

tradition

was born in

1945 with a

vard touch-

the Wilson

(the school's

threw the first touchdown pass in 1945

against Reading High School's JV squad at George Field. The starting lineup for that first game, coached by Warren Eberly, included: ends, Carl Richards and Arthur Stabnau; tackles, Richard Ruth and Norman Sensenig; guards, Richard Balthaser and Willard Conrad; center, Gerald Reed; quarterback, Robert Naftzinger; halfbacks, Herbert Welder and David Ulrich; and

fullback, James Lippincott.

again in that inaugural year but it was a start.

Ralph Leininger, Wilson High Athletic Director, was in

charge of purchasing the equipment. Since the United

States was still in World War II, there was very little

equipment available. He negotiated a deal with a semi-pro

All games were played on the road during that first

After the opening win, Wilson traveled to Manheim

Township, Wyomissing, Coplay and Muhlenberg and

was outscored a combined 92-19. Eberly left after

only one year but continued to stay active in Berks

tory was a 25-6 win over Coplay.

In 1946, Robert Thompson led Wilson to a

4-3-1 record and the first of many winning

seasons. The first home win in school his-

football team, the Gablesville Owls, for uniforms.

season. The team practiced on a cow pasture.

County athletics as an official.

kicked in another \$4,000.

touchdown in 1947, while of Andy Moyer set a school record in 1948 when Straka. he intercepted a pass and raced 97 yards for a Presidents finished 8touchdown - his record would stand until 1971.

In 1949, the President's closed out the decade a tough tie to Lebanon with a 3-5-1 record. Richard DiGuardi threw seven Catholic and a loss to Governor touchdown passes and finished his career with 1,204 passing Mifflin. yards and 16 touchdowns. Eighty of those yards came in 1948 when he hit Ronald Schlaybach for a touchdown against Manheim Central.

The big win of the 1949 season was a 21-19 upset of cross-town rival Shillington (now Governor Mifflin). Peter laccarino kicked an 18-yard field goal in the last 20 seconds for the win. laccarino is the only President player to kick two career field goals.

The President's finished the 1940s with a combined 10-28-2 record. The team's leading scorer was O'Neil with 67 points.

pincott's 31-Welder gave nickname before it changed to the Bulldogs in 1960) a 7-0 victory The Presidents, with 54 players, wouldn't win The football program was established through the combined efforts of the Wilson School District Board of Education and the newly formed Wilson Boosters Club. The Boosters Club, headed by Lippencott's father, Joseph, was formed to lend moral and financial assistance to the athletic department. The boosters were able to raise \$2,200 for the program while the athletic department

The 1950 season marked the beginning of a new decade and Wilson's first Berks County football championship. The team and 1963 In 1962, Dale Witwer received the Ron

> and Bovertown. The only loss in Berks County was to Muhlenberg, 7-6.

During his five seasons, Thompson went 13-29-2 with one championship.

Robert Shaak took over the Presidents in coach and a rebirth to the Wilson football 1951 and finished 1-9 during his inaugural year. program. The coach was John Gurski The highlight of the season was a 51-7 rout of Manheim Central. The Presidents went 4-5-1 the following season.

Robert Mitzel provided most of the offense for the Presidents during the early 1950s as he had five scoring plays of 70 yards or more.

when the Presidents finished 4-3-1. Retired that would turn around the seafour-star United States General Frederick Franks led the son and the history of Wilson Presidents in scoring and finished his career with 10 touchdowns. football.

In 1954, the Wilson School District grew through a merger with Sinking Spring High School. Bill Schrufer was the first student from Sinking Spring to play for the Presidents. The residents finished the season 2-8. The big win was a 27-0 win over Governor Mifflin - a feat that wouldn't happen again until 1967. In 1955, the Presidents slipped to 2-6-1.

The Presidents were on the winning track again in 1956 when the club finished 6-3. The only night game at old Wilson Stadium was a 25-20 win over Warwick. The top receiver from the team was Charles Buzzanca who caught 25 passes for 441 yards. The Presidents went 5-2-1 in 1957 led by two-Wilson went a combined 2-16 in time All-Berks center, Gary Leach, and the 1947 and 1948. Individuals who Prexies career rushing and scoring leader, stood out during those two years Carl Beidler. The Prexies went 5-3 in 1958, were Thomas O'Neil and but the best President team ever came along Leon Moyer O'Neil in 1959.

returned a kickoff 84 Under the leadership of yards for a Shaak and the passing

1-1. The only blemish was

Bruce Harbach, a current Wilson assistant coach, dives for the



The 1959 squad set a President record for most points scored in a season with 233 and most rushing yards with

On defense, the Presidents registered six shutouts and only gave up 52 points all season. Kit Fegley finished his career with 160 tackles and was a two-time All-Berks

During the first 15 years, the program produced six winning seasons and one championship A new nickname and a new era was on the horizon for the Wilson football

Here come the Bulldogs! Tony Matz took over the coaching duties in 1960 when Shaak took a year off from coaching. Matz continued the program's success as the Bulldogs finished 6-3-1. Matz's first win as coach was against Columbia. 6-0.

in a game that was delayed by a thunderstorm. Shaak returned for his final year in 1961 and led the Bulldogs to a 7-3 finish. The schools' sixth straight

During his 10 seasons, Shaak went 44-43-5. Matz again took the head coaching duties and the Bulldogs fell on rough times going 2-15-2 in 1962 finished 4-5 overall but had key wins over Kichline Award for his performance. In 1963, Berks County rivals Shillington, West Reading Gerald Vlasak was the first Wilson player to catch more than 30 passes in a season During his three seasons as head coach, Matz

was 8-18-3 The following year would bring a new

When Gurski took over in 1964 the

Quaterback

Glenn Hare

running back

Bill Haas in a

1967 game at

pitches to

coaching staff figured, the Bulldogs would need a miracle to finish 5-5 A miracle did happen. The Bulldogs did finish 5-5 that

season. It was also during that year Shaak had his first winning season in 1953 when the Bulldogs won a game

- See. 50 Years, page 3



Special Note of Thanks...

