

LBC Grid Previews . . . No. 5:

There's A 'New' Look At Neshaminy

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fifth in a series of previews on Lower Bucks County high school football teams.

By **JOHN RIBAR**
Courier-Times Sports Writer

Two words stand out when one tries to analyze the football situation upon visiting the Neshaminy High School grid team as it prepares for its coming season opener this Friday against Bishop Egan.

The words are "New" and "Challenge".

To start with, the Redskin gridgers have a "new" coach in Thomas L. McHugh — and a "new" football team this year following the loss through graduation of practically the whole 1965 starting offensive and defensive teams.

Add to this a "new" playing system, especially for offense. Then take it from there.

Real Challenge

"It was a real challenge for me to take over the vacant coaching reins at Neshaminy," said Coach McHugh. "But what do we have for an encore now that Neshaminy has rolled through 51 straight games (including four ties) without a defeat?" added McHugh.

He was referring to the record of John Petercuskie who resigned last fall after heading the grid staff from 1960 to 1965. Petercuskie moved to an assistant's job at Dartmouth College.

"Not only do I face a challenge," remarked McHugh, "but how about my boys?"

He explained that the 1966 Redskins face the added responsibilities of defending the championships of two grid conferences, the Big Six League and Section One of the Lower Bucks County League — in addition to upholding the long undefeated string.

"The youngsters are facing this 'challenge' with anticipation," said the coach. Then added, "They know the task ahead is a big one, and it is bringing out the best in all of them."

90 Tried Out

Coach McHugh told of finding 90 boys out for football when he opened drills a couple of weeks ago. "My only dread was the thought of calling aside some 30 youngsters individually and telling them that they were to be cut off the squad," McHugh said.

"But my work was made easy, real easy, and we are



MANY NEW FACES — Neshaminy High School's football team, pushing a 51-game victory streak, will be handled by several different coaches this season. Tom McHugh is the new head coach. He takes over for the now departed John Petercuskie, who is at Dartmouth. From left are Ted Aceto, Joe Kirby,

Bob Hart, McHugh and Pete Cordelli. Hart and Cordelli are the only two holdovers from Petercuskie's staff. The Redskins open their season Friday against power-packed Bishop Egan Catholic of Levittown. (Courier-Times Sports Photo)

down to 60 players for a combined JV and varsity group," said McHugh with a smile. He explained that the entire squad set such a fast and furious pace, 30 boys quit on their own because they knew they couldn't make the steep grade.

The 1966 Redskins will have to "rise to the heights" in finding replacements for the group that graduated last year. This included some 20 outstanding seniors, plus Tom Thompson, a junior last year who played out his eligibility.

McHugh and his coaching staff must find replacements for all of the 21 who departed, a dozen who were named to all-star teams that included Lower Bucks luminaries all the way to all-state teams.

"Light And Thin" "This squad is light and thin," said McHugh as he looked over the practice field. "I am going to use a 'split line-T' and utilize a quick-hitting game and go strong on passing."

The first big job will be replacing Jim Colbert, last sea-

son's great quarterback. Just how good Colbert was can be seen in the fact that he was chosen all-state quarterback. Needles to say that he made every all-star team named in the area. Jim ran the ball himself for over 900 yards rushing and scored 15 TD's, plus passing for seven more scores in 1965.

Being groomed for the quarterback job this year is Ernie Forchetti (6-0, 170-pound senior), and Andy Cunningham as his replacement. The latter is also a senior (5-10, 165-pound).

Other backfielders not returning in addition to Colbert and Thompson include such stars as Steve Madden, Bob Rotolo, Gerry Barr and Rich Foley.

Ball Carriers

Some of ball carriers standing out in workouts up to now include four seniors, Garry Pasquine (5-10, 160), Alan Jay (5-10, 155), Dave Rakita (5-9, 160) and Tom Munski (5-11, 185). Also a junior, Bill Daenz, 5-9, 155.

Missed will be such linemen as Fred Conger and Rich McHale. Both were named to the offensive and defensive teams for All-Bucks as well as Section One.

Other standout linemen graduated include George Nolte, Harry Hoffman, Dave Woodruff, Bill Walker, Dennis Bryan, Jim Volney, Steve Whitehurst, Pete Vosburgh, Steve Whiteman and Bill Elswick.

