

Great Valley super in clash with rival

By **RICH AMBROSINO**
(Local News Sports Staff)
September 11, 1988

Great Valley's annual "Super Saturday" clash with Conestoga was just that—super and much more.

The Patriots, still perfecting their new offensive look under first-year coordinator Ted Nypaver, pounded and punched for 263 yards on the ground while their defense limited the Pioneers to almost nothing offensively and exactly that on the scoreboard.

Check it out. Great Valley. 20. Conestoga 0.

The Patriots, now 2-0 and off to their best start since 5-0 beginning four years ago, have suddenly become a

team to be reckoned with. And that's where Nypaver, former head coach at Spring-Ford, comes in.

This offense has the Nypaver look: Powerful. Chewing up the yardage on the ground while gobbling up the time on the clock.

All the while, Conestoga was almost invisible on offense, rolling up just 43 yards on the ground 11 in the air.

For Udovich, there were positives. "This game is a warm-up for our Central League play," he said. "Our goal is the Central League. And I'd rather play a team and lose 20-0 this time of year than a team we could beat 20-0. We'll be a better team tomorrow."



Returning Lettermen

Costin, East rush past Conestoga

By **ALAN DORAN**
(Local News Correspondent)
September 18, 1988

"I have to take the blame for the first touchdown," said Conestoga Coach Udovich. "I had a goal-line defense on, and they went around the end.

Conestoga was able to tie the score at 7-7 late in the first quarter when Conestoga's 6-8 quarterback, Matt Baker, hit Craig Driver with a 13-yard scoring strike.

"I thought we executed a lot better today," said Udovich. "I still think we'll be one of the better teams in the Central League. Right now, we're playing some real tough teams."



CRAIG DRIVER
Senior 6-0, 180
Wide Receiver



JOHN DONOVAN
Senior 5-10, 165
Defensive Back



BRIAN KUCH
Senior 5-8, 170
Running Back



MITCH DELANEY
Senior 6-0, 210
Fullback



RICH JACKSON
Senior 5-10, 165
Safety



1988 Conestoga Seniors

19-7 Victory

Struggling Conestoga gets victory it needed

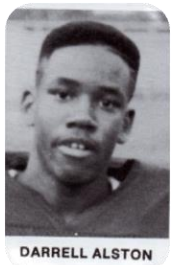
By **PAUL DODD**
(Local News Correspondent)

October 2, 1988

UPPER DARBY—A win is a win, and after losing its first three, the Conestoga football team needed a win.

The Royals of Upper Darby proved to be just the tonic for the Pioneers and first-year Coach Bruce Udovich, handing them an ugly 19-7 gift wrapped Central League victory at Memorial Field yesterday.

Upper Darby donated seven timely turnovers, including an interception and a fumble that led directly to Conestoga touchdowns.



Pioneer defensive back Darrell Alston set up the game's first score with the second of his three interceptions less than two minutes into the second quarter.

"His (Alston's) father has been sick recently and as soon as Darrell came off the field after his first interception, I knew he was playing for his Dad," said Udovich, who picked up his first win as a head coach.

On the next play, Mike Billela (148 yards on 23 carries) galloped in for the first of his two touchdowns. Jamie Knies tacked on the point-after to put Conestoga up 7-0.



Mike Aquilar allowed the ensuing kickoff to bounce off his chest, and Conestoga's Allan Brown pounced on the ball at Upper Darby 27 seven plays later. Billela bulled his way in from the 3 to give the Pioneers a 13-0 lead at halftime.

The two squads fumbled and threw the ball back and forth to each other throughout the second half as the Pioneers held a precarious 13-7 lead well into the fourth quarter.

Billela left the game after being shaken up and Alston, who replaced him in the backfield, promptly scampered 40 yards around left end for a touchdown to seal the win. Both teams are now 1-3 overall and 1-1 in the Central League.

"Our morale this week was better than ever," said Udovich, who instituted a platoon system so his players would not have to play both offense and defense.

"After going 0-3, to come out to practice daily with an good attitude, and they showed a lot of character," said Udovich. "Not one head was down this week."

