

Sports Views

By Ben Borowsky

SPORTS EDITOR



Neshaminy Grid Banquet

The Langhorne Lions Club, who annually fete the Neshaminy High School football team, have been holding championship banquets over the past six years rather than ordinary grid dinners.

Roast beef and baked potatoes was the order of the day for last night's affair held at the Langhorne Country Club. Jim Flannery, the man without a restaurant temporarily, was the banquet chairman. With such things as delicious Biscuit Tortoni and scrumptious Old Fashion Strawberry Short Cake being served you know Jim had a hand in arranging the menu.

• • •

Angelo Bertelli, the former All-American quarterback from Notre Dame and now "just a businessman", was the guest speaker. Bertelli played with the Irish in 1940, 1941 and 1942, under Coach Frank Leahy. Bert's (everyone calls him that) highest gridiron achievement was winning the Heisman trophy.

• • •

Bertelli, a war-time friend of Flannery, told the banquet audience that Leahy was successful because he was "pessimistic and a perfectionist." Even if Notre Dame was a heavy favorite, Leahy always worried that his team would not make a single first down.

The guest speaker is more or less out of football now, but recently was an assistant coach at Yale University, under Jordan Olivar. He told the story of Chuck Yeager, the 110-pound team manager, who worked his way into the Bulldog lineup against Harvard and scored an extra point.

• • •

Bertelli advised the players to combine football with "hitting the books."

'Mr. Redskin'

Each year the Neshaminy players choose the player they think deserves the title of "Mr. Redskin." Naturally, he has to be a good football player, but other factors (sportsmanship, leadership, etc.) are considered.

This year's winner was Frank Conroy, one of the best linemen in the Lower Bucks County League. He was awarded his trophy by co-head coach John Petercuskie.

• • •

Backfield coach Jack Swartz presented a football to Tom "Hypo" Stricker, chosen "Mr. Back" of the Redskins. Swartz told this story about co-head coach Harry Franks. "After the Allentown game, Franks was talking to Allentown's athletic director, and then ran down to get on the bus. He accidentally bumped into one of the Neshaminy players' mothers. He apologized, saying, 'No offense, maam.' The woman answered, 'No offense? There wasn't any defense either.'"

• • •

Franks presented the co-championship trophy to Principal John Stoops, who remarked "We're getting quite a collection of these."

Petercuskie praised the work of Jerry Levans, who although he wasn't a starter most of the season, "never gave up" and was always helping the team in practice and in competition.

• • •

The Junior High team was also honored. Paris (Pal) Allison announced the following awards: "Mr. Defense" - Charlie Kemp; "Mr. Offense" - Harry Schuh; Honorary team captain - Rich Berkel. Joseph Zalot, president of the Langhorne Lions, presided at the dinner-meeting, with Flannery serving as toastmaster.