

Conestoga: A Fresh Start

By JOHN ADDYMAN
(Of the Local News Staff)
September 8, 1977

For this season, a lot is new. George Cockerill is the new head coach, and he has new assistants working for him supplanting some of the veteran mentors who have returned.

Cockerill, who guided the jayvees and was the varsity offensive line coach, feels the team has its strength in defense.

"We've got more starting defensive players back than anywhere else," he said. One change he has made is that there will be more players going both ways for the Pioneers, a drift away from the platoon system.

John Dannaker, who leads the team in desire and attitude, will go both ways at guard. **Ed Olson** does double duty at tackle, and **Pat Paro** is expected to punch the line at fullback and plug it from the linebacker spot. Cockerill figured they would be the only starters going both ways.

Changed Offense

The offense will change, and the defense has come under scrutiny for a new philosophy that may have opposing coaches shaking their heads at the "new" Conestoga.

In the initial scrimmage, the Pioneers bested Ches-Mont power Coatesville 20-8, and the assistant coaches insist the one Red Raider touchdown shouldn't have scored.

That would make the Pioneers quite a threat in the Central League this season and, indeed, this was the feeling of many of the members of the team last year.

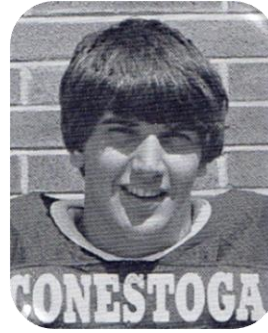
Most of the defense is settled in. **Frank Pitts** should join Olson at tackle, and **Mike Cassidy** is expected to be with Dannaker at guard. **Mike Machikas** has been moved to linebacker but could return to defensive end. **Mike DiAntonio**, **Rick Shirkness** and **Dave Tucker** will also vie for starting status in the linebacker corps.



John Dannaker
Senior 5-10, 210
Defensive Guard



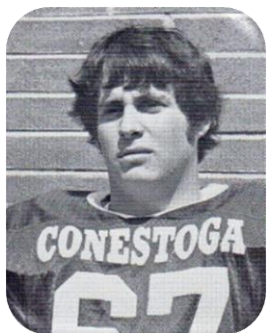
Ed Olson
Senior 6-2, 230
Offensive Tackle



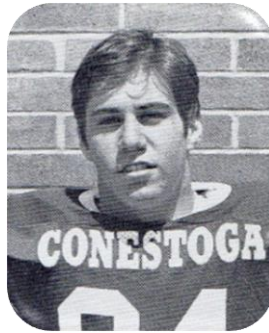
Pat Paro
Senior 6-1, 205
Fullback



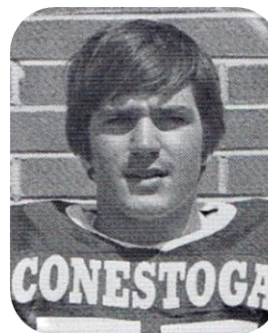
Frank Pitts
Junior 6-3, 210
Defensive Tackle



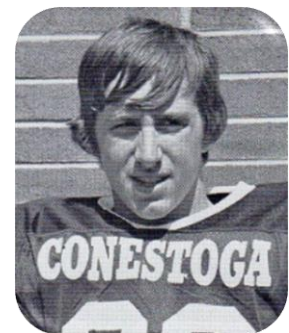
Mike Cassidy
Senior 5-10, 210
Defensive Guard



Mike Machikas
Senior 6-2, 210
Linebacker



Mike DiAntonio
Senior 5-11, 190
Linebacker



Rick Shirkness
Senior 5-9, 160
Defensive Back

Conestoga: A Fresh Start

Uylous Ingram appears to have safety locked up, with Doug Miller, Shirkness and Eric Redmond in the defensive backfield.

Offensively, Cockerill looks to go with two wide receivers, and at the moment Tom Latta and Mark Trudel are the hot prospects. Louis DeLuca, a good-looking sophomore, will challenge, but perhaps later in the year. The coach described Latta as having the "good speed," with Trudel the "softer touch on the catch."

Tight end will probably be Chip Dunnuck, with Olson and the biggest kid on the team (at 6-3 and 240 pounds), Dave Steimke, at tackles. John Moller is going to be in guard, and Cockerill lists this as one of the success stories of the new Pioneers. "John made a tremendous improvement over the summer," said Cockerill. "He was on a weight and strength program, and surprised the heck out of us. He's 100 percent improved over the year before."



Dave Tucker
Senior 6-0, 180
Defensive End



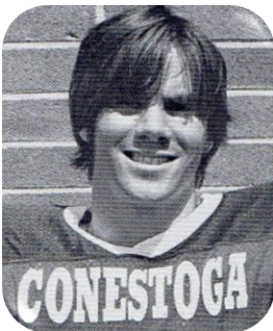
Uylous Ingram
Senior 5-6, 155
Defensive Back



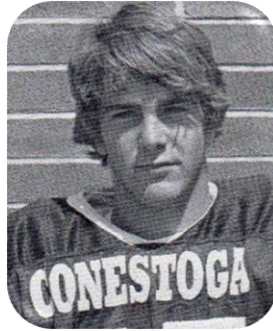
Doug Miller
Senior 5-10, 170
Defensive Back



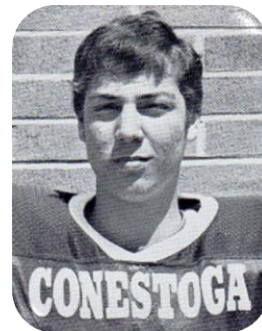
Eric Redmond
Senior 6-0, 165
Defensive Back



