

Special Recognition for 1969 "Class of Champions"

In the Fall of 1968, the Cross Country team began the "Parade of Championships" immortalized by the outstanding athletes of the Class of 1969. Adding further accolades, a second team championship was added by the Soccer team. The Football team completed the Fall Trifecta in November. The winter season concluded with no championships, but two teams - Wrestling and Girls' Basketball - placed second in the Bux-Mont League standings. Continuing where the fall championship teams left off, two spring teams - Baseball and Track & Field - continued athletic dominance by garnering the Class of 1969's fourth and fifth Bux-Mont titles.

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 1968-1969

Cross Country - Bux-Mont Champions

Head Coach Jim Gulick

Soccer - Bux-Mont Champion

Head Coach Russ Stewart; Asst. Robert Marschausen

Football - Bux-Mont Co-Champions

Head Coach Al Brodhag;

Assts. Carl Giuranna, Ed Lugg, John Vinski, Jim Wilde

Baseball - Bux-Mont Tri-Champions

Head Coach Carl Giuranna; Assts. Al Brodhag, Jim Wilde

Track & Field - Bux-Mont Track & Field Champions

Head Coach James Crawford;

Assts. James Gulick, Nelson Watton, John Vinski

1968 Cross Country, Bux-Mont Champions

The North Penn Cross Country team, coached by Jim Gulick, set the stage for what turned out to be a "Class of Champions". The Cross Country team ended the season with a 10-1-1 record, a perfect 9-0 in the Bux-Mont League. In nine years of Bux-Mont competition the North Penn Harriers had won 85 consecutive dual meets. The 1968 Cross Country team was led by Sam Ruth's ninth place finish at the District One Championship and the Knights finished ninth in team competition. Senior co-captains Don Gehman and Frank Joseph provided strong leadership to a talented group of runners.

To illustrate how strong this team was, consider this statistic: with 15 points being the lowest amount of points a team could score, North Penn averaged 20.6 points to their opponents' 39.5 points.

End of the year awards went to the following: NPHS Most Valuable Harrier - Sam Ruth; NPHS Most Improved - Mike Hagan; Outstanding Sophomore Award - Dave Kennedy.

Letter Winners: Ron Beyer, Kris Clugston, Donald Fuesner, Don Gehmann, Mike Hagan, Michael Hamme, Frank Joseph, David Kennedy, Robert Kohlman, John Miller, Paul Ormand, Terry Pavlichko, Sam Ruth, Robert Siffel, Glenn Yeakel

1968 Soccer, Bux-Mont Champions by Ron Quinn and Steve Konsowitz

The 1968-69 soccer season ended with a record of 5-1-1, and it represented the second championship for a North Penn team this year. The top position however was not easily attained since the Booters were forced into a double overtime situation in the playoff against Pennridge. Both periods ended in ties. Hence, our boys gained the coveted title strictly with corner kicks, terminating with a tally of, 7-2.

The Booters started the season with a scrimmage victory over Plymouth Whitmarsh, 4-3, but lost some ground when they tied William Tennent, 1-1, and Wissakickon, 3-3. North Penn was not a team to be denied, however. They romped through the season trampling six teams in succession. The first to be stumped was Pennridge, 6-2. Abington was next on the agenda with North Penn's tally of, 4-2. The Booters found Souderton more difficult when forced into two overtimes. But co-captain Bud Bauscher pulled through to boot the deciding goal and topple Souderton, 3-2. The next three were less difficult when they shut out Hatboro-Horsham, 3-0, and Central Bucks, 1-0, and then dumped Quakertown, 5-1. The next two teams gave North Penn a run for the title, Springfield being the only one to defeat North Penn by the slight margin of 2-1. Non-league Methacton also halted the Knights by a score of 1-1, although it was not easily accomplished. Even though our boys triumphed over Pennridge, 7-2, to win the Bux-Mont Title, the Knights were barred in the first round of the district playoffs when defeated by Lower Merion, 2-0, which later went on to become state champions. Since our Booters were defeated in the districts, they proudly came home with the Bux-Mont soccer championship, being the second number one team for North Penn this year.

Letter Winners: Robert Baker, Helmut "Bud" Bauscher, Wolfgang "Butch" Bauscher, Steve Brittin, Mike Buck, John Bush, Mike Cash, Michael Goetter, Greg Kobasa, Steve Konsowitz, Dana Kulp, Andy Kusma, Robert Luz, Gerry McGaughran, Jeff Munzinger, Ed Ottenheimer, David Pool, Ron Quinn, Dan Whipp.

1968 Football, Bux-Mont League Co-Champs

Coach Al Brodhag's Knights sat in the middle of the pack at 1-1 after a heartbreaking one point loss to Pennridge, then caught fire and ran the table en route to a 7-1 league season and the first Bux-Mont League championship for North Penn football since 1948. Key wins during the streak included beating Springfield on their home field. Springfield may have ended up sharing the title but were clearly denied the bragging rights. And, the season ending thrashing of defending champion Central Bucks on Thanksgiving Day not only brought home the trophy, but gave Bucks' coach Mike Pettine his worst defeat in his Hall of Fame career. Over 7,000 fans packed the stadium in Lansdale and most stayed to watch the east goal post torn down!