DARRELL ALSTON, Junior 5-10, 165

Running Back

ALLAN BROWN, Senior 5-6, 145

Running Back



TODD KLEGGETT
Senior 5-10, 170
Linebacker



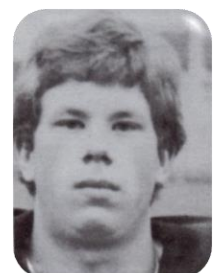
PHIL SITA
Senior 5-10, 170
Linebacker



ANDREW CHAMPION
Senior 6-3, 205
Linebacker



DAN METZGER
Senior 5-10, 175
Defensive End



PETER BERGEN
Senior 6-0, 185
Defensive End

Conestoga Trampled

By **DENNY DYROFF**
(Local News Correspondent)
October 9, 1988

BERWYN—When Lower Merion visited Teamer Field Friday night for its Central League game against Conestoga, it came up with a simple formula for a

victory. The Aces just ran the ball right down Conestoga's throat.

"There's nothing I can say," said Conestoga's first-year coach, Bruce Udovich. "All the credit goes to them (Lower Merion's Players). They just pounded us—physically pounded us."

"We weren't tackling well. There was arm-tackling all over the place---and that's just not being ready to play the game when the whistle blows. They controlled the game." Loss 26-8



JIM PORTER
Senior 5-10, 190
Defensive Tackle



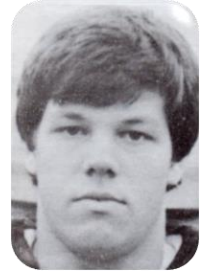
JOHN ELLIOT
Senior 5-11, 180
Defensive End



SCOTT BAKER
Senior 6-0, 205
Offensive Guard



TODD BEATTY
Senior 6-3, 210
Offensive Tackle



BRAD PHINNEY
Senior 6-4, 225
Defensive Tackle



BILL SWANEY
Senior 6-0, 180
Center



MATT BAKER
Junior 6-8, 195
Quarterback



JIM FALCONE
Junior 5-8, 150
Defensive Back



MAXI BARAJAS
Junior 5-9, 165
Safety



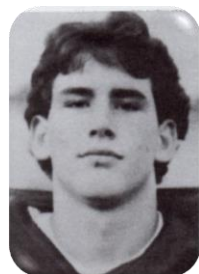
RICHIE KNIGHT
Junior 5-10, 165
Defensive Back



MATT WHITE
Junior 5-9, 165
Defensive Back



TONY DEHAVEN
Junior 5-11, 185
Linebacker



ERIC HATTON
Junior 5-9, 160
Running Back



STEVE LUNDMARK
Junior 5-9, 155
Linebacker



DARYL STRICKLING
Junior 6-2, 170
Linebacker

Conestoga can't overcome poor start

By **PAUL DODD**
(Local News Correspondent)
October 16, 1988

TREDYFFRIN—When you are 1-4 and give up two kickoff returns for touchdowns in the first quarter, there is plenty of reason to surrender. Unless you play for Conestoga.

The Pioneers rebounded from a pair of 82-yard kickoff returns by Strath Haven's Ako Mott, including one on the opening kickoff, but still fell to the Panthers 28-20 in a wild Central League battle at Teamer Field Friday night.

"Those two kickoff returns were the story of the game," said dejected Bruce Udovich, Conestoga's first-year coach. "All year, we just haven't gotten any breaks. When they come, we'll win."

After an exchange of punts, the Pioneers' gutty running back Mike Billela (140 yards in 28 carries and three TD's), took a quick pitch around the left side and raced 54 yards for the score. Rob Kissinger's extra-point kick gave Conestoga its only lead of the game.



Conestoga defensive back John Mansfield picked off Lance Bailey's pass with 4:48 to go in the half and returned it to the Panther 12 to get the Pioneers back in scoring position.

Two plays later, Billela went eight yards straight up the middle for the score. Kissinger's kick tied the game at 14.



Taking over on downs at the start of the fourth quarter, Conestoga marched 72 yards in 13 plays with Billela scoring from five yards out to make it 21-20 with 6:53 to play. A halfback option pass play failed on the two-point conversion; however, and Panthers retained the lead.

Conestoga had one final possession, but gave the ball up on downs in four plays.