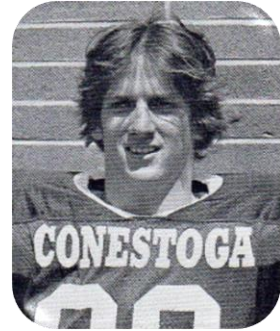
Tom Latta
Junior 5-7, 140
Split End



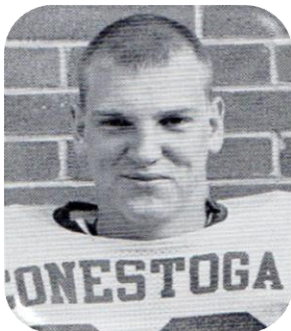
Mark Trudel
Junior 5-7, 140
Split End



Louie DeLuca
Sophomore 5-10, 160
Split End



Chip Dunnuck
Senior 6-1, 195
Tight End



Dave Steimke
Senior 6-4, 240
Offensive Tackle



John Moller
Senior 5-9, 175
Offensive Guard

Conestoga: A Fresh Start

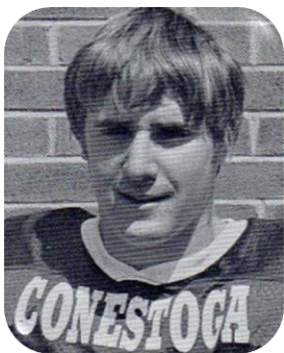
Matt Paumen and John Dannaker will also be at the guard spots, with Dannaker rested and used for defense if he can be. Center is up for grabs between **Rory O’Kane** and **Jeff Courter**.

Holland Offensive Key

Offense, however, is where it’s going to be happening this season, and the Pioneers have a junior, **Brian Holland**, who may just be Mr. Excitement-plus.

A speedster, kick returner and flanker back, Holland has done a little bit of everything on offense, and will be the number one quarterback for Conestoga. He can throw, sure, but on the option or roll-outs he’s going to be the object of a lot of plunging blood pressure from opponents. **Gary Schofield** is the backup.

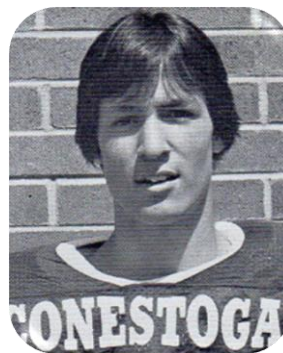
Paro at fullback provides the power, with **Sean Bailey**, **Ned D’Agostino** and **Bruce Geter** also possibilities, but the latter two have injuries.



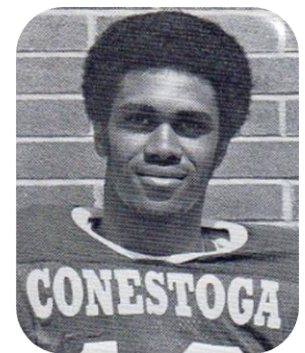
Matt Paumen
Junior 5-10, 185
Offensive Guard



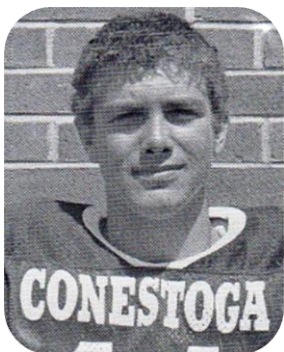
Rory O’Kane
Junior 6-0, 195
Center



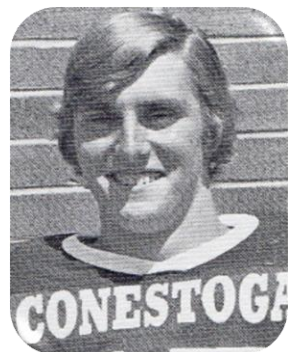
Jeff Courter
Junior 5-9, 155
Offensive Guard



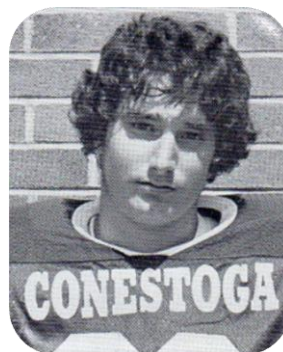
Brian Holland
Junior 6-0, 185
Quarterback



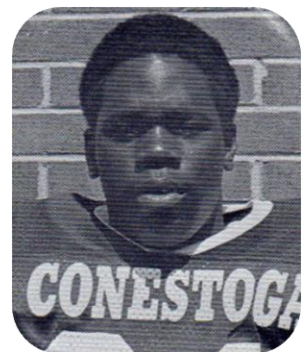
Gary Schofield
Junior 6-3, 185
Quarterback



Sean Bailey
Junior 6-2, 200
Fullback



Ned D’Agostino
Junior 5-11, 215
Fullback



Bruce Geter
Senior 6-1, 190
Wingback

Conestoga: A Fresh Start

Rich Syrek is a new face at tailback, and only a sophomore. Impressive **Dewitt "Buster" Howard** has been hurt, but should be available for the first game.

Tom Flynn, another pre-season casualty, and Rick Shirkness are in the running for wing back. That makes three positions that Shirkness is being considered for, and Cockerill explains: "This is a good all-around football player. He's not that big, but we can take him and put him almost anywhere-linebacker, safety or wing back."

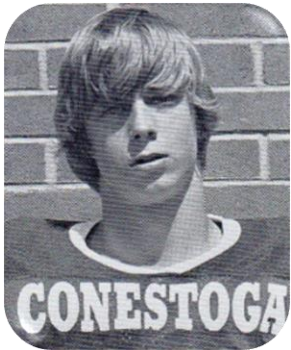
The most delightful surprises for Cockerill have been Trudel and Latta at wide receiver, and the coach has got another possibility at tight end, **Bruce Niccolo**,

a senior out for football for the first time who's got glue fingers.

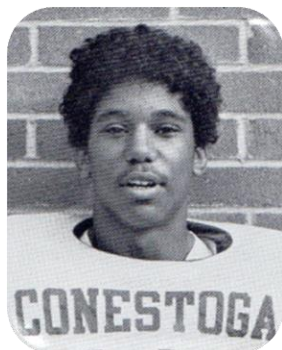
Captain Mike Machikas, Dannaker, Holland and Steimke are the leaders of the new Conestoga. The Pioneers will show their backs running out of the "I" with some versions of a slotback formation and a pro set. Defensively, it's a wide-tackle six.

Cockerill was reminded of some predictions which put the Pioneers as heading the Central League chase.

