

OUT OF

Ben's Bullpen

By Ben Borowsky

SPORTS EDITOR



The Neshaminy High School football team was honored at a banquet last night — and rightfully so.

The Langhorne Lions played host to the Redskin gridders at the Buck Hotel in Feasterville. Some folks might've thought that the affair would be a gloomy one, coming just a day after high school officials announced that Neshaminy is forfeiting all its games played during the 1962 season, because of the use of an ineligible player.

But on the contrary, the 21st annual banquet was far from gloomy. There were references to the incident by Lions' president Matthew Stirling and assistant coach Jack Swartz, and the general feeling was that a technicality couldn't stand in the way of a successful season.

Future record books may have to resort to an asterisk to explain what happened. This wasn't the first time it ever happened to a high school, but school officials did their duty promptly and there never was even a thought given to hiding the facts.

The 11 schools which Neshaminy played will probably all want to refuse to accept the forfeit victory, which is a sign of wonderful sportsmanship. But on the other hand, since a violation of the rules occurred, no matter how insignificant, it wouldn't be right for Neshaminy to claim victories.

The school authorities held back just a few facts to "protect the boy." Protect him from what? When the police or press withhold the name of a juvenile delinquent, the youngster usually is in deep trouble.

The boy in this case, Chuck Kalan, is not guilty of anything. He played football because he wanted to, and it was a pleasure to see him receive his letter at last night's banquet. There was an oversight by some faculty member. It was discovered and the necessary steps to correct it were taken.

Neshaminy football will still be esteemed in the future, I'm sure.

I only wish Perry Mason was around these parts this week. He might have found a loophole in "The Case of the Ineligible Player," and saved the day.

Getting back to the banquet, head coach John Petercusk presented certificates of participation to the jaycee players, letters to the varsity men and with the assistance of Swartz also presented the five big annual awards.

"Unusng Hero" — Maury Tome.

"3-D (Desire, Determination, Drive)" — Bob Barr.

"Mr. Lineman" — Bruce Galvin.

"Mr. Back" — Tom Preno.

"Mr. Redskin" — Bob Cummings.

Cummings also was honored with a wrist watch for winning All-State honors. He was a third team selection at center on the UPI squad and a first team choice on the AP squad. The watch, which will be held at the school until he graduates, is a gift from Harry Schuh and John Carber, former Neshaminy gridders who also won All-State honors.

Jim Garrett, head football coach of Susquehanna University, was the guest speaker. Does Mr. Garrett know anything about football? Well, his squad posted a 9-0 record this season and has won 22 straight. This is even more remarkable when you consider that the enrollment at Susquehanna is 925 students.

Garrett's theme was answering the question, "What Is A Football Player?" He used the first four letters of the alphabet to emphasize his answer: A-ability; B-brains; C-courage and D-desire.

He summed up his talk by telling the Neshaminy gridders: "You wouldn't be a football player, unless you're a man!"