This special tribute to the first 50 Years of Wilson High School Football was produced by the Wilson High School 50 Years of Football Celebration Committee under the direction of Roy Snyder, Wilson High School.

The section was coordinated by Andrew J. Shultz. promotions/marketing department, and Fred Burns, advertising department of Reading Eagle Company. - Section design by Terry L. Bellhart, assistant advertising director, Reading Eagle Company. The cover photo was taken by Dennis R. Bender, Eagle/Times staff photographer. Statistical information and records provided by Richard Romich, Wilson High School . Advertising sales coordinated by John J. Gurski and Syl Comparini, Wilson High School

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50 years of football history

Wilson entered a game against league-favorite Lancaster Catholic as a heavy underdog. The Bulldogs, who were coming off a tough, 20-12, loss to Schuylkill Haven, changed its defense for the game and at halftime the Bulldogs were leading, 14-0. Catholic made some halftime adjustments but the Bulldogs were able to hold on for a 14-13 victory. This game marked the beginning of big things for the Bulldog program.

In 1965, the Bulldogs again finished 5-5. The following season, they tied a school record in wins with eight. Bruce Vaughan became the first Wilson player to win the Ron Kichline Award as the Berks County Lineman of the Year. In the 1967 season, Wilson began its domi-

nance of Berks County football.

Under the direction of quarterback Glenn Hare and the running power of Michael Reitz, the Bulldogs scored 387 points and collected 4,010 yards in total offense en route to the schools first undefeated season. Hare threw 17 touchdown passes and Reitz gained 1,411 total yards.

The 10-0 season was capped off with a 9-0 win against Governor Mifflin and the Bulldogs had their second championship in the school's

In 1968, the Bulldogs slipped to 6-4 but greatness was another year away.

After routing Governor Mifflin 32-6 in 1969. Gurski had his second Tri-County championship and second 10-0 season in three years.

On offense, quarterback John Yocum led the Bulldogs to 327 points and 309 yards in total offense. The defense was anchored by tackles Gerry Slemmer, who would later he head coach and Rick Fehling. Slemmer and Fehling were both selected to the Big 33 Football Classic which

is played in Hershey every summer In 1970, the Bulldogs would go 8-2.

In 1971, the winning continued with a record of 7-2-1 During that year, Richard Wardrop would return an interception 101 yards against Muhlenberg for a touchdown. This would shatter a 23-year-old record set in 1948 by Moyer.

In 1973, Wilson went 8-2.

The following year Wilson was 6-4 and won its third Tri-County Championship. In 1975, Wilson finished 5-5. The following year things were back on track as Wilson finished 8-3.

In 1977, Gurski devised a strategy that would make Wilson a much better program and get more kids playing time. For years, football teams were using only their best players on both offense and

Gurski based his coaching style on the senior system. He always believed that a senior should have the right to play over an underclassmen. He felt that underclassmen needed to learn the system and gain experience before taking over a starting position.

By using a fresh squad on both offense and defense, the Bulldogs were able to wear out their opponents. The Bulldogs finished 8-2-1 that year and Gurski earned his 100th win as Wilson's coach by edging out Hempfield 14-12.

This new strategy started a four-year string beginning in 1978 when the Bulldogs went a combined 43-2. The losses came during the 1979 and 1980 seasons. The Bulldogs also won four straight Lancaster-Lebanon League Championships during this time.

In 1978, Wilson was led by quarterback Jim Kirkpatrick who threw nine touchdown passes. The defense was anchored by Big 33 selections, back Randy Simcox and tackle Mike Mohler. Simcox was also an all-state selection for the Bulldogs. This team achieved a 28 point margin of victory average.

The 1979 squad was led by its defense. The Bulldogs gave up only 35 points all season. Nine of those points came against Hempfield in a

John Gurski was selected to the Big State Wilson continued to dominate as they entered

the 1980s. The 1980 squad went 10-1 and was led by quarterback Kirk Aurandt who threw eight touchdown passes. The defense was led by defensive tackle Leroy Schannauer and guard Tony

Gurski's dynasty continued in 1981 when he led Wilson to its fourth undefeated season and its fourth straight Lancaster-Lebanon League Championship. Led by Big 33 and all-state selec-tion Schannauer, the Bulldog defense didn't allow a rushing touchdown and only gave up 116.8 yards per game in total offense.

The tenure of John Gurski ended in 1982 when the Bulldogs finished 7-3-1. During his 19 scssons as head coach, he won 151 games, seemed seven championships and had four undefeated seasons. The only question remains is who will replace Gurski It was now time for Gerry Slemme

During Slemmer's first two seasons (1983 and 1984), the Bulldogs finished 6-4 and 7-4 respectively. His first win was a 51-0 rout of Exeter.

Things started to improve for Slemmer in 1985, when he led the Bulldogs to an 8-3 mark and the team's first Lancaster-Lebanon League Championship since 1981, Quarterback Eric Derk and running back Jim Lewis led a Wilson attack that averaged more than 20 points per game. Tackle Steve Schannauer anchored the defense.

In 1986, the Bulldogs finished 6-5. In 1987, Slemmer earned his second championship, when the Bulldogs finished 8-3. Led by quarterback Seppi Winkler and end Mike Rosol, Wilson averaged more than 24 points per game.

In 1988, Wilson finished 7-3.

Led by all-state quarterback Kerry Collins and all-state running back Brian McCarty, the 1989 Wilson football squad won more games than any other team in history. Collins would finished his career with 2,737 yard passing and 20 touchdowns while McCarty would finish with 184 points and 2.841 vards of total offense.