JOHN MANSFIELD, Junior 6-0, 165
Wide Receiver

ROB KISSINGER, Senior 5-9, 175
Wide Receiver, Kicker



GEOFF PENSKE
Junior 5-9, 155
Defensive Back



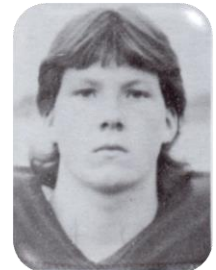
ANDREW RALSTON
Junior 6-0, 190
Linebacker



KEITH LAYMAN
Junior 5-10, 175
Linebacker



JIMMER CHILDS
Junior 6-0, 185
Defensive Tackle



RYAN NAGLE
Junior 5-9, 155
Linebacker

Conestoga and Penncrest play to 0-0 tie

Daily Local News
October 23, 1988

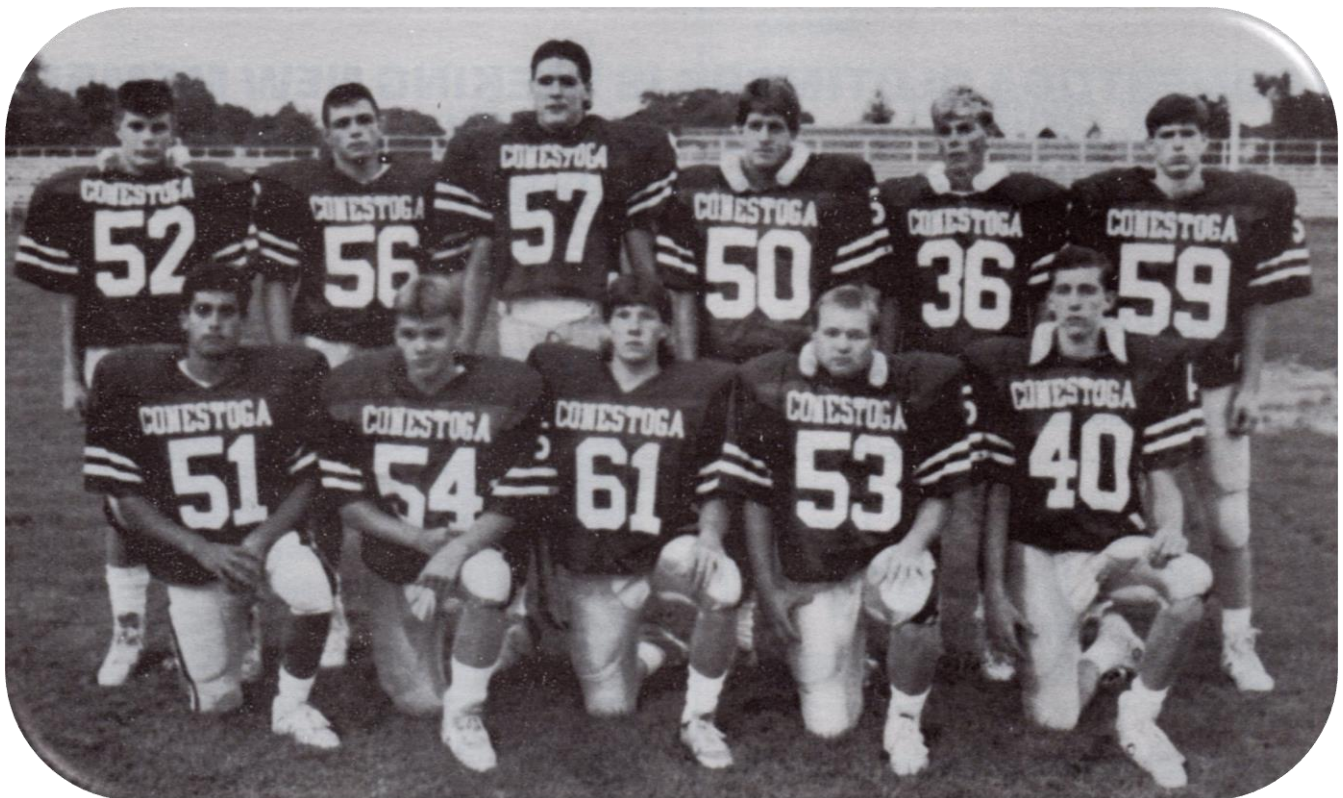
Conestoga (1-5-1, 1-3-1) outgained Penncrest (3-3-1, 2-2-1) 166-72 yards but neither team could tally any points in the Central League clash.

The Pioneers amassed 166 yards of offense compared to Penncrest 72.

Conestoga's Max Barajas (76 yards on 20 carries) fumbled and Penncrest's Brad Jordan recovered on his team's 6-yard line with 1:12 to go in the first half to squelch the visiting Pioneers best scoring chance.