"You gotta shoot for it," he said. "You've got to try to win every single ball game. We have a chance to win every single ball game. But in high school football, you can never think you're going to have an easy day."



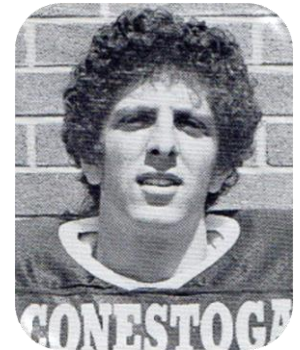
Rich Syrek
Sophomore 5-9, 155
Tailback



Buster Howard
Junior 5-9, 140
Tailback



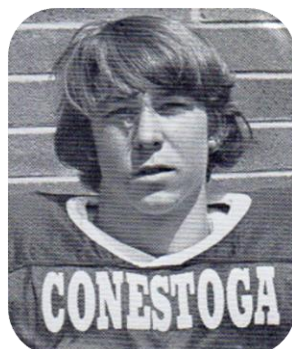
Tom Flynn
Senior 5-11, 180
Wingback



Bruce Niccolo
Senior 6-0, 175
Tight End



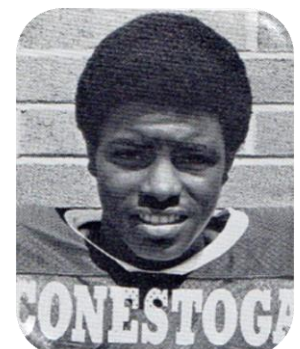
Sam Karmilowicz
Junior 5-7, 145
Defensive Back



Brian Leiser
Junior 5-7, 145
Defensive Back



George Antonini
Senior 6-0, 160
Defensive Back



Mark Ingram
Senior 5-8, 140
Defensive Back

Pioneers Hold on to Defeat Colonials

By JOHN ADDYMAN
(Of the Local News Staff)
September 10, 1977

Having everything their way for the first half, the Conestoga Pioneers had to hold the pickles and the lettuce in the second as the Plymouth-Whitemarsh Colonials came storming back to fall just short of snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, 20-15.

With two quick touchdowns and stingy defense, Conestoga shot ahead 20-0 in its half of the game, but needed some luck and a few key defensive plays in the Plymouth half to nail down its first win of the season.

It looked as if the young Pioneers were going to have a few problems with Plymouth. A first drive ended on the Colonial 28 after a mistake in the backfield. The second drive produced six points with sophomore scatback Rich Syrek going over from the 15.

Quarterback Brian Holland drew everyone on the left side of the defense to himself in what looked like a keeper play, then tossed the ball to Syrek as was going down. Syrek went in untouched.

Plymouth came back to mount its only drive of the half after two penalties gave them the ball on the Conestoga 25. On the seventh play of the drive the ball alighted on just the right pair of hands-Conestoga's Uylous Ingram.

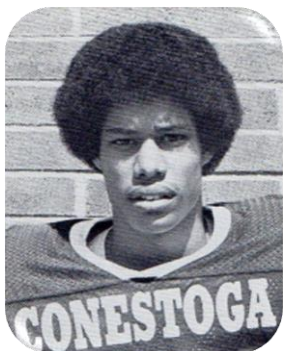
Starting up the sideline, then crossing to the middle of the field, Ingram moved fast enough to set the grass on fire, leaving a lot of puffing Colonials behind, and completing a 99-yard touchdown trip.

Six minutes later, Holland saw something that had come up in the coaches meetings. The middle linebacker straightened up, which indicated a blitz was on. Calling an audible, he took the ball himself on a quarterback sneak from his own 35, and walked the ball in-65 yards away. With two Tom Spector kicks, the Pioneers had all they were going to get.

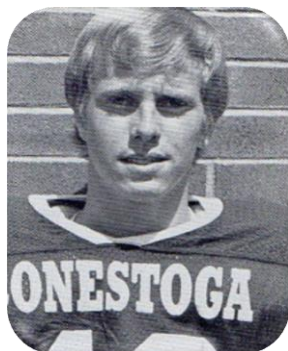
It wasn't a pretty game for Conestoga, and new head coach George Cockerill expressed frustration after the game. Two touchdowns had been called back: Holland's and another long run of 85 yards on a punt return by Syrek-by penalties.

All told, the Pioneers committed 13 detected miscues that resulted in 88 yards of penalties and two non-existent touchdowns.

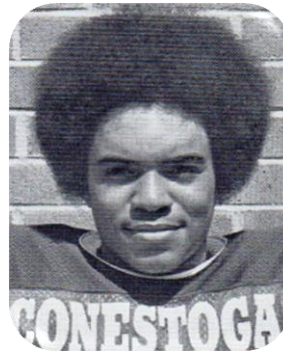
"I feel frustrated," Cockerill admitted. "The kids gave us everything we could have possibly asked of them, but we worked ourselves into a corner-and it's my fault-where we didn't put the ball in the air enough, and I couldn't use other people. We were depending on the running game. We went out in the second half and made mistakes."



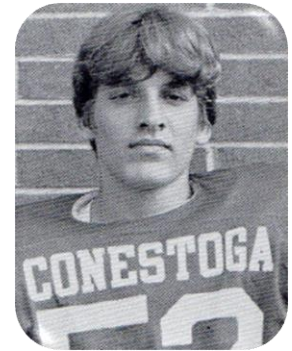
Steve Dickerson
Junior 5-8, 140
Offensive End



Al Berger
Junior 5-8, 152
Defensive Back



Ventnor Wright
Senior 5-5, 160
Fullback



Greg Oates
Junior 6-2, 170
Center

Pioneers Defense Leads Way over Valley

Howard Busts Pats with Late Outburst

By JOHN PRESTON
Local News Sports Staff
September 19, 1977

The Central League Pioneers unleashing a tremendous second-half defensive effort en route to a non-league 21-7 pasting of Bill Marion's Rugged Patriots.

