

65 Years of Red Devils Football

1961



2026

A TRADITION WAS BORN

THANKSGIVING DAY • 1963

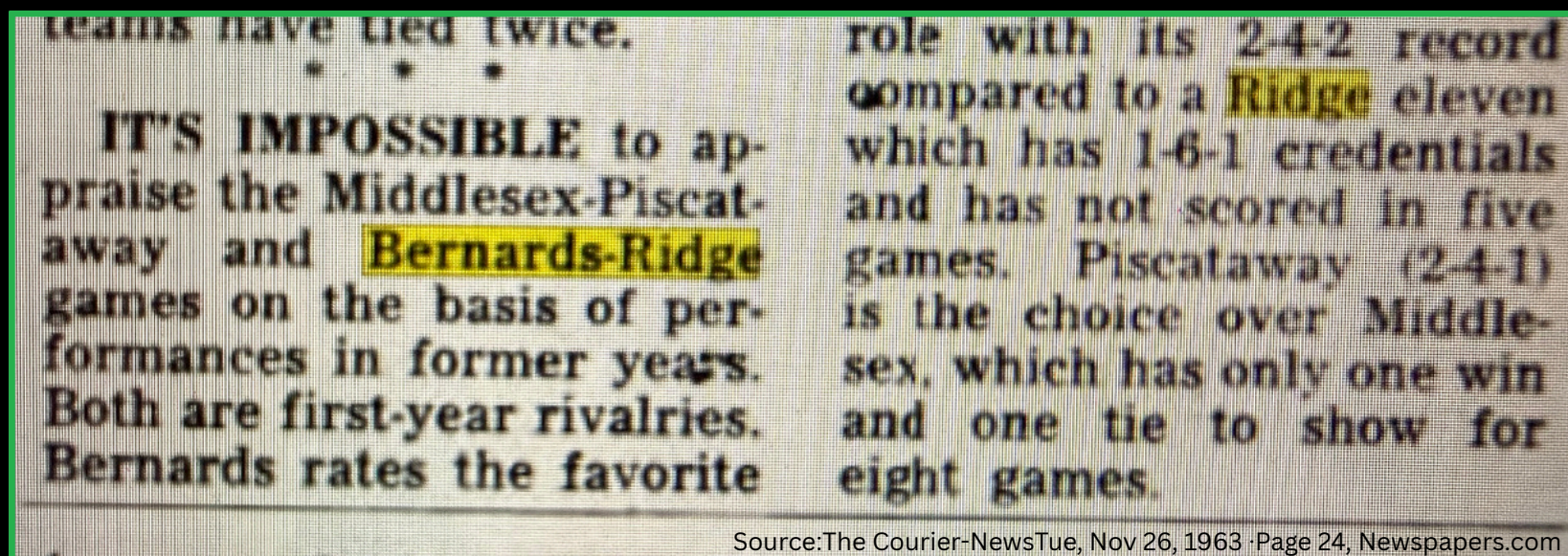
RIDGE VS. BERNARDS

November 28, 1963

First Thanksgiving Meeting

Bernards 25, Ridge 7

A 15 - Year Tradition Begins



65 Years of Red Devils Football

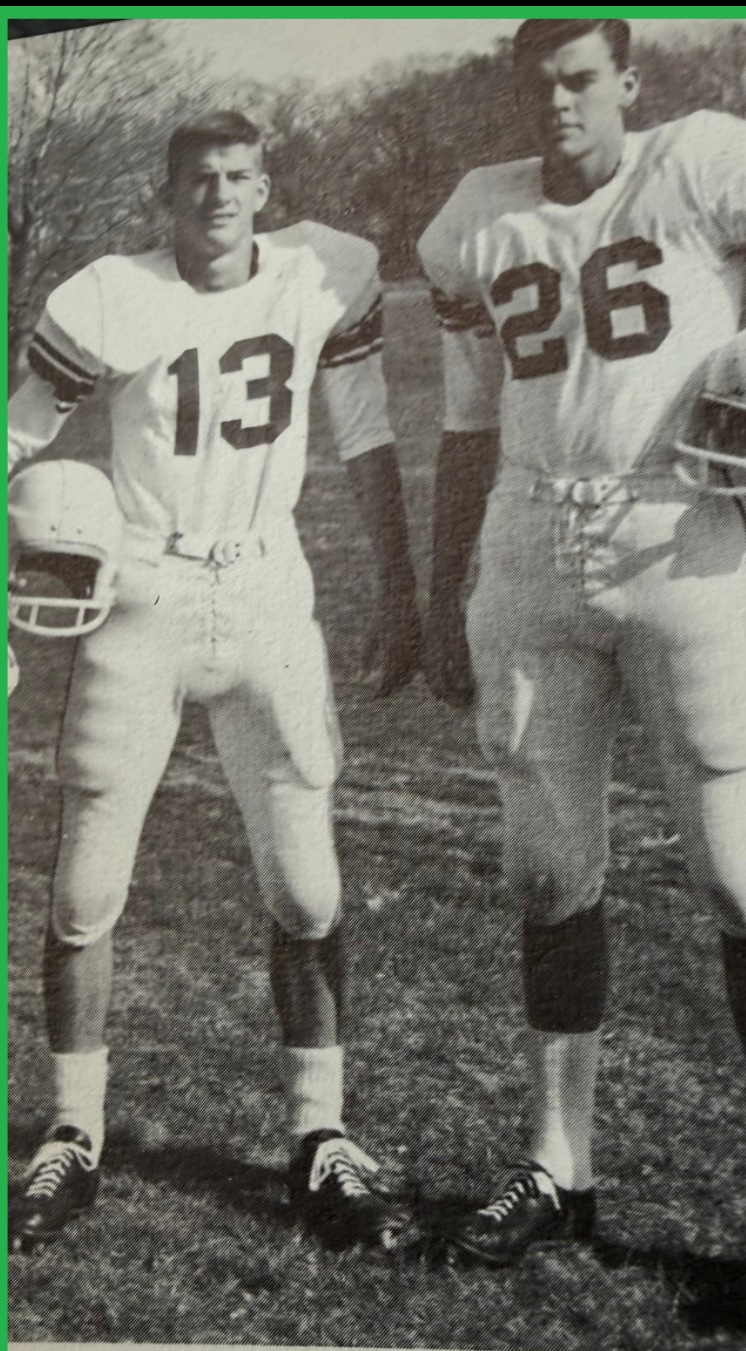
1961



2026

RED DEVIL VICTORY RIDGE VS. BERNARDS

THANKSGIVING DAY • 1964



Co-captains for the Thanksgiving Day game are seniors Jeff Wilker (13) and Fred Legband (26).

Football

The 1964 football season will long be remembered at Ridge High. When all the shouting was over Thanksgiving Day Ridge had hammered out a 3 and 6 record. Even so, the spirit and enthusiasm demonstrated throughout the entire season could not be measured. Statistics proved the 1964 squad the best in Ridge history and a lot better than what other schools had expected.

November 26, 1964
First Thanksgiving Win
Lee Field
Series Tied 1-1

65 Years of Red Devils Football

1961



2026

MORE THAN A GAME

The Ridge-Bernards Tradition



A Community
Tradition by 1968

Packed Stands Every
Thanksgiving

Players, Families,
Alumni

One Rivalry, Two
Towns

The Rotary Club of Bernardsville gave its annual honoring the football teams of Ridge and Bernards last w
Pistilli's Restaurant and if anything came out of the meeti
that this Thanksgiving Day football game is going to be
one. The Head Coach from each team was present along w
co captains, in a very friendly atmosphere.

This pre-game get-together has been a tradition now sir
teams first met in 1963.

Source: 1968, 1971, 1972 Bville News, Mr.localhistory.org,

65 Years of Red Devils Football

1961



2026

BERNARDS' EARLY DOMINANCE THANKSGIVING DAY 1963-1970

