

**SPORTS PARADE**

By FRANK UJOBAL

# Sentiment Says Norristown Should be Off PHS Schedule

**PHS-EAGLES SERIES . . .** Although Phoenixville High School has been playing Norristown High in football since before 1900, public sentiment says the series between the two schools should be ended. . . . This column is not one of excuses because the Phantoms lost, 24-0, the past Friday, but it is one of "Let's face the facts." . . . Phoenixville, with an enrollment of just over 500 students, and Norristown, with well over 1,000, are just no match on the gridiron, the baseball diamond, or the basketball court. . . . Fortunately, the two schools only tangle in football. . . . But, that enough.

It wasn't the score that hurt Phoenixville's pride as much as the way the team was hopelessly out-classed, outmanned, outweighed and out-played. . . . The contest, so early in the season, could very well cast a heavy pall over the remainder of the 1957 campaign. . . . We hope it didn't. . . . The mismatch had no effect on the team as far as league play is concerned. . . . It was, however, a game in which the boys of Coach Vince Daher could get that "I don't care attitude" in future contests. . . . The Phoenixville mentor, though, told us his boys want to forget what happened Friday and concentrate on Ches-Mont League foes from here on in.

## **NOTHING BUT HARM**

Playing Norristown before heading into C-M Loop competition can do nothing but harm to the Purple and White eleven. . . . The school should schedule teams of similar strength for non-circuit battle. . . . Owen J. Roberts is a good foe, not because the Phantoms beat them this year, but because enrollment at the two schools is nearly the same. . . . The Wildcats could very well defeat Phoenixville come next season as bad as the latter clobbered them two weeks ago, 43-12. . . . With Norristown it's a different situation.

When the Phantoms manage to come through with a win over the Eagles, it's like Upsala or Colby defeating Notra Dame. . . . Victories over the down-river team are mighty rare. As we mentioned in an earlier column, the last time PHS beat Norristown at Roosevelt Field was in 1920—37 years ago. . . . The last time it was accomplished at Washington Field was in 1950. . . . We are of the opinion that when a team is a heavy favorite year after year, it's time for a change.

## **BOYS COULD GET SERIOUSLY HURT**

For Phoenixville to be rated as having a good chance to beat the Eagles, the club would have to be exceptionally strong, and Norristown's weak, the latter because of a rebuilding stage. . . . Then should the PHS eleven win, it's been proved that the score is mighty close and the breaks fell in the hometowners' laps. . . . There are a few exceptions that don't back this up, but they are infrequent. . . . The big question is, "What does the Phoenixville-Norristown series prove?" . . . Granted, some oldtimers will say, "It's traditional." . . . We say, traditional or no, why be continually overwhelmed by a team. . . . Especially when there's a good chance many of our boys could get seriously hurt.

For example, Norristown's line averaged 185 pounds as compared to Phoenixville's 166. . . . The Phantoms' forward wall looked like a rear wall Friday. . . . They tried their best to move and block the opposition, but it was virtually impossible. . . . One of the kids was quoted as saying, "I'm doing my best, but I just can't hold my man out." . . . Another one said, "Everytime I looked around, someone was knocking me over." . . . The team was stymied because of being tremendously outweighed. . . . Coach Kent told us in a telephone conversation the day before the clash that, "My second team line is as heavy as the first."

## **LUCKY PLAYERS WEREN'T INJURED**

Fortunately, the Phoenixville players came out of the game unscathed. . . . Yes, the usual bumps and bruises were there, but no serious injuries. But, Coach Daher says he considered this a blessing. . . . It could have been disastrous, he said. . . . But how about future seasons? . . . Will the Phantoms be lucky enough again to come home injury-less? . . . Phoenixville has no contract to play Norristown next season. . . . The game Friday concluded a two-year pact between the two schools. . . . We're hoping the series is concluded for good. . . . Period.