



The PSFCA Big 33 expands the minds of our buddies, athletes and scholars to see beyond "normal" and realize we are all special and excel at something regardless of what our disabilities or abilities are.

Buddy Program: The Buddy program features special needs kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Buddy program was started in 1985 and was designed to partner a special needs child with a Big 33 athlete. Memories are developed through opportunities for exceptional kids to share time with their athletes both on and off the practice field during game week. Being a part of the Buddy program allows everyone an even playing field. There are many barriers in the world for individuals with special needs and being a part of the buddy program gives these children an environment without barriers. Buddies get to be themselves. Our program expands the minds of our buddies to understand that others see past their disabilities and see who they really are...big hearted, smiling, appreciative, young people with hearts of gold. Football players and cheerleaders accept their buddy unconditionally. No other event gives special needs individuals such an inclusive experience. Buddies make a lasting impression on every player and cheerleader. Our Buddy program continues to grow each year. The Big 33 also hosts an annual Spring Ball. Buddies come together to reminisce about old memories and create new ones that last a lifetime.



As a member of the Buddy Team, you will get to meet the athletes and have your picture taken and get autographs. All Buddy Team members are invited to attend the Big 33 game at no charge. We look forward to having you become a part of the Big 33 Buddy Team! To register, please go to our website www.big33.org.

Would you like to be a Big 33 Player Paired Athlete?

This would be an exciting opportunity for you to come and share with us a thrilling week of activities and entertainment.

As a paired athlete Buddy, you will be partnered with a Big 33 football player. By sharing time together, both on and off the field, you will create a lifetime of treasured memories for your player and yourself. As a participant, you would receive and enjoy the following complimentary items*:

- Official Big 33 gear.
- Pizza party dinner where you will meet your player.

- Visit your player at practice and eat lunch together.

- Attend the Big 33 Recognition Dinner

- Be introduced with your player at the Big 33 Football Classic.

- All paired athlete Buddies sit in reserved seats in the end zone bleachers where you can cheer on your athlete.



Would you like to be a Big 33 Cheer Paired Athlete?

This would be an exciting opportunity for you to come and share with us a thrilling week of activities and entertainment.

As a paired athlete Buddy, you will be partnered with a Big 33 cheerleader. By sharing time together, both on and off the field, you will create a lifetime of treasured memories for your cheerleader and yourself. As a participant, you would receive and enjoy the following complimentary items*:

- Official Big 33 Cheer gear.

- Practice with the cheerleaders and eat lunch together.

- Attend the Recognition Dinner

- Participate with the cheerleaders during the halftime show of the Big 33 Football Classic Game.

- All paired athlete Buddies sit in reserved seats in the end zone bleachers where you can cheer on your athlete.

*Please Note: All Buddy events are free of cost to the Buddy. There is a nominal fee for all chaperones to attend Buddy events.

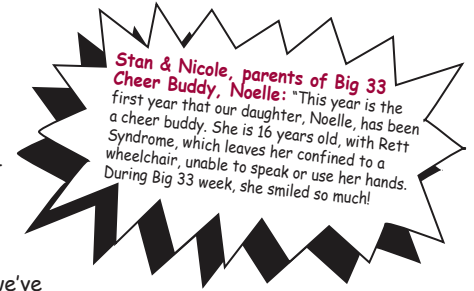
Michael Horvat - Big 33 Player PA Team 1964: "I participated in the 1964 game against Texas (PA won) after my career at Berwick High School. While in Hershey we were able to interact with some children with disabilities. I was so moved by the children that I decided to dedicate my life to working with individuals with disabilities. I have just finished my 26th year at the University of Georgia in the area of physical activity and disability. Everything that has transpired from 1964 was from my participation in the BIG 33!"



John & Robin parents of Big 33 Player Buddy, Evan: "It was without a doubt one of the most memorable family outings that we've had. The Buddy program offered so much for Evan and our family to participate in. Most importantly, Evan felt so important and so special. Having the football players treat our "special" kids like one of them and including them in all possible activities means more than I can put into words."

Ed & Jodi, parents of Big 33 Player Buddy, Owen: "The Big 33 Buddy Program gives Owen a chance to interact and play with athletes he otherwise would never meet. The athletes and Big 33 staff place the Buddies on a pedestal for the week. The Buddies feel incredibly special, not because of the challenges they face, but because they experience a unique week of inclusive events that they cherish long after the Big 33 game is over."

Dave & Lisa, parents of Big 33 Cheer Buddy, Allegra: "The smiles, the cheers and the unbiased celebration of all people is what Big 33 means to our family. We congratulate the football players and the cheerleaders who sincerely take the time to encourage the buddies to do their best despite their differences in abilities. What could be a better life lesson than acceptance and an understanding of those different from you?"



Stan & Nicole, parents of Big 33 Cheer Buddy, Noelle: "This year is the first year that our daughter, Noelle, has been a cheer buddy. She is 16 years old, with Rett Syndrome, which leaves her confined to a wheelchair, unable to speak or use her hands. During Big 33 week, she smiled so much!"



Participation in the Buddy Team is open to all people with intellectual disabilities, regardless of their degree of challenge. The criteria to become a member of the Buddy Team is: a person must be at least 5 years of age and

identified by the school or other human service agency as having an intellectual disability or having a developmental disability with functional limitations in both general learning and adaptive skills.



Each year, members of the Big 33 Buddy Team will be chosen to be paired athlete with a Big 33 Football Player or Big 33 Cheer-leader.

Determining factors to be a paired athlete Buddy:

1. Must be five years of age by September 1st and under the age of 21 by June 30th.
2. If there is an athlete from your high school participating as a player or cheerleader, you will be given priority.
3. All paperwork must be completed and received by the due date.
4. If you have not followed through with your participation in the past i.e. committed to an event and not shown up, not submitting items on time or if there were any behavioral issues, you may not be selected as a paired athlete Buddy.

*Big 33 strives to have a successful and rewarding paired athlete program so that many team members can participate. While a Buddy Team member may not be selected as a paired athlete this year, you may be a paired athlete the following year.

We look forward to having you become a part of the Big 33 Buddy Team! To register, please go to our website www.big33.org.