A preview of the new offensive line shows Joe Ciambrello (5-11, 175) at center; on the right side will be Frank DeMezza at end (5-11, 175), Bruce Sauerbry, tackle (6-5, 220) and Sammy Spadaccino, guard (5-8, 180). The latter having recovered nicely following a knee operation. All are seniors.

On the left side it'll be Alan McHale, end (5-11, 175), Larry Pulak, tackle (6-2, 190) and Bill Swenson, guard (6-1, 180). Swenson is a junior, the other two are seniors.

A standout on the defensive line should be Dave Ivins, 6-1, 175-pound tackle who last year as a junior was named to the defensive all-star team for both the Lower Bucks and Section One.

Other defensive stickouts are Ray Chychota (5-8, 175) and John Geyer (5-11, 175) both seniors, as well as Charles Schmidt (5-10, 160) a junior.

All the players mentioned have had experience since they were on the squad last season. New members on the defensive line include Harris, Mattack and Pollard.

Injuries Could Be Key

Coach McHugh believes his squad will go a long way if they can avoid injuries. "The boys look to be in great physical condition," remarked McHugh. Then added, "but an injury to one or two key players could be our downfall."

The new Redskin mentor believes his defensive unit of a five-man line and a "zone-to-zone" defense will come along well. "The big change is on the offense, where it's going to take a lot of extra work," he said with some concern.

He has been relieved of some worry by a capable staff. "I never saw a high school grid staff as good as this one I have," said McHugh.

Coaching Assignments

The new head coach will stress his duties with the offensive line. Pete Cordelli handles the defensive secondary while Bob Hart has the defensive line.

Ted Aceto, a former Villanova freshman coach, came here with McHugh and works with the quarterbacks and the offensive backfielders.

The JV gridgers are being handled by Joe Plumerie and Joe Kirby.

McHugh takes over the Neshaminy grid prospects after leaving Palmyra (N.J.) High School where he served the last nine years. Just turned 40, McHugh graduated from Phoenixville High in 1944 and went into the U.S. Army.

After serving until 1947, he enrolled at the University of Maryland where he won football letters four years. He graduated in 1951 with a bachelor of science degree in physical education.

Drafted By Bears

He was drafted by the Chicago Bears but decided to pass up the pro job and took the head football and basketball coaching position at Lower Merion High. After two years there he took the football job at Palmyra.

After one season at Palmyra he decided to try pro ball and joined the Ottawa (Canada) Roughriders as a line coach for two seasons.

He then went back to Palmyra in 1957 and remained there until the finish of the 1965 season. His record at Palmyra was 40-43-7 and included two football championships.

McHugh has had a taste of both Pennsylvania and New Jersey high school football. Like his 1966 squad, he now awaits the "big-time" opening game this Friday night against a highly regarded Bishop Egan team. It's going to be a real test for both.

(The series of football previews will be resumed next week.)

COACHES RESET MEETING

A meeting of the Lower Bucks County Football Coaches Association, scheduled for this evening at the Buck Hotel has been postponed until Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Woodrow Wilson High School.

Michigan State Faces Jinx

By **ED SAINSBURY**
UPI Sports Writer

CHICAGO (UPI) — Michigan State, the defending national champion, faces the jinx that titleholders don't repeat as a most shaky favorite in the 1966 Big-Ten football race.

Only twice in the past 20 years has a school retained the Big-Ten title, Ohio State in 1954-55 and Michigan in 1947, 48, and Spartan Coach Duffy Daugherty contends his club lost too much from the 1965 team, beaten only in the Rose Bowl, to be a solid choice.

"We were lucky in a lot of ways last season," he said. "You have to be to go all the way, and the year after the Rose Bowl problem is real."

Daugherty's major problem was to find reserve strength on both offensive and defensive units, particularly for the defense, since five of the seven front men are gone.

Offensively, though, he starts from strength since Clint Jones at halfback and Gene Washing-

ton at end return along with fullback Bob Apisa and halfback Dwight Lee; but he has to find a quarterback. Among his defensive veterans too are end Bubba Smith and Rover George Webster.

Potential Threats

Ohio State, runnerup for the title last year, Purdue, beaten by only four points in Michigan State's toughest regular season game last year, and Illinois rank as the potential upsets of the Spartan title hopes.