After going 10-0 during the regular season which included a miracle comeback against Lancaster McCaskey, 14-13 the Bulldogs won their first District III AAA Championship by defeating Cedar Cliff, 17-7. After defeating Coatesville, 32-20, in the state semifinals, the Bulldogs squared off against Upper St. Clair for the championship. After opening an early lead, St. Clair scored a late touchdown to win the championship 12-7.

The 1990 squad tried to keep the momentum of the previous year alive. The Bulldons went 12. AAA Championship.

Chris Adams and Jeff Niedrowski led a Wilson attack that averaged more than 30 points and 325. total yards per game. Niedrowski completed his career as the all-time leader in rushing with 2.824

The miracle of this season came during the District Championship game when Adams hit Dean Kraras in the back of the end zone with no time remaining to defeat Cumberland Valley, 34-32. The luck would run out the following week when Wilson would lose to Ridley, 14-12, in the PLAA Eastern semifinal.

In 1991, the Bulldogs finished 7-4. The championships would come rolling back as Wilson won back-to-back Lancaster-Lebanon League Championships under the direction of quarterback Shane Stafford in 1992 and 1993. The team finished 9-3 in '92 and 8-3 in '93. Stafford would finish his career as the all-time leading passer

with 28 touchdowns and 2,870 yards. During his 11 years as coach, Slemmer were 92-35-0 and won seven championships

May the tradition continue...

President team to win eight games. The team completed the season as runner-up to Governor Mifflin - its only loss for the Tri-County League

Championship.

The Presidents scored 233 points and rushed for 2,266 yards, including 409 against Daniel Boone. The offense was led by quarterback Andy Straka. who threw seven touchdown passes. Other key scorers were Al Schwerdt, Greg Allushuski, Bob Kopp, Dave Berger, Ron Chelius, and Ed Bauers.

The defense, which allowed 52 points and shutout six of its 10 opponents, was anchored by 1840 the All-Berks County center Kit Fegley, Kit Other key defenders were Ed Bauers, Ron Cheffus, Caesar Buzzanca, Jim Mover, Bill Koch, Fred Schaffert, Jim Miller, Andy Straka, Al Schwentt, and Greg Allushuski.

This season ended the Presidents run because beginning with the 1960 football season, Wilson athletic teams were nicknamed the Buildogs rather than the Presidents.

Wilson's first undefeated team and the first Berks County team ever to win 10 games in a season. The 9-0 victory over Governor Mifflin gave Wilson its first Tri-County Conference Championship and its first win over the arch-rival Mustangs in 13 seasons.

The Bulldogs scored a record 387 points and averaged 401 yards per game. Back Mike Reitz broke the Berks County scoring record by scoring 149 points including 32 against Wilson Borough and finished his career with 254 points. Quarterback Glenn Hare threw 17 touchdown asses and completed his career with 25 touchdown passes. End Ron Allushuski caught six touchdown passes.

Against Muhlenberg in a game played at Reading Municipal Stadium before the largest crowd ever to watch a Wilson football game, Mike Reitz gave a big performance by rushing for a Bulldog record 256 yards and scoring 22 points behind the outstanding blocking of fullback Bill

Reitz gained 1,411 total yards and finished his career with 2,493 total yards. He became Wilson's first player to be selected to play in the "Big 33" game. Back Scott Comparini finished his career with 1,957 total yards gained to rank No. 2 on the all-time Wilson list.

The defense allowed 92 points and was led by Some Kreider, Reitz, Comparini, Pete Stover, Mike Gyomber, Mike Hower, Greg Raffauf, Ross Houser, Mike Hettinger, Richard Auman, and Scott Shoup.

1968

The 1969 team was Gurski's second undefeated Bulldog team and completed the season with a 32-6 victory over Governor Mifflin for the Tri-County Conference Championship and a 10-0 record. The team scored 327 points and averaged 309 yards per game behind quarterback John Yocum, Scott Simpson caught six touchdown

The key running backs were Craig Reitz, Barry Hess, and Dennis Riegel.

The defense allowed 99 points and featured two outstanding two-way linemen interior tackle Gerry Slemmer and end Rick Fehling, both were selected to play in the "Big 33" game. Other key linemen were Harold Slemmer, Joe Federowicz, Gacy Lampeld, Frank Poupore, and Steve Gass.
Providing help in the defensive backfield were
Tom Urich and Terry Wickman.

The 1978 team was Gurski's third undefeated Bulldog team and the first to win 11 games. On

In the process of the Coach Bob Shaak's 1959 squad was the only resident team to win eight games. The difference of the same of the same



offense, the team averaged 331 yards per game and quarterback Jim Kirkpatrick completed 51% of his passes for nine touchdowns. Dean Shollenberger and Mark Cornfield were the leading receivers while the rushing and scoring leaders were Carl Ohlinger, Randy Simcox, Brent Grace and Joe Pullano for the first Wilson team to win a Lancaster-Lebanon League-Section One Championship. The offensive line included Dave Guiles, Pat Berg, Jeff Omlor, Dave Ritter, Bob Engle, and Dan Wentzel.

The defense set the Wilson record for least vards allowed rushing and passing in a season an average of 123.6 yards. The defense was led by "Big 33" game selections back Randy Simcox and tackle Mike Mohler. Other key defenders of this team which allowed 46 points to be scored and shutout four opponents were Tom Hoy, Kevin Seibert, Paul Tietbohl, Bryan Romig, Burnell Clemmer, Blair Weaver, Scott Lee, and Kevin Imbody. Simcox intercepted three passes to finish his career with 13 and was named first-team All-

Gurski's 1979 team won Wilson's second Lancaster-Lebanon League Championship with a 10 - I record. The loss was a 9-7 defeat at Hempfield, which ended the Bulldogs 22-game winning streak.

State as a defensive back. Other defensive backs

were John Gutzweiler and Dave Moyer.