Letter Winners: John Weierman, Jim Decembrino, Bill Rodenhaver, Larry Fritz, David Willard, Randy Iles, Todd Werner, Sam Feldi, Steve Curley, Mike Bonner, Ralph Mascola, Bob Landis, Ken Brenninger, Bill McFarland, Vince Hubler, Bob Stewart, Bill Clugston, Tom Ziegler, Bob Johnson, Ed Banes, Scott Finkbeiner, Dan Hodum, Bruce Gouldey, Dick Henry, Glenn Trembath, Greg Shultz, Jim Heimer, John Davidson, Bob Hanna, Bob Nelson, Bill Ruccius, Bruce Reinert, Bob Hallman, Dave Mudri, Doug Dreisbach, Francis Dilworth, Paul Alaman, Allen Bartlebaugh, Evan Rudge, Doug Mininger, Don Sheaffer, Paul Daniels, Dwight Hunsberger, Kurt Nase, Mike Prediger, Gene Jasin, Mike Smith, Tim Smith; **Managers:** Barry Wert, Dale Morlock, Phil Ward, Bob Davis

1969 Baseball Team, Tri-Champion

As the North Penn Baseball team prepared for the 1969 season, it faced an up-hill battle to return to the top of the Bux-Mont League. To begin the 1969 season, the starting pitchers were Eric Stout (Senior), Bob Hollenshead (Junior), and Larry Fritz (Sophomore). Half-way through the Bux-mont League Schedule, Senior Don Sheaffer did some effective pitching in relief, as well as a start or two. The pitcher with an outstanding year was Junior Bob Hollenshead (5-2 with 1.47 ERA), throwing a no-hitter against Pennridge (2-1) and striking out 16 batters in the last game of the season against Souderton (4-2). Five regular players hit over .300: Bill Rodenhaver (.348); Bob Rank (.348); Mike Goetter (.346); Bruce Reinert (.346); and Ed Oswald (.318). Seven members of the team received All Bux-Mont Honors: Second Team: Pitcher, Bob Hollenshead (Junior) (5-2); 1st Base, Bruce Reinert (Senior); Honorable Mention: Short Stop, Ed Oswald; Outfield, Mike Goetter; Outfield, Bob Rank; C - 3rd Base, Chuck Grindle; Outfield, Bill Rodenhaver

Letter Winners: Bill Rodenhaver, Bob Rank, Mike Goetter, Bruce Reinert, Ed Oswald, Bob Hollenshead, Larry Fritz, Tim Smith, Chuck Grindle, John Bush, Bob Madtes, Don Shaeffer, Paul Alaman, Bruce Atwood, Bruce Bach, Ken Brenninger, Rick Chunko, Mike Colavita, Lou Corrado, Dwight Hunsberger, Dana Kulp, Bob Marschhausen, Doug Minninger, John Morrow, Jim Reigel, Lee Saverio, Elmer Stephens, Bob Weber

1969 Track and Field Bux-Mont and District One Champions

Under the tutelage of legendary Track Coach James B. Crawford, the 1969 Track and Field team ran, jumped and threw their way to North Penn's 22nd consecutive Bux-Mont League Championship finishing dual meet action with an 11-0-0 record. The Track and Field team continued their dominance by winning 10 of 18 events and placing first at the Bux-Mont League Championship meet. Outstanding individual performances by Bill Clugston, 100, 200, 440; John Miller, high jump, long jump, triple jump; Vince Hubler, discus, javelin and George Carnall, pole vault, along with the 880 relay team assured the team a victory.

Following the league championship, the Knights continued to showcase their talent at the District One Track and Field Championship. When the dust settled and the sun set, North Penn walked away with the District One title accumulating 36 points. The closest team to them was Abington, tallying 31 points. Bill Clugston continued his dominance on the cinders by winning the 100 and 220 yard dashes in addition to placing second in the 440. Also medaling were John Miller, Vince Hubler, Andy Kusma, John Kulp and the 880 Relay Team. North Penn moved onto States following their District One Championship. It was there that Bill Clugston put North Penn on the map by sprinting to a state championship in the 220 yd dash. His winning time, 21.2 seconds, tied the state record. Also medaling for North Penn were John Miller, long jump - 4th place and Vince Hubler, javelin - 6th place.

At the conclusion of the 1969 Track and Field season Coach Crawford announced his retirement. Coach Crawford will forever be remembered for what he accomplished as North Penn's Track and Field coach. His dedication to the teams he coached throughout his illustrious career will never be forgotten.

Letter Winners: Robert Baker, William Baker, Mark Bilyk, Allen Binder, Craig Bucci, William Buchter, Robert Byren, George Carnall, Michael Cash, William Christman, William Clugston, Donald Fuesner, Michael Hamme, Vincent Hubler, Frank Joseph, Robert Kohlman, John Kulp, Andy Kusma, Harvey Mangal, John Miller, Fred Mueller, Jeff Munzinger, Charles Nyce, David Reber, Samuel Ruth, Harry Snyder, William Spangal, Warren Wales, Dennis Ziegler; Managers: David Scatton, John Procopio