The Pioneers took an early 7-0 first period pad on a Brian Holland to Bruce Geter touchdown covering 15 yards and Tom Spector's extra-point boot with 8:19 on the clock, Valley retaliating at 4:25 of the stanza when Mark Marion connected with flanker Joe DellaPenna from 36-yards out, Scott Daiulolo splitting the uprights for a 7-7 standoff.

The score stood 7-7 until the final period when Conestoga struck twice, Dewitt "Buster" Howard busting his way up the gut from four yards out at 11:24 and coming back with a 20-yard burst with 7:38 remaining. Spector adding each point-after kick.

The difference between the halves-ball control. In essence, possession time. Conestoga controlled the ball in the second half-in amazing fashion.

New Defense Helps

Cockerill felt the 53 defense was an essential factor in the outcome. "We knew Great Valley was very familiar with the wide-tackle six," he explained. We ran 53 some against Plymouth-Whitemarsh (20-15

victory in opener) and the team liked it, this game sure helped boost our confidence in it."

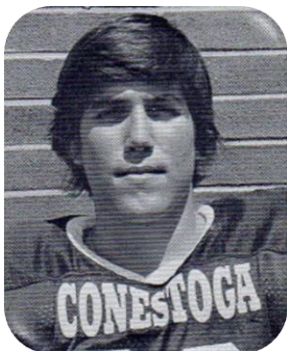
"The defense was super," he continued. "This is the kind of football we are capable of playing. We were able to power the football (from the power-I formation) and that was the big thing. Power is our game. There was quite a bit of intensity in this one. During warm ups, each team went to the other verbally. It was not spiteful or hateful, it was just because the players all know each other."

Young Backs Stars

Sophomore tailback Rich Syrek and backup Howard spearheaded the Pioneer rushing attack, Syrek gaining 71 yards on 17 tries in the first three periods, Howard coming on when Syrek was roughed up late in the third stanza to pick up 72 yards on 12 tries. Howard bolted for 69 yards in the final period.

"This was really the first opportunity Buster (Howard) has had to show us what he can do," Cockerill said. "He originally was starting, got hurt in the Coatesville scrimmage and Rich (Syrek) came on so strong, Rich won the job. It is a nice problem I have now figuring out which one to use. Each did a sensational job."

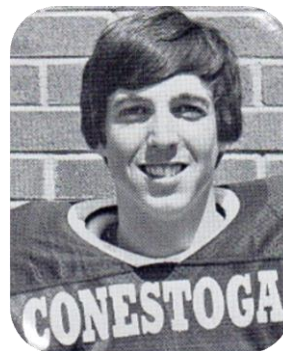
"It is great to win," Cockerill concluded. "We will savor this as long as possible, everybody gets a passing grade (on performance) this week."



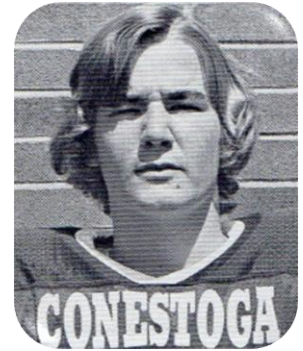
Jim Surine
Junior 6-1, 195
Defensive Guard



Tak Papariello
Junior 5-9, 165
Defensive Guard



Joe Bendinelli
Junior 5-9, 160
Offensive Guard



Bill Wyatt
Senior 6-0, 200
Offensive Tackle

Victory 35-14

Interceptions Pace Conestoga

By JOHN ADDYMAN
(Of the Local News Staff)
September 26, 1977

The Springfield Cougars had their nails clipped, teeth filed and tails tied in a 35-14 pasting suffered at the hands of the unbeaten Conestoga Pioneers on their home field Saturday afternoon.

With at least one touchdown coupled with at least one intercepted pass in each period, Conestoga got off to a fast 14-0 head start, lengthened that to 21-0 at the half, and sailed home on half an effort looking ahead to next week's Central League showdown with Ridley.

Doug Miller snared three of the interceptions Cougar quarterback John Pauling was to throw, taking one in for a touchdown, following the example of Rick Shirkness, who opened the scoring on Springfield's third play.

Shirkness lined up on end Mike Marone, who got a couple of fingers on the first Pauling pass of the day, but couldn't hold on. Shirkness could, and danced in with a 22-yard TD to put the Pioneers out in front to stay with 10:28 remaining in the first quarter.

Less than five minutes later it was Miller's turn, and he took the ball away from split end Frank Grome on the Cougar 39 and went in to put the Pioneers up, up and away.

With their backs to the wall in the second period, the Pioneers relied on quarterback Brian Holland, he of the blazing feet, to get the first down from the Conestoga 11-yard line. Instead, Holland slipped

around the left end, streaked up the sideline, and left a lot of dazed Cougars sniffing at his trail.

Springfield finally got something going halfway through the third period scoring with 2:33 left in the quarter.

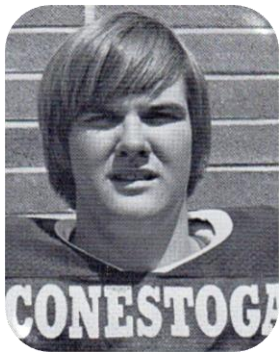
That didn't sit well with the Pioneers, who came back with Rich Syrek on a dive from the five-yard line a shade under two minutes left. Fullback Pat Paro had set up the drive with a fine 30-yard kickoff return to the Cougar 41.

And it was Paro who garnered the final Pioneer score of the day with four minutes left in the game, taking it over from the one after Miller had stolen his third interception of the morning to start the onslaught and stop a Springfield drive on the Conestoga 20.

"We were in the right place at the right time," said Conestoga head coach George Cockerill after the game. "Our defense was there all day, really doing the job."

He had good words for his defensive secondary, particularly Uylous Ingram and Miller. "It was a heck of a defensive day. They still threw the ball a lot, but our defensive secondary is pretty strong, and if they're going to put the ball up a lot, we're going to get it a lot."