On the Pioneers' second series in the third quarter, Penncrest's Lane Johnson scored on a 30-yard pass from Rich Nicholson, but the play was called on a clipping penalty.

Penalties hampered both squads, as the Pioneers were whistled for 90 yards while Penncrest was penalized 64 yards.



Linebackers

16-7 Victory

Pioneers pound out Win

By **ALAN DORAN**
(Local News Correspondent)
October 30, 1988

WAYNE—The Conestoga Pioneers made like the old Green Bay Packers as they pounded out a 16-7 win over Central League foe Radnor. Bruce Udovich's squad ran only a handful of different plays as the Pioneers improved to 2-3-1 in the Central League (2-5-1 overall).

"That's what we went to do," said Udovich. "We want to run only a few plays and run them well. We like to use our offensive line and try to perfect our plays."



Conestoga running back Darrell Alston played the role of workhorse yesterday, carrying the ball 31 times for 105 yards. Alston also threw a 37-yard pass to receiver Chris Quinn on Conestoga's first scoring drive, enabling him to lead the team in rushing and passing.

"I knew I was going to run the ball a lot today," said Alston. "The coach told me what I was going to do in practice."

"I thought I was through after the first quarter. But, after that I started getting stronger every time I ran the ball."



Conestoga opened the scoring in the first quarter when John Mansfield hit tight end Scott Simmington with a 15-yard pass with :01 left on the clock.

Neither defense bent the rest of the half, and the teams went to the locker room with the Pioneers holding a 7-0 lead.

The Pioneers gave Radnor a gift to start the second half when Alston fumbled the kickoff, giving the Raiders the ball on the Conestoga 27-yard line. The Raiders struck four plays later on a fourth-down.

Conestoga later took the lead 9-7 on a safety when Radnor center Chris Lovera snapped the ball over punter Brad White's head and out of the end zone.

The Pioneers sealed the game midway through the fourth quarter with an 11-play 53-yard scoring drive that was capped by Mansfield's 3-yard run.

Mansfield's speed provided the Pioneers with another offensive weapon.

"John Mansfield's now our quarterback," said Udovich. "His speed is why he's in there now. We needed somebody that could get tot the outside in our offense."

CHRIS QUINN, Junior 5-10, 170

Quarterback

SCOTT SIMMINGTON, Senior 5-9, 170

Wide Receiver



FRITZ LLOYD

Junior 6-0, 195
Offensive Guard



MATT DAY

Junior 6-1, 210
Offensive Tackle



**CHRIS
SHELTON**

Junior 6-4, 210
Offensive Tackle



STEVE SPEERS

Junior 6-1, 200
Tight End



**PAUL
MASSAPOLLO**

Junior 6-0, 200
Defensive Tackle



**BRIAN
RAPPAPORT**

Junior 6-3, 240
Defensive Tackle

Defense wins the game

Alston leads Conestoga by Haverford

By TOM DI CAMILLO
(Local News Correspondent)

November 6, 1988

BERWYN—With Mike Billela shelved because of an injury, Conestoga head coach Bruce Udovich inserted Darrell Alston at tailback and received a 160-yard gift from the junior that pushed the Pioneers to a 10-0 victory over visiting Haverford Friday evening.



"No doubt about it, he's a player and a running back," Udovich said of Alston, who carried the ball 29 times.

Alston slashed right, darted left, and powered his way through the middle of the line six times on Conestoga's only touchdown march, a 47-yard drive that was capped off by quarterback John Mansfield's sneak into the end zone

midway through the first quarter.

Mansfield hit Scott Simmington for a 15-yard gain, the only Pioneer completion of the game, at the Fords' 21-yard line to ignite the drive. From there it was strictly hand-off to Alston.

Playing Scrooge for the third week in a row, the Conestoga defense registered eight sacks while limiting the Haverford rushing attack to a paltry 52 yards. Any decent field position the Fords' conjured up was repossessed by the stalking Pioneer defense.

"We're starting to play more defense," Udovich said with satisfaction. "We've played three good weeks of defense, and the defense won the game for us (tonight)." Indeed, the defense has been getting stronger, allowing only seven points over the past three contests.

"We've come a long way," he added. Despite Alston's 160-yard night, the Pioneers offense turned over the ball five times, three interceptions and two fumbles, and barely moved the ball aside from their lone touchdown run."