Bernards won 4 of the First 5 Games

1964: Ridge wins 14-7

1968: Ridge wins 7-6

1970: Bernards final Thanksgiving Victory 20-6



November 28, 1968

Fourth Quarter TD Drive

Gives Red Devils

Victory Over Bernards

Left: Different Emotions--Ridge erupts in celebration while a stunned Bernards squad prepares for one last chance with 1:40 left to play.

65 Years of Red Devils Football

1961



2026

THE RIDGE ERA

THANKSGIVING DAY 1971 - 1977

1971: Ridge Takes Control

7 Straight Victories

The Final Chapter of the Rivalry

Ridge rebounds to top Bernards

Ridge took over domination in the game in 1971 with Eric Legband and Carl Mertz teaming up on passing combinations for two touchdowns.

The Red Devils have won six straight and lead the series, 8-6.



Source: Newspapers.com

65 Years of Red Devils Football

1961



2026

THE FINAL THANKSGIVING

• 1977 •

Ridge's victory brought a 15 - year
Thanksgiving tradition to a close.

THE BERNARDSVILLE NEWS, THURSDAY, DEC. 1, 1977

Page Seventeen

'Best Ever' Ridge Team Breezes To 7th Straight

Ridge 'Goes Berserk' Vs. Bernards, 53-0

backs Al Klein (46 yards rushing and one TD on six "Somerville was such a tough loss emotionally, I Bush then picked off a look-in pass to set Klein's one-yard TD plunge, and after getting t



WHY IS THIS MAN SMILING? — Simple. He's Ridge coach Harry Bush, watching his team roll to victory.



AL KLEIN runs through a good hole. John Otis (88) helps with the blocking.

Coach Harry Bush

Source: 12/1/1977 Bville News, Mr.localhistory.org
Source: 12/1/1977 Bville News, Mr.localhistory.org

65 Years of Red Devils Football

1961 • **R** • 2026



**The tradition may have ended.
The memories never will.**