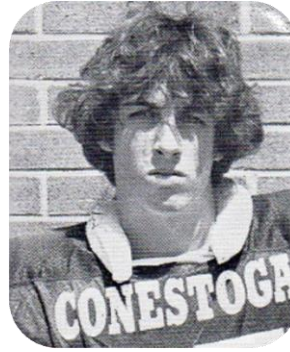
Offensively, Holland led all rushers by a mile, amassing 113 yards in only four carries. Buster Howard, who saw most of his action late in the game, came up with 83 yards on eight trips. Syrek had 49 yards in 11 tries and Paro picked up 25 yards in six carries.



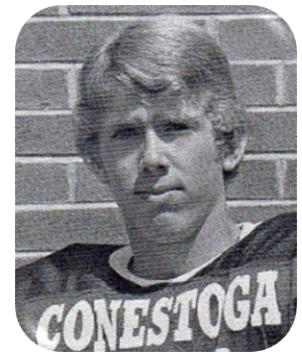
Chuck Kaniuka
Senior 6-3, 205
Offensive Tackle



Tony Alfieri
Senior
Defensive End



Keith McLean
Junior 6-2, 160
Defensive End



Skip Lorimer
Senior 5-11, 165
Defensive End

Ridley Defense Halts Conestoga

Green Raiders Contain Dangerous Brian Holland

By **STEVE PILONI**
(*Local News Sports Staff*)
October 3, 1977

For Conestoga, the bad signs came early. On the game's opening kickoff, and on Conestoga's first running play, the Ridley Green Raiders' defense administered hits with such pad-popping ferocity that the Pioneers had to wonder what they were getting themselves into.

As it turned out, it wasn't good as host Ridley cast its magical spell over the Pioneers and came away with a 21-6 Central League decision Saturday.

"Their defense shut us down in the first half," admitted Conestoga coach George Cockerill, "and we didn't execute. We just didn't execute."

Pioneers Ready

It would be wrong to say the Pioneers weren't ready Saturday because they knew as well as anybody that the winner of the game would probably go all the way in the Central League. But they couldn't get untracked in the first half and it cost them the game.

"We didn't play football the way we can," said Cockerill. "In the second half we moved the ball. I

would say controlled most of the third quarter. But then we had to play catchup, and had to abandon our game plan to go for the quick score."

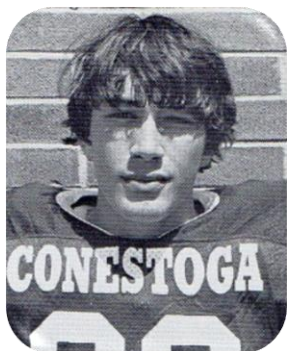
In the second half, Cockerill even played Holland at tailback and wide receiver to try and spread him loose.

Holland managed 35 yards on 13 carries and was the Pioneers' leading rusher. Everybody else was ineffective against the Green Raiders' brutal defense.

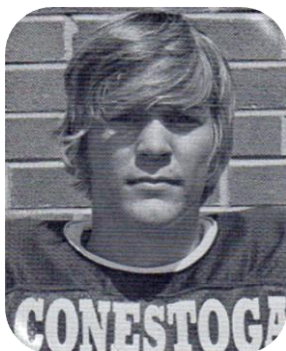
TD Pass

With 7:33 left in the game, Conestoga finally snapped Ridley's 11-quarter shutout string. The Pioneers started on their own 33-yard line and went all the way in nine plays with Schofield at the helm. Schofield completed a pass good for 21 yards Uylous Ingram, and Holland hit Tom Flynn for another 20 yards in the drive.

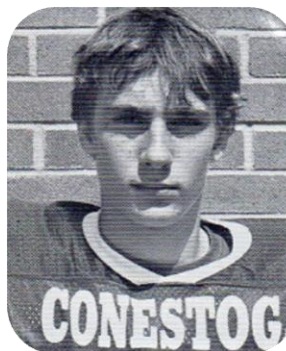
Holland capped the drive by lobbing a seven-yard strike to Ingram for the TD with 4:17 remaining. The on-sides kick went out of bounds and Ridley took over. The Pioneers didn't threaten again.



Joe Gannon
Senior
Defensive End



Jim MacKenzie
Sophomore 5-9, 160
Linebacker



Jerry Evans
Sophomore 5-8, 145
Linebacker



Steve Stanko
Sophomore 6-0, 180
Offensive End

Haverford Stuns Conestoga 12-0

By **TATNALL W. WARNER**
(Of the Local News Staff)
October 8, 1977

Conestoga's Pioneers blew themselves out of a football game the fired up Haverford Fords in Berwyn last night as their season long plague of mistakes came to a head.

The Fords picked up two first half touchdowns and hung on through a fiercely payed second half to take the game, 12-0.

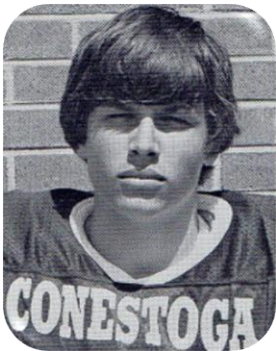
They stayed off the scoreboard despite rolling up more total yardage than the lighter, smaller Fords, 207 yards to 174, and gaining twice the first downs, 12 to six.

"We just did not come ready to play football. We told these kids Haverford gets up for games here. Records don't mean anything, standings don't mean anything. They played like a very good football team. They didn't make very many mistakes."

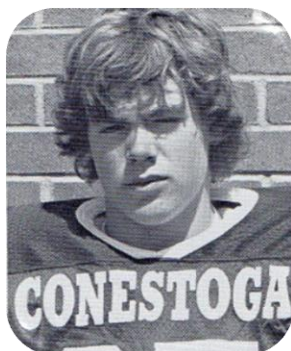
Conestoga's star quarterback, Brian Holland, was shut down in this game picking up only 34 yards on seven carries.

He switched to wide receiver in the fourth quarter with Gary Schofield taking over.

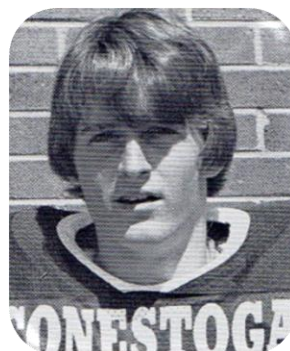
"I was pleased with the effort in the second half, not with the mistakes but with the effort. We kept the ball for seven minutes of the third quarter, but we gave it up on an interception."