Ohio State could be the eventual winner since Coach Woody Hayes found sophomore surprises in quarterback Bill Long, tackle Dave Foley and halfback Leroy Peyton to promise a stronger offense. His deep defensive unit also has showed up well. But Hayes has got to mold 42 sophomore hopefuls to the Buckeye style, and Ohio State may wind up questionable in October and fearsome in November.

Purdue boasts one of the league's most prominent con-

tenders for all-American honors, quarterback Bob Griese, but Coach Jack Molenkopf feels his value will be lost unless "we can find some bodies to protect him."

The Boiler-makers will have excellent receivers in Jim Beirne, Jim Finley, Leroy Keyes and Marion Griffin, but there's no experienced running threat, and the interior line positions generally are up for grabs.

Illinois will be smaller and faster at almost every position, and Coach Pete Elliott, though worried about his defense, expected an explosive attack with Cyril Pinder and Ron Bess at halfbacks, and John Wright and Craig Timko at ends. He has to find a quarterback to replace Fred Custardo, with sophomore Bob Naponic the probable choice, and a fullback Grabowski, with no standout in sight.

Other Contenders

Michigan, Northwestern and Indiana were classed as potential upsets along the way, but no better than contenders for a first division finish, while Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa figured to battle to escape last place.

The Wolverines, with fine backs in Carl Ward, Jim Detwiler and Ernie Sharpe, a star end in Jack Clancy, and good linebackers, need interior linemen, particularly on defense, and Coach Bump Elliott hoped that Dick Vidmer would furnish better passing or that sophomore John Thomas could take over at quarterback.

Northwestern and Coach Alex Agase also have problems in

Warmath figured the major problem would be to fill in the holes with sophomores and find a quarterback to replace John Hankinson. Bright spots could be fullbacks Mike Danielson and Dennis Cornell and flanker Ken Last.

Iowa, under new Coach Ray Nagel, has a few standouts to run his new winged-T offense with halfback Tony Williams, fullback Sitar McKinnie and sophomore quarterback Ed Podolak the most important. The line will be a problem on both offense and defense.

Wisconsin Coach Milt Bruhn should have good passing with Chuck Burt and John Boyajian at quarterback, good receivers in Bill Fritz and sophomore Tom McCauley and good running from fullback Gale Bucciarelli, but the defense needs improvement and nothing was set on the offensive line.

Noire Dame's Ara Parseghian has only two starters returning from his offensive line and can't decide on which sophomore quarterback, Terry Hanratty or Coley O'Brien, will be paired up with such stars as Nick Eddy and Larry Conjar or Paul May in the backfield. But the defensive line should be better than last year with expert linebacking from Jim Lynch, Mike McGill and Al Van Huffel. However, Parseghian must find replacements for his entire defensive backfield.

Despite the losses, Notre Dame should be good, and if some of the sophomores develop fast, the Irish again might be a contender for national honors.

'Horne Race Key To Title

The 250-mile National Championship race set for Sunday at the Langhorne Speedway can play a very important part in deciding the National late model stock car point title.

The 12 top drivers in the race for the scoring crown will be on the starting line at the local track when the field of more than 30 respond to the green flag.

Leading the pack will be defending National titleholder Norm Nelson who is presently on top in the standings. Former National kingpin Don White, winner of six features this season but never a winner at Langhorne, is the number two point-maker.

Others in the 'Horne classic among the top dozen include, in the order of their ranking, Billy Foster, Canadian champion Sal Tovell, Jim Hurtubise, Ray Darnell, Roger Regeth, John Klotz, Jack Bowsher, Gary Bettenhausen, Bob Wawak and Andy Hampton.

Similar to all other entries in Sunday's field, these drivers will be required to take official time trials preceding the big event. The time trials will start at 12:30 p.m. with the 250-miler set for 2 p.m.

Cowboys, Colts Choices In NFL

NEW YORK (UPI) — The Dallas Cowboys and Baltimore Colts, who had to settle for second money in 1965, were selected today in a preseason UPI survey to win the Eastern and Western conference championships in the National

leading their attack last season, the Browns compiled an 11-3 record while the Cowboys had only a 7-7 mark.

The Cowboys, however, were picked to win in 1966 by 26 of the 45 experts while only 14 chose the Browns. The Cowboys