Haverford wide receiver/defensive back Jim Fatz intercepted Mansfield in the first quarter, giving the Fords the ball at the 50-yard line. But Jim Porter sacked the quarterback Rich Rezer for an 11-yard loss, killing the drive.

Brian Donoahue and David Howe also pulled down interceptions for the Fords, Donoahue's pick-off occurred late in the fourth quarter when Alston snatched a hand-off and attempted a pass.

Instead of pulling the plug, Conestoga kept the respirator turned on, letting new quarterback Larry Dougherty play target practice with his receivers until the Fords found a first down at the Pioneer 22-yard line.

But the surging Conestoga defense found the perfect time for another sack that ended another Haverford scoring chance.

The Fords could not even capitalize on a pair of botched punt returns that spotted them with the ball on Conestoga's 20- and 29-yard lines. On one recovery in the second quarter, Haverford moved the ball from the Pioneer 20-yard line to the 6, but failed on four tries to score any points.

Then in the closing moments of the opening half the Fords committed their only gaffe when their punter fielded a ground-ball snap on one knee at his own 10-yard line and was ruled down by the referee. Win 10-0



Defensive Line



Defensive Backs

Conestoga is victimized by Ridley's mid-game rally

By PAUL DODD
(Local News Correspondent)
November 13, 1988

FOLSOM—Conestoga coach Bruce Udovich had hoped his team could just stay in the game with Central League leader Ridley Friday night. The Pioneers did, but only for one quarter.

The Green Raiders (8-0 Central League, 9-0 overall) rang up 27 points in the second quarter and 19 more in the third en route to a 53-14 thrashing of Conestoga at Phil Merion Stadium.

"They're as good as any high school team I've seen," said an impressed Udovich. "I expected us to stay with them but didn't expect them to be that good."

The Pioneers—who were again without injured running back Mike Billela—bounced back and drove

73 yards in nine plays. Quarterback John Mansfield sneaked in from the 4 to make it 15-7 with 6:36 left in the first half.

Leading 34-7 going into the third quarter, Ridley stayed with its first-stringers for one third quarter drive, a four-play, 56-yard march that ended with Naselli going in from 14 yards out. No play of the four went less than 12 yards.

Conestoga's starting offense marched 83 yards in eight plays on the Raider's second-string defense, with Darrell Alston (24 carries for 114 yard) scoring on a 12-yard run.

"We went in totally prepared offensively and defensively," said Udovich. "They just thumped us. What can you do??"



Offensive Lineman

Thanksgiving Preview

Conestoga set for air attack

By **PAUL DODD**
(Local News Correspondent)
November 23, 1988

If the Conestoga football team is to defeat Marple Newtown in their Thanksgiving Day showdown, Pioneer coach Bruce Udovich feels his team will have to play some terrific defense.

"They have really been putting some points on the board," said Udovich. "They put 47 on the board against Strath Haven and 44 on the board against Radnor."

"They throw the ball like mad. They have a great quarterback, two great receivers and great tight end," said Udovich.

"We've been working on a lot of pass defense," said Udovich. "They'll run to keep you honest. Pelligrino just drops back, and he rifles the ball. He's a super quarterback."

Conestoga had endured an up-and-down season in Udovich's first season at the helm and must defeat the Tigers to break even in the Central League. The Pioneers are 3-6-1 overall and 3-4-1 in the conference.

Should Conestoga be victorious Thursday, it would mean the Pioneers will be 3-1-1 in their final five

games, with the loss coming to Central League Champion Ridley.



One factor the Pioneers will have working in their favor will be the return of Mike Billela. The junior running back has been sidelined for the last four weeks with a sprained knee.

Before going down with the injury, Billela had rushed for 627 yards on 117 carries for a 5.4 yards per carry average with seven touchdowns in six games.

"Mike Billela will be back and that will help us, no doubt about it," said Udovich. "One thing that Mike can do is break the long one. That's the type of runner he is."

With a healthy Billela in the lineup, Conestoga will attempt to grind it out, control the ball and keep Pelligrino and the Marple offense off the field.

"It's no secret we're going to try to run on them," said Udovich.

MIKE BILLELA, Junior 5-8, 160
Running Back



1988 Conestoga Football Team

Conestoga blanked by Marple

By PAUL DODD
(Local News Correspondent)
November 25, 1988

BERWYN—Conestoga's inability to pass the ball and Marple Newtown's propensity to do so decided the Thanksgiving Day showdown at Teamer Field, as the Tigers blanked Conestoga 24-0.