Jon McKay
Sophomore 6-2, 185
Defensive Tackle



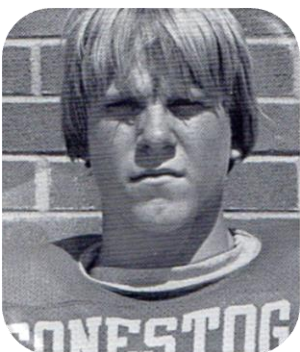
Andy Foster
Sophomore 5-10, 170
Offensive Guard



Jeff Carter
Sophomore
Defensive End



Brent Hillhouse
Sophomore 6-1, 165
Defensive Tackle



Chris Christensen
Sophomore 5-10, 165
Defensive Guard



Pat Corcoran
Sophomore 5-10, 170
Offensive Tackle



Paul Corcoran
Sophomore 5-10, 165
Offensive Guard



Mike Lee
Sophomore 5-10, 150
Linebacker

Conestoga Crushes Royals

Daily Local News
October 17, 1977

The Conestoga Pioneers have been having their problems putting together an offense of late but first year head coach George Cockerill made a big switch on Saturday night which paid off handsomely.

Entertaining the Upper Darby Royals in a Central League game postponed by rain from Friday night, the Pioneers shifted talented Brian Holland from quarterback to tailback and installed Gary Schofield at the signal-calling post.

The move paid big dividends as Holland totaled 124 yards and two touchdowns on just 10 carries as Conestoga romped to a 31-0 decision over the Royals of Frank Potter.

It didn't take long for the crowd at Conestoga's Teamer Field to see the benefits of the move.

On the second play from scrimmage, Holland took an inside handoff from Schofield, broke through the line, shifted to the outside and roared 50 yards for the touchdown.

Minutes later, the Pioneer speedster had a hand in his team's second score even though it was in a negative fashion.

Schofield drove the Pioneers to the 20 and, once again, Holland broke through the middle of the line. This time, however, he was hit and fumbled the ball which rolled all the way back into the end zone where Chip Dunnuck fell on it for the Conestoga TD.

Upper Darby, which had trouble moving the ball all evening, fumbled on its next possession and Conestoga converted the miscue into a 17-0 lead as Tom Spector booted home a 30-yard field goal at the end of the first period.

The Pioneers upped it to 24-0 in the second quarter when Schofield marched his club 74 yards in 12 plays with Tom Flynn scoring from eight yards out.

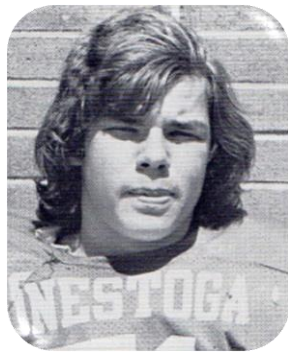
In their first possession of the second half, the Pioneers iced the cake as Rich Syrek went 60 yards to the Royal five-yard line and, on the next play, Holland cruised into the end zone.

While the Holland-led Conestoga offense was totaling 297 rushing yards and 323 overall, the Pioneer defensive platoon kept the Royals well under control.

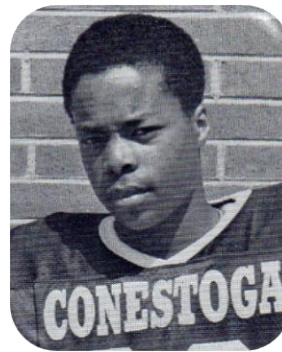
In addition to Holland's 124 yards, Syrek added 89 on seven carries and Flynn chipped in with 52 on eight.



Scott Schmidt
Sophomore 5-10, 155
Defensive Tackle



Mark Wyatt
Sophomore 5-7, 160
Linebacker



Nathan Geter
Sophomore 5-7, 165
Tailback

Pioneer Victory 40-21

Conestoga Rips Aces Behind Play of Brian Holland

By TATNALL W. WARNER

(Of the Local News Staff)

November 5, 1977

As thousands of old time fans came back for Conestoga's Homecoming last night, the Pioneer football squad came into itself.

In the midst of a title drive which includes second place Penncrest next and League-leading Marple-Newton on Thanksgiving Day, the Pioneers blew out a brilliant offensive team in Lower Merion with an awesome 40-21 performance.

"Now they believe in themselves as much as we (the coaches) have believed in them since the beginning of the season," said George Cockerill, head coach. "This has been building since the beginning. We've been getting better and better every week. Tonight was no one-shot thing."

Brian Holland, Cockerill's flashy speedster, romped for 192 yards on 22 carries, with two touchdowns. One of those came at the end of a 56-yard run. Brian also picked up 25 yards on a pass completion from quarterback Gary Schofield who "was right on the money all night long," in Cockerill's estimate.

Supporting Casts

The victory really belonged to the bruising Pioneer linemen, Chip Dunnuck at tight end, David Steimke and Ed Olson at tackles, and Mike Machikas, John Moller and Matt Paumen alternating at guards.

"They were great tonight, everybody right across the line," Cockerill said. "They were really moving people out of there making big holes that produced the big plays."

And they protected Schofield as he carved out a near perfect seven for 10 passing night. The three misses were more dropped than badly thrown.

Ironically, the game started poorly for the Pioneers as they fumbled the opening kickoff to give Lower Merion the ball on Conestoga's 26.

Conestoga kept its poise, though, marching back the subsequent kickoff from its 20 in for the score with five minutes left in the first quarter. All but one play were on the ground with running back Tom Flynn scampering the final 14 yards off left guard while most of the Aces were looking for Holland on the right side.

The kick was blocked, though, leaving the Pioneers behind.

They weren't for long, though, as the Pioneer defense rallied and stopped the Aces on the next drive, forcing them to punt from their own 41. But Pioneer defensive end Skip Lorimer, who said later he went in untouched, blocked the punt and managed to recover the ball himself on the Lower Merion 25.

Schofield then lofted a perfect pass over two Lower Merion defenders to Mark Trudel deep in the end zone to put Conestoga ahead at 3:01 left in the first quarter.