The offense was led by the running and scoring of Vito Ninfo who gained 1,234 yards and scored 102 points behind the outstanding blocking of tackle John Gurski, who was selected to play in the "Big 33" game. Quarterback Jim Kirkpatrick threw five touchdown passes and finished his career with 14 touchdown passes and 1,619 passing yards. Other offensive linemen were Brad Hain, Mark Buchholz, Tim Talarico,

The defense allowed 35 points and shutout six opponents, both Bulldog records.

It was led by returning starters Bryan Romig, Burnell Clemmer, Phil Tietbohl, and Kevin Imbody. Other key defenders were Matt Barto, Paul Covell, Walter Kidd, Leroy Schannauer, Dean Shollenberger, Bill Amadio, and Bruce Keller.

The 1980 team won the third consecutive Lancaster-Lebanon League-Section Title with an 11 - 1 record. Quarterback Kirk Aurandt completed 50% of his passes for eight touchdowns. Dan Hivner and Phil Rowe were the leading receivers. Vito Ninfo. Pete Schreck, and Doug Ertz were the leading nishers and scorers for an offense which scored 309 points and averaged 316.3 yards per game running behind an offensive line of Neil Harold, Brad Hain, Matt Tomaszewski, Gary Mover, Chris Coleman, and Scott McNerny.

The defense which allowed 155.8 yards per game and allowed 83 points to score was led by Patrick Szustak, Leroy Schannauer, Tony Cianci, Pete Schreck, Chris Conner, Matt Barto, Paul Covell, and Dan Hivner.

The 1981 team was Gurski's fourth undefeated Bulldog team and also won Wilson's fourth consecutive Lancaster - Lebanon League Championship with an 11 - 0 record. The offense was led by backs Pete Schreck, Leroy Schannauer, Kurt Bosh, and Gary Mitzel; quarterback Scott Shoener, ends Ken Auman and Ray Richie, plus offensive linemen Neil Howard, Tom Schatzman, Todd Seaman, Ken Ritter, Matt Schucker, and

The 1981 team was an outstanding defensive team led by first team A11-State selection and "Big 33" player tackle Leroy Schannauer. Wilson defensive records include least yards allowed rushing in a season (49 yards per game); least yards allowed rushing and passing in a season (116.8 yard average); least yards allowed per rushing play (1.6 yard average); and no touchdowns allowed rushing for the season. Other key defenders were Tony Cianci, Scott Bossler, Ernest Wolber, Andy Ziolkowski, Pete Kasko, Pete Schreck, Kevin Close, Kevin Vanino, Bryan Grace, and Tony Lucchese.

The 1989 team won the most games in the history of Wilson football and advanced to play for the PIAA AAAA state championship at Hershey. Coach Gerry Slemmer's Bulldogs finished the

Championships of Lancaster-Lebanon League; PIAA District 3; the Great Eight Region, PIAA Eastern Pennsylvania; plus, completing an undefeated regular season.

Quarterback Kerry Collins, back Brian McCarty, and end Todd Bradburn were the leaders of the offense and the accomplishments of this trio during this season rank as the best in Bulldog football history. Kerry Collins and Brian McCarty were named first team All-State players.

Also, quarterback Kerry Collins who threw 17 touchdown passes for 2,043 yards during the season, was selected to play in the "Big 33" game.

This season had many memorable moments. · Collins hit Bradburn on a 79-yard touchdown play which guided the Bulldogs to a 14-13 win over Lancaster McCaskey

· Kerry Collins' 63-yard touchdown pass to Brian McCarty for the winning touchdown in a 7-3 victory over Cumberland Valley at Albright

 Wilson's first PIAA District 3 Championship is a 17-7 victory over defending Champion Cedar Cliff at Hershey. "USA Today" National High School Player of the Year, end Kyle Brady of Cedar Cliff, does not catch a pass against the defense led by Marty Palm, Brandon Naples, Brian McCarty, Jack Ledbetter, Jake Slemmer, Josh Erb. Mark Bingaman, Derrick Wenrich, Jamie Shoenfelt Kory Angstadt, and Jeff Montgomery

In a game for the Eastern Pennsylvania PIAA AAAA Championship played at Millersville, the Bulldogs came from behind for a 32-20 victory over Coatesville.

Brian McCarty scored two touchdowns running behind the offensive line of Bill Panos, Chris Bender, Ted Koch, Kraig Hume, and Rob Burkhart. However, the turning point of the game occurred when Jack Ledbetter caused a fumble on an attempted Coatesville punt and Mark Bingaman recovered the fumble and ran 14 yards for the go ahead score. This victory gave the Bulldogs their first chance at a state championship in football. One week later on a very cold December evening in Hershey, Wilson lost 12-7 to Upper St. Clair.

The 1989 season will long be remembered as the most rewarding in Bulldog football history.

Coach Gerry Slemmer's 1990 team completed the season with a 12-2 record and the PIAA District 3 and The Great Fight Region championships. The offense which averaged 30.7 points per game and 325 yards per game was led by back Jeff Niedrowski who gained 1,274 yards and scored 107 points behind an offensive line of Mike Eisenhower, Ken Buczynski, Chris Bender, Joe Lenart, and Matt Lucas. Back Greg Glembocki averaged a Wilson record eight yards per carry Jeff Stump provided blocking at fullback.

Quarterback Chris Adams completed 55% of his passes (another record) for 1.695 yards and 12 touchdowns. Dean Kraras caught 31 passes for 588 yards and five touchdowns. Shane Herb caught 26 passes for 358 yards and three touchdowns.

During the regular season the Bulldogs lost to Lancaster McCaskey, 16-14, which cost Wilson the Lancaster-Lebanon League championship. However, in the PIAA District 3 playoff game played at Millersville the Bulldogs recorded a 27-0 victory over McCaskey. This game featured a 16 tackle performance by Jake Slemmer, the Bulldogs first team All-State linebacker. Other key defenders were Jack Ledbetter, Jamie Shoenfelt and Chris Myers. The victory set-up a PIAA District 3 championship game against favored and Wilson nemesis Cumberland Valley.