Things looked as bright as the sun on the brisk fall morning for the Pioneers at the game outset. Junior running back Mike Billela returned to the lineup after missing four games with a sprained knee and picked up 29 yards on his first carry.

Unfortunately, his next 17 carries netted only one yard, and Conestoga could not control the ball as coach Udovich had hoped.

"They beat us with their skill people. They made the big plays," said Udovich, who completed his first season as the Pioneers head man.

"The lack of us being able to throw the ball hurt us. They ganged up on us. They had 11 men up on the line. That's just one of our weaknesses, and they exploited it," said Udovich.

Smith credited the Conestoga defense with taking away the Tigers' short passing game, forcing them to throw long and causing Pelligrino to scramble for yardage.

Bruce Udovich took over the reigns of the Conestoga football team in the 1988 season. His team earned him his first victory early in the season with a 19-7 win over Central League opponent Upper Darby. With two more wins and a tie, the team compiled a record of 3-7-1 for Udovich's initial season. Wide receiver Craig Driver and Linebacker Andres Champion were team captains. Offensive standouts were Darrell Alston and Mike Billela.

1988 CONESTOGA PIONEERS

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.
1	Allan Brown	RB	5'6"	145	12
4	Darrell Alston	RB	5'10"	165	11
5*	Craig Driver	WR	6'0"	180	12
7	Matt Baker	QB	6'8"	195	11
10	John Mansfield	WR	6'0"	165	11
12	Jim Falcone	DB	5'8"	150	11
14	Chris Quinn	QB	5'10"	170	11
15	Butchie Smith	QB	5'10"	160	10
20	Nigel Coles	RB	5'8"	165	11
23	Scott Simmington	WR	5'9"	170	12
24	Mike Billela	RB	5'8"	160	11
25	Maxi Barajas	S	5'9"	165	11
26	Richie Knight	DB	5'10"	165	11
30	John Donovan	DB	5'10"	165	12
31	Brian Kuch	RB	5'8"	170	12
32	Matt White	DB	5'9"	165	11
34	Tony DeHaven	LB	5'11"	185	11
35	Eric Hatton	RB	5'9"	160	11
36	Steve Lundmark	LB	5'9"	155	11
40	Daryl Strickling	LB	6'2"	170	11
44	Mitch Delaney	FB	6'0"	210	12
45	Rich Jackson	S	5'10"	165	12
47	Darin D'Ascanio	DB	5'9"	160	10
49	Geoff Penske	DB	5'9"	155	11
50	Todd Kleggett	LB	6'0"	190	12
51	Phil Sita	LB	5'10"	170	12
52	Andrew Ralston	LB	6'0"	190	11
53	Craig Dixey	LB	5'9"	175	10
54	Keith Layman	LB	5'10"	175	11
57*	Andrew Champion	LB	6'3"	205	12
58	Jimmer Childs	DT	6'0"	185	11
59	Dan Metzger	DE	5'10"	175	12
60	Peter Bergen	DE	6'0"	185	12
61	Ryan Nagle	LB	5'9"	155	11
62	Todd Simes	OG	5'10"	185	10
63	Dean Workman	C	5'10"	180	10
64	Fritz Lloyd	OG	6'0"	195	11
65	Chris Rice	OT	5'11"	190	10
68	Jim Porter	DT	5'10"	190	12
70	Matt Day	OT	6'1"	210	11
71	John Elliot	DE	5'11"	180	12
74	Scott Baker	OG	6'0"	205	12
75	Todd Beatty	OT	6'3 "	210	12
76	Brad Phinney	DT	6'4 "	225	12
77	Chris Shelton	OT	6'4 "	210	11
78	Bill Swaney	C	6'0"	180	12
79	Dave Verrecchia	DT	5'8"	180	10
80	Jeff Mackie	TE	6'2"	175	10
83	Mike Lundblad	DB	5'8"	150	10
84	Matt Schroeder	DB	5'9"	155	10
85	Rob Kissinger	WR	5'9"	175	12
86	Bill Napier	OG	5'9"	160	11
87	Steve Speers	TE	6'1"	200	11
88	Jeff Laufenberg	WR	6'2"	175	11
95	Todd Verrecchia	DT	5'11"	180	11
96	Paul Masapollo	DT	6'0"	200	11
99	Brian Rappaport	DT	6'3"	240	11