams' unbeaten frosh. He and Forchetti have been alternating as No. 1 in pre-season drills, but Mitten will likely go with Forchetti's experience for openers.

"Having Tommy here has made me work harder," said the 6-1, 180-pound Forchetti. "We've been trying to help each other." Pausing, Forchetti added, "But I want to start."

Meanwhile, at Delaware Coach Tubby Raymond is calling West Chester a team "as good as the three best we play — Villanova, Boston U. and Rutgers. They have more players back than we do and they always play well in their opener."

Raymond watched his Blue Hens in their final full-scale scrimmage, then said, "We

have a chance to be a good football team, but some things have to happen first. We're still minus a couple offensive linemen and we have to fill some holes on defense."

ONE MAJOR GAP on defense is at middle linebacker, where Raymond must replace All-East selection John Favero. At last look, soph Jan Milon had won the job.

"He's big (6-1, 220) and quick," said Raymond. "But Ron Whittington is still in the battle." Whittington is a junior letterman.

After watching the Hens scrimmage, it is clear the precision Wing-T attack is as devastating as ever. Now all Raymond has to do is fill those defensive holes for West Chester.

Of course, even if the defense is ready, Raymond knows this opener won't be as easy as last year's 52-0 banquet with Gettysburg.

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