Wilson won its second consecutive PIAA District 3 Championship with a thrilling 34-32 victory over Cumberland Valley at Hershey.

Chris Adams hit Dean Kraras in the back of the end zone with no time remaining to win the game. Adams led the Bulldogs on that 82-yard

winning drive with less than two minutes to play. One week later, in a game played at Lehigh University for the PIAA Eastern Pennsylvania championship, the Bulldogs lost 14-12 to Ridley.

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50 Years of Excellence • 1945-1994 • WILSON FOOTBALL 5

The Wilson Century Club was organized in 1977, with the purpose to honor Wilson all players who scored 100 or more points in

The idea for this organization was nurtured ther the 1976 football season when a group of Wilson Boosters sought ways to recognize Rick Stehman for his accomplishments during the 1976 season. Stehman had scored 105 points dur-

which the name Century Century Club Club was proposed and adopted

Mittel (1957), Scott

Chief (1

Comparini (1967), Mike Reitz (1967), John Yogum (1969) Barry Hess (1970), and Rick Wardrop (1971), plus John Gurskie who qualified for membership on the basis of having 100 wins as a head coach.

The first annual dinner meeting of the Wilson Century Club was held at the Spring House and Rick Stehman was presented with a plaque and a bond which are given to all new members on their induction into the club at the annual dinner

Since the inception of the Century Club, other players who qualified for membership by virtue of scoring 100 or more points in their career include Randy Simcox (1978), Carl Ohlinger (1978), Vito Ninfo (1980), Doug Ertz (1980), Pete Schreck (1981), Brad Ramsey (1983), Jim Lewis (1985), Brian McCarty (1989), Jeff Niedrowski (1991), Josh Danner (1993), and Dustin Sands (1993).

In 1979 membership was enlarged to include all Wilson football players who had 100 or more sekles in their careers.

As a result, defensive players included in the membership were: George Reed (1952), Galen Fisher (1953), Gary Leach (1957), Kit Fegley 1959) Andy Straka (1960), Bill Kopp (1961), Bill Dry (1961), Jim Rohm (1965), George Beidler (1965), Bruce Vaughan (1966), Jim McLaughlin (1966), Comparini, M. Reitz, Pete Stover (1967), Steve Kreider (1968), Pat Moran (1968), Gerry Slemmer (1969), Rick Fehling (1969), Mike Kreider (1970), Rick Raber (1972), John Federowicz (1972), Tim Starnes (1974), Larry Nawa (1975), Tom O'Brien (1976), Joe Hannis (1977), Mike Mohler (1978), Bryan Romig (1979), Leroy Schannauer (1981), Tony Cianci (1981), Scott Bossler (1981), Ernest Wolber (1981), Pete Kasko (1982), Rick Close (1983), Kurt Saeger (1983), Mike Penney (1984), Steve Schannauer (1985), Chris Schoellkopf (1985), Owen Miller (1986), Mike Rosol (1987), Cacciacarne (1988), Josh Erb (1989), Marty Palms (1989), Jack Ledbetter (1990), Jake James (1990), Jamie Shoenfelt (1990). Jon Depth (1992), Gooch Adams (1993), and John Bechell (1994).

In 1983 membership expanded to include

offensive linemen who made All-State or were selected to the "Big 33" Team; offensive ends with 500 yards pass receiving or 50 receptions in a career; quarterbacks with 25 touchdown passes or 1,500 or more yards in passing yardage during their career; and coaches with 100 wins at Wilson.

The following players qualified for member-ship as All-State first-team selections or "Big 33" Team players: M. Reitz, G. Slemmer, R. Fehling, Jim Fehling (1971), Simcox, Mohler, John Gurski (1979), L. Schannauer, McCarty, Kerry Collins (1989), J. Slemmer. and Ken Buczynski (1991).

Quarterbacks with 25 touchdown passes or 1,500 or more passing yards during their careers Aute: Glenn Hare (1967), Rick Feinour (1975), n Kirknatusek (1979), K. Collins, Chris Adams 1990) and Shane Stafford (1993).

Page Receivers with 50 or more career recepeers or name than 500 yards in career pass eceiving include: Ron Allushuski (1968), Mark

Cornfield (1978), Dean Shollenberger (1979), Jim Schreck (1984), Todd Bradburn (1989), McCarty, Steve Smith (1986), Dean Kraras (1990), and Shane Herb (1991).

Football coaches with 100 or more wins at Wilson include: John Gurski, Bill Morgan, Bernie Stoppi, Doug Dahms, Ray Richie, Gerry Slemmer, and John Mover.

Defensive backs with more than ten career

Doug Hess (1974). Simcox, and G. kickoff returners with more than 500

T. Bradburn, Mike Smith (1990), and Bob

In 1985, the Century Club established a category of honorary members for individuals whose services, cooperation and support contributed to the Wilson football program.

The following individuals are honorary mem-

bers: Dr. Aaron Miller, Dr. Alfred T. Johnon, Dr. Carl Hassler, Dr. Lee D. Schaebler, William Brumbach, Clifford Cake, Syl Comparini, Harold Miller, James Lippincott, William Mahon, Jack Goodhart, Daniel Witman, and Richard Romich.

The Wilson Century Club also awards honorary memberships to reward outstanding performance by members of the football team who receive the following special Century Club Awards.

Charles Simcox Award
In memory of Charles Simcox, an avid Wilson

Criteria for the award: An unselfish hardworking, dependable senior football player who is not necessarily an outstanding player or may not

have received a lot of recognition of others.
Winners of the Charles Simcox Award: Jeff Bukowski (1982), John Rohrbach (1983), Keith Flail (1984). Mike Faulkner (1985), Scott Goetz (1986), Steve Hauck (1987), Brad Trager (1988), Mark Bingaman (1989), Chris Myers (1990), Shane Herb (1991), Mark Scalese (1992) and Enc

John Gurski Award

When John Gurski retired, the Century Club decided to present an award in honor of John and his accomplishments.