To start the second quarter, Pioneer Holland broke his 56-yard touchdown run on the second play from scrimmage to put Conestoga ahead to stay.

The Pioneers added one more touchdown before the half as Schofield fired a six-yard pass to Trudel who picked it off just above the grass and underneath a Lower Merion defender for the best catch of the evening.

The Pioneer defense shut the Aces down after that, though, allowing but two more first downs while Brian Holland, at 8:20 of the third quarter, and Flynn, with 2:04 left in the game, added the insurance scores for Conestoga.

Victory 32-0

Holland Sparks Conestoga over Penncrest

By **RAY DOYLE**
(*Local News Correspondent*)
October 21, 1977

Paced by a record-setting performance by tailback Brian Holland, the Conestoga Pioneers rolled to an easy 32-0 victory over the host Penncrest Lions in a Central League contest Saturday.

Holland rushed for 214 yards on 25 carries, erasing the previous one-game Conestoga rushing mark of 206 set last season by Steve Pettia who is now at Villanova University.

Holland was well-nigh unstoppable, scoring three touchdowns enroute to the record. In fact, his totals could have been higher. A touchdown run of 37 yards by Holland in the final quarter was nullified by a holding penalty. In the second period Holland broke loose on a punt return but the officials ruled the ball had been downed on the Pioneers 44-yard line.

"Everything was working fine today," said Holland. "We ran to the left. Everyone thinks we run to the right all the time. I don't think Penncrest was ready for us."

Holland had nothing but praise for his offensive line. "The blocking up front was excellent. They were opening up tremendous holes."

At the start of the season, the talented tailback, a 6-0, 185-pound junior, was the starting quarterback. Asked about the transition Holland replied, "Last season I played both positions and I can adapt to either."

As far as preference for either position Holland said, "I like tailback because you get to run with the ball more. Of course, at quarterback you have better control of the game."

The defensive play of the Pioneers was masterful, particularly in the first half which saw the Lions limited to but one first down.

Following the game, Conestoga head coach George Cockerill was asked about the outstanding defensive players of the game. Calling over defensive-

coordinator Glen Wenger, Cockerill and his assistant coach talked it over. By the time they were finished they had named every player on the defensive unit. It was the kind of game for the defense.

Penncrest, held to 139 yards total offense, mounted but one-serious threat in the game. Trailing 20-0 at half, the Lions took the field with a go-for-broke attitude.

Offense Rolls

The Pioneer offense, led by Holland with major contribution from senior Tom Flynn (53 yards on eight carries) and sophomore Rich Syrek (59 yards on four carries), moved the ball almost at will. Quarterback Gary Schofield skillfully ran the machine.

Flynn cracked over from the seven-yard line to cap a 68-yard Pioneer drive following the opening kickoff. Syrek sprinted 35 yards for the second score with 3:21 remaining in the half. Tom Spector's conversion kicks were good after each score.

With time running out in the half, Holland burst through the Lions defense for nine yards and a touchdown. Only 13 seconds showed on the scoreboard clock as Conestoga trotted off the field with a comfortable 20-0 lead.

Holland, with runs of 24 and 21 yards sparked a third period 76 yard drive, which upped the count to 26-0. His 21 yarder went for a touchdown.

In the final quarter, Holland capped a short 19-yard drive with an eight-yard scoring run to bring the final tally to 32-0.

"Last week we ran everything to the right. Today we ran wherever we wanted," said Cockerill. "We sucked their defense inside and then went outside very effectively."

Cockerill gave much credit to his offensive line. "Penncrest was doing a lot of stunting on defense but our offensive line adjusted well to it. We changed the blocking assignments and picked up the stunts. Actually the kids themselves came up with some good suggestions on changing the blocking. They've been doing this all year."

Victory 15-14

Schofield, Spector lead Conestoga

By **TED TORRANCE**
(*Local News Correspondent*)
November 25, 1977

Gary Schofield and Tom Spector will remember Thanksgiving, 1977 for many a year to come.

Schofield, a 6-3 junior quarterback, drove his Conestoga High School football forces 74 yards in less than a minute, hitting Mark Trudel with a 14 yard touchdown pass to tie Marple-Newtown 14-14 with just 26 seconds to play. Spector, a 5-8 kicker, then split the uprights to give the Pioneers an almost unbelievable 15-14 victory over the previously undefeated and untied Tigers.

Marple, with 10-0 record and ranked number one in Southeastern Pennsylvania, had stormed back from a 8-0 halftime deficit with two touchdowns and held a 14-8 lead early in the final quarter. The Tigers appeared to have the victory secured when Jeff Coyne's punt rolled out on the Pioneer 26 yard line with just 1:17 left on the clock.

Schofield, with ice water in his veins and magic in his arm had other ideas. After missing his first two passes, the lanky quarterback hit Brian Holland with a toss good for 28 yards and a first down on the Tiger 44. Holland almost broke the play, but was tripped up at the last second.

Interference Call

Schofield's next toss was overthrown, but Marple was called for interference and Conestoga had a first down at the 29 with less than a minute to play.

Operating out of a shotgun formation, Schofield then hit Rich Syrek for a first down at the 14. Schofield's next toss was out of bounds to stop the clock and give the Pioneers a chance to set the big play.

With time for just one or two plays, Schofield found Trudel in the flat, Trudel took the ball, which just eluded a desperate Tiger defender and scampered into the end zone to tie the game.

With every eye in the overflow crowd on him, Spector hit the placement which gave his team the win.

Schofield, who did a fine job in handling the snaps in the short punt formation gave his line credit for their play during the final drive.

"The line was just super during the last drive," said Schofield. "They gave me the time I needed."

Asked about the pressure of the time at the end, the young quarterback said that he had not watched the clock. "I knew we didn't have much time," noted Schofield. "Even on score, I wasn't thinking about the touchdown. I just saw him (Trudel) open and threw," concluded the quarterback.

Study in Contrasts

The game, played on the Tiger's muddy Harvey Field was a study in contrasts. Conestoga received the first break of the game when Pat Paro recovered Peterson's fumble on the Tiger 36.