Criteria for the award: A senior football player who, through the course of his career at Wilson, has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities on and off the field.

Winners of the John Gurski Award: Rich Close (1983), Mike Penney (1984), Jim Lewis (1985), Steve Smith (1986), Mike Rosol (1987), Bill Collins (1988), Brian McCarty (1989), Jake Slemmer (1990), Jeff Niedrowski (1991), Chad Harbach (1992) and Shane Stafford (1993).

Century and A Half Award A senior interior offensive lineman or a defensive player who is small in stature (150 lbs.) and made a significant contribution to the team.

Winners of the Century And A Half Award: Jim Sauppee (1985), Walt Wooleyhand (1986), Tom Keener (1987), Mike Pierantozzi (1988), Ted Koch (1989), Joe Lenart (1990), John Yoder (1991), Jim Woods (1992) and Dan Hughes

Bruce Vaughan Award This award is presented in memory of Bruce Vaughan. Bruce was a 1967 graduate of Wilson High School. He played lineman for the Bulldogs

in 1965 and 1966. Criteria for the award: This award is presented to a senior football player who demonstrates the quality of mind and spirit to face difficulty, pain and adversity with firmness and without fear.

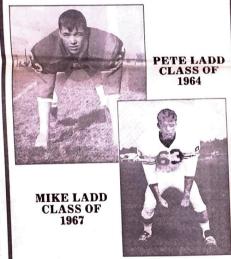
Winner of the Bruce Vaughan Award; Brandon Naples (1989), Greg Glembocki (1990), Scott Gruver (1992) and Jeremy Rapp (1993).

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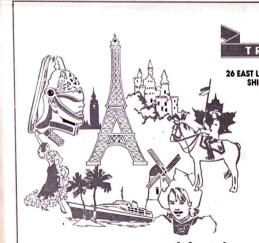
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is what Warren Eberly, Robert mpsion, Robert Shaak, Tony Matz. John

hompson, Robert Shaak, 1009 Mars, 1001 Janes, Geory Slemmer have in common. They also are the men who have guided the Wilson High School football program from its infancy to one of the most respected programs in

Going into the 1994 season - the 50th in the school's history, the group of head coaches have combined for a 309-173-14 record 13 league championships, four undefeated seasons and 35

Eberly was the first to be named head coach during that first season in 1945

Eberly was a 1936 Wilson graduate and stand-out football player at Muhlenberg College in

However, his college experience did not preare him for that first season - not with a \$6,200 sidget to buy equipment and supplies, all games

The Presidents as they were then known finased the year 1-4 and scored only 26 points all

The first and only win was an opening day victory over Reading High School's junior varsity, 7-0, at George Field.

The school's first touchdown was a 31-yard pass play from running back Jim Lippincott to

____Eberly left the Wilson program a year later to take a job with the Muhlenberg Township School District. He contiuned to stay involved in athletics as a football official.

He even was an official for Wilson games. He donated his pay to the school's athletic fund

Thompson took over in 1946 and led Wilson to the its first winning season - 4-3-1. However, being reads followed and his last season in 1950 left him with a 13-29-2 mark. In 1950, he led Wilson to its first Berks County Championship. Shank, a native of Lebanon and star at Lebanon Valley College, Annville, also found the read paved with potholes in 1951.

It was extremely tough in the beginning," recalls Shaak, who was only 23 when he was hired. "In 1951, the equipment was second hand. There was no money from the school and a large

crowd was 800 people." "We would play tougher and bigger opponents if we knew we were guaranteed gate receipts. Since we were a small school at that time, it was

very tough to get kids." This was evident when the Presidents traveled to Lebanon to play the Cedars in 1952. Wilson had 14 players, Lebanon 37.

One of the Lebanon players was all-state running back George Marinkov. He led the Cedars to

"When we got back to town, I marched right nee Ralph's (Leininger) office and demanded that next year's contract be cancelled or I'm quitting,"
said Shaak.

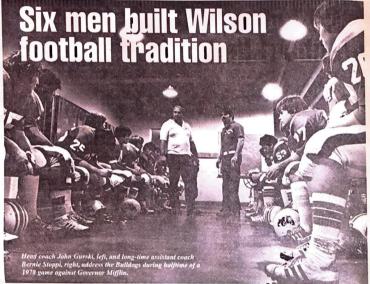
Fortunately, Shaak didn't quit

A club was established in 1953 and the club raised \$2,000 so the team could purchase new equipment. That year, the team finished 4-3-1. It was in 1956 when the Presidents topped

500 again at 6.3 The 1957 and 1958 seasons were also win-

ning ones and then in 1959 they finished 8-1-1. The lone loss was to cross-





Matz assumer

the position when Shaak took a sabbatical leave. Matz continued the success of Shaak and led the Bull does to a 6-3-1

Charl returned the following year for his final season and the Bulldogs

finished 7-3. In 10 seasons, Shaak compiled 44-Matz was back on the helm for the 1962 and 1963 seasons as the Bulldogs went 2-15-2.

"I was the individual who brought the great John Gurski to Wilson," laughed Matz, reflecting on his last two-year years as coach.

"When John arrived (1964), I stayed on as an assistant and we examined the team we had coming back," recalled Matz. "At best, we would peed a miracle to finish 5-5."

Miracles can happen and one did.

The Bulldogs finished 5-5 in Gurski's first season, a thrilling 14-13 win over Lancaster Catholic, the first major building block to what would be become a tower of excellence

> "We entered a game against Lancaster Catholic, who was the Tri-County favorite, as a heavy underdog," said Gurski. "We used a defense called the split and gap, and at half we were leading 14-0."

"Catholic decided to throw the ball in the second half and we held on for a 14-13 victory. I will never forget the reaction of our kids when they got on the

bus. They couldn't believe we won the ballgame This was the game that turned our entire program

"I was often criticized for having long practices, especially when we needed car lights to see, said Gurski. "But if this program was going to be successful we needed to be dedicated

"Since we were very small, I established a weight training program and I made sure that we always scrimmaged

Conditioning was a top priority as was a solid defense and a running game. The combination would become the Bulldon benchmark

"Defense and a solid running attack were the key to any ballclub," said Gurski, "If you were able to keep your opponent's offense off the field, you were almost guaranteed a

Gurski's first winning season as coach was in 1966 when the Bulldogs tied a school record with eight wins. That record was eclipsed the following year as the Bulldogs went 10-0, the school's first undefeated season, and won the Tri-County League

championship. "The cooperation from the school was very import-ant in the development of Gerry Slemmer this program," said Gurski. "When I first came here I was able to get the best equipment and the

championships

administration did whatever they could to help." Gurski remained at the helm of the Wilson program until 1982. During his 19 seasons, he won 151 games, had four undefeated seasons, three Tri-County League championships and four Lancaster-Lebanon League Section One

"Winning builds tradition," said Gurski. "No

Following Gurski's tenure was an awesome task. It was Gerry Slemmer who was summoned

to keep the "tradition" alive During the first two seasons, the Bulldogs finished 6-4 and 7-4 - respectively for most programs but not Wilsons

"I was the new kid on the block," said Slemmer. "There are at least five games where bad coaching decisions cost us a victory"

"I was pressing a little bit, but during those first two seasons I never made the same mistake twice. It was a definite learning experience. Slemmer was also learning from coaches that

had stood with Gurski dur. ing his tenure

Facilio Times oboto

"Bernie Stoppi and Bill Morean were the mortar that kept the program together," said Slemmer "Each year, I could see improvement as we worked to keep the Wilson football tradition strong '

Slemmer's hard work paid off as he led the Bulldogs to the Lancaster-Lebanon League title in 1985 Four years later, the program reached new heights as it finished 14-1, which included a difficult loss to Upper St. Clair in the PIAA State Championship

"The district and state playoffs added a lot to the tradition of this program," said Slemmer. "It was the best thing that could happen to Wilson since it gave us recognition on the district and

Through the 1993 season, Slemmer has 92 wins, two district championships and five Lancaster-Lebanon Leavue Championships

For Wilson, the tradition continues.



Hats off to Wilson Football and 50 years of

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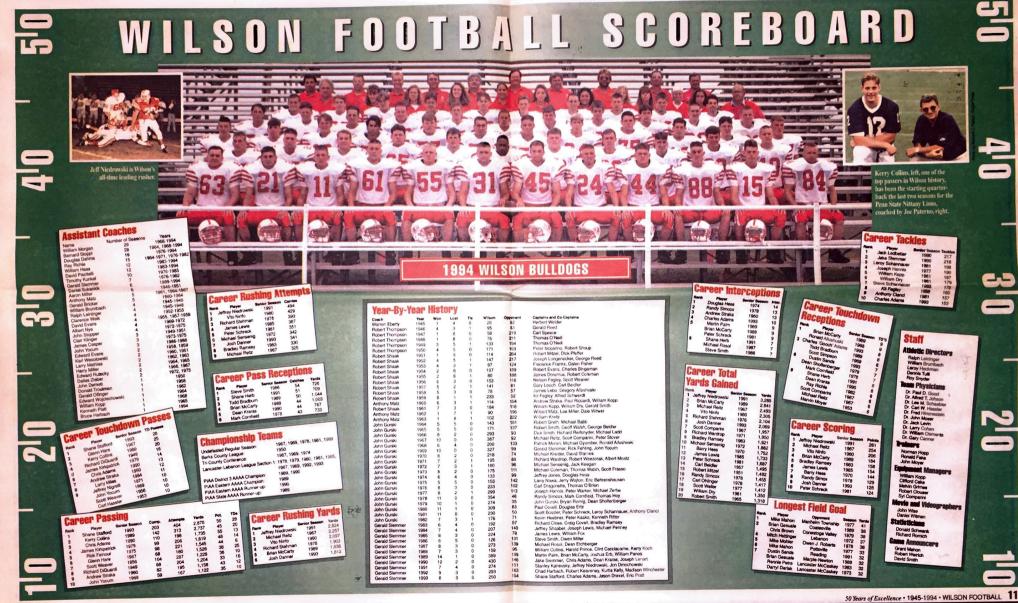
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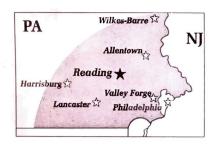
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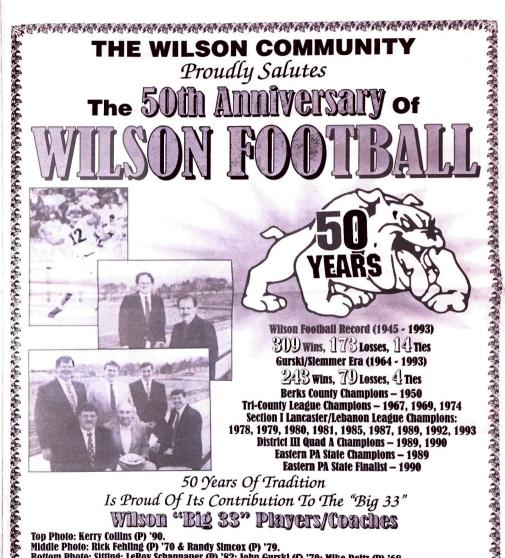
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- 1983: Dave Abraham, Scott Angstadt, Loren Booker, Rich Close, Craig Covell, Darryl DeLong, Bob Drake, James Duncan, Duane Fisher, Jerry Hybki, Rennie Petre. Andy Pichini, Brad Ramsey, Brian Reedy, John Rohrbach, Kurt Saeger, Sam Stiller, Dave Stremba, Al Sulek, Mike Szustak. Mike Troutman, Bill Wagner, Jeff Wagner, Mike Yokitis

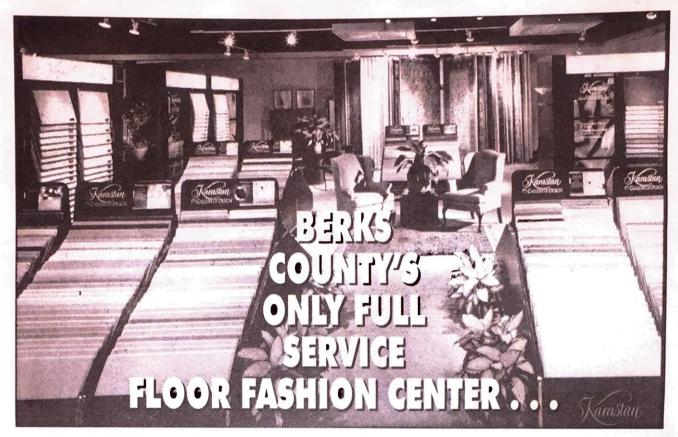
- 1984: Joey Angstadt, Jerry Bosch, Chris Brightbill, John Burkhardt, Keith Flail, Greg Hart, Brad Hauck, Jim Heck, Steve Hybki, Joe Lewis, Steve Lucas, Mike Penney, Jeff Reber, Darren Schlappich, Terry Schlegel, Rudy Schoning, Jim Schreck, Eric Seip, Jeff Shaaber, Dan Texter, Rob Turner, Kevin Wallace, Steve Whitney, Kurt
- 1985: Tom Angstadt, Wayne Bradburn, Ed Cashin, Eric Deck, Rich Drake, Mike Faulkner, Todd Fischer, Bill Fox, Vince Heckman, Jim Lewis, Chris Lysakowski, Fric Mitchell, Chris Ott, Jim Rothermel, Jim Saupee, Steve Schannuaer, Chris Schoellkoof, Randy Smith, Jeff Woytovich,
- 1986: Jim Baker, Dave Cipar, Steve Copeland, Russ Foltz, Eric Freeman, Scott Goetz, Mark Jackson, Joe Majone, Owen Miller, Jim Riley, Kirk Ruffner, Mike Sarfert, Steve Smith, Joe Stralo, Eric Van Pelt, Lenny Weckel, Walt Wooleyhand, Andy Stump.
- 1987: Tim Beahm, Kyle Cashin, Mike Dallas, Todd Dickerson, Kevin Ebert, Dean Etchberger, Steve Hauck, Kris Jackson Tom Keener Todd Meacham Jim Nau, Pete Ott, Rob Pettit, Kyle Price, Mike Rosol, Gary Slemmer, Pete Vaughan, Darrell Wenrich, Lee Williams, Seppi Winkler
- 1988: Clint Cacciacarne, Bill Collins, Shawn Fruchter, Brett Gibble, Jeff Harbach, Tim Herbine, Mike Kirkpatrick, Kerry Koch, Mike Pierantozzi, Harold Prince, Tom Schreck, Brad Trager, John Young.
- 1989: Mark Bingaman, Todd Bradburn, Rob Burkhart, Kerry Collins, Josh Erb. Brian Gesuale, Jason Hopp, Kraig Hume, Zach Kantner, Ted Koch, Brian McCarty, Jeff Montgomery, Martin Palm, Bill Panos, Matt Riffle, Rob Taylor, Derrick Wenrich
- 1990: Chris Adams, Ian Alvord, Kory Angstadt, Shawn Bailey, Chris Bender, Jonathan Chalmers, Shawn Craley, Mike Eisenhower, Chad Faller, Kevin Fehr, Ray Kerns, Kyle Kline, Dean Kraras, Jack Ledbetter, Joe Lenart, Matt Lucas, Chris Myers, Brandon Naples, Tim Rodenberger, Ken Romberger, Chris Shingleton, Rob Shockley, Jake Slemmer, Mike Smith, Jeff Stump, Marc Turner, Tris Vaughan, Todd Wheeler, Adam Winchester, Steve Zapata
- 1981: Ken Buczynski, Jim Burkhart, Jon Dmochowski, Kris Drobnick, Brad Dunkelberger, Greg Glembocki, Liam Goodwin Shane Herb Stanley Kanevsky Eric Kinder, Joel Kleinspehn, Seth Kraines-Hoffman, Steve Kuchinski, Chad Melnick, Jeff Niedrowski, Sean Owens, Mike Shearer Mike Stahl Ray Nowaczyanski, Rhett Stauffer, Charles Toth, Chris Umbenhouer, John Yoder
- 1992: Robert Burke, Justin Crossley, Jon. Depro, Shawn Fackler, Ben Fink, Chad Gassert, Scott Gruver, Chad Harbach. Robert Keaveney, Kurt Kelly, Len Robinson, Mark Scalese, Matt Shaaber, Andy Skinner, Madison Winchester, Jim Woods
- 1983: Gooch Adams, Kevin Brown, Josh Danner, Jason Drexel, Marc Fidler, Tom Hartman, Dan Hughes, Jeff Kerchner, Jeremy Rapp, Dustin Sands, Matt Schutte, Mark Shaper, Shape Stafford, Marc Swatt.



Top Photo: Kerry Collins (P) '90.

Middle Photo: Rick Fehling (P) '70 & Randy Simcox (P) '79.

Bottom Photo: Sitting: LeRoy Schannauer (P) '82; John Gurski (C) '70; Mike Reitz (P) '68. Standing: Gerry Slemmer (P) '70 (C) '90, '94; John T. Gurski (P) '80, Ken Buczynski (P) '92.



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