After Holland picked up five on two bucks into the line. Conestoga was detecting holding, and the penalty put the ball back to the 49. Schofield hit Holland with his first pass completion, but the play lost two yards and the Pioneers were forced to punt.

Marple was hit with a 15 yard penalty for roughing the kicker and the play turned out to be a key one. Faced with fourth and nine from the 36, the Pioneers elected to punt again. This time Paro's kick went out on the one foot line.

After picking up a yard, the Tiger's Peterson was hit in the end zone by right side of the Conestoga line for a safety. The play gave the Pioneers a 2-0 lead at the 2:23 mark.

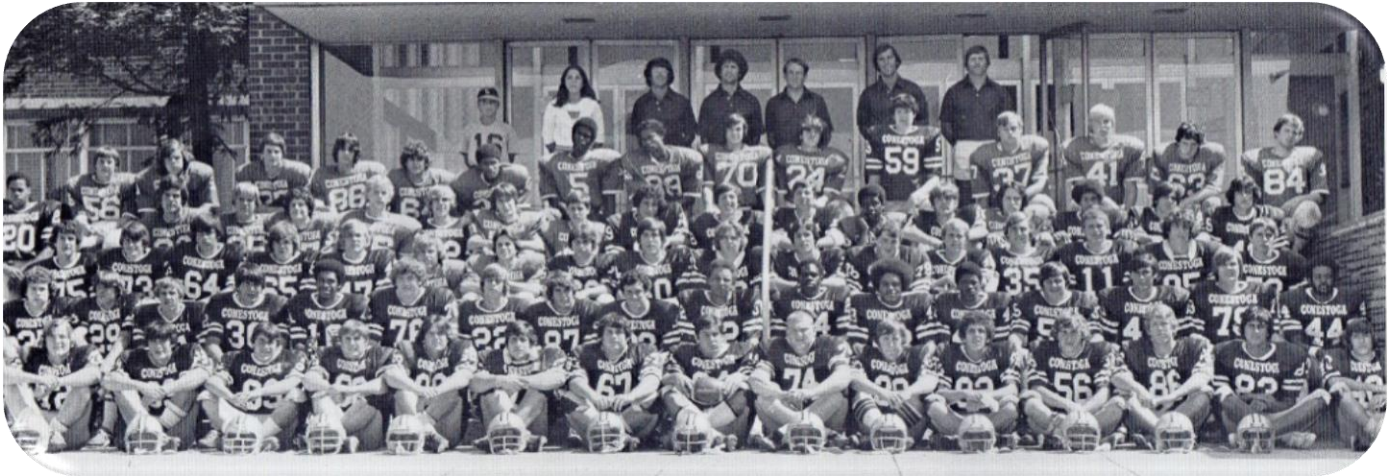
Touchdown Run

Conestoga quickly added insult to injury as Holland took the free kick at his 35 and raced 65 yards down the right sideline to push the lead to 8-0 at the 2:12 point on the period. A try for a two point conversion after two offside calls against Marple failed.

Conestoga's defense continued to dominate the game as the second period began. The Pioneers finally took over the ball on the Tiger 44 and drove to the Marple 15. Faced with a fourth and 15 Conestoga went for a field goal, but the kick was low and off to the left.

Cockerill also had high praise for quarterback Schofield. "Gary did a great job, he never lost his poise, and Holland came up with the great catch on the last drive. This is our greatest victory of the year. This is the way to end a season. It was high school football at its best," concluded the coach. Conestoga ended the year with a record of 8-2.

1977 Conestoga Pioneers



1st Row: Bill Wyatt, Joe Gannon, John Moller, Matt Paumen, Chip Dunnuck, John Dannaker, Mike Cassidy, Mike Machikas, Dave Steimke, Rick Shirkness, Bruce Niccolo, Dave Tucker, Skip Lorimer, Tony Alfieri, Gary Norris

2nd Row: Tom Flynn, Brian Leiser, Sam Karmilowicz, Pat Paro, Brian Holland, Frank Pitts, Rich Syrek, Mark Trudel, Doug Miller, Eric Redmond, Bruce Geter, Ventnor Wright, Mark Ingram, Mike Di Antonio, George Antonini, Chuck Kaniuka, Uylous Ingram,

3rd Row: Brent Hillhouse, Jeff Carter, John McKay, Andy Foster, Jim Mackenzie, Steve Schmidt, Rick Clancy, Tak Papariello, Jim Surine, Rory O’Kane, Jim Courter, Ed Olson, Al Berger, Sean Bailey, Gary Schofield, Keith McLean, Jerry Evans

4th Row: Nathan Geter, Paul Rice, Chris Christensen, Pat Corcoran, Mike Lee, Jeff Paolizzi, George Shanno, Tom Dominick, Ned D’Agostino, Joe Bendinelli, Louie DeLuca, Wes Garvin, Greg Oates, Pete Elisio. Steve Dickerson, Tom Latta, Doug Sharpe

5th Row: Mike Karmilowicz, Mark Wyatt, Bill Esler, Tom Martellucci, G. Matherson, D. Washington, E. Byrd, Sanford Dickerson, Tim Curran, Mike Rafferty, Steve Stanko, R. Watson, Josh Niles, Paul Corcoran, Tom Stearly

Standing: Greg Coffin – Mgr, Ellen McGurk – Mgr, Coach Young, Coach Wenger, Coach Cockerill, Coach Messner

1977 Roster

Number	Name	Position	Class	Number	Name	Position	Class
10	Brian Holland	QB	11	59	Jerry Evans	LB	10
11	Gary Schofield	QB	11	60	Jim Surine	LB	11
12	Jeff Paolizzi	QB	10	62	Matt Paumen	OG	12
20	Dewitt Howard	TB	11	63	John Moller	OG	12
21	Doug Sharpe	QB	10	64	Andy Foster	OG	10
22	Rich Surel	TB	10	65	Pat Corcoran	OT	10
24	Bruce Geter	WB	12	66	Tak Papariello	DG	11
29	Brian Leiser	DB	11	67	Mike Cassidy	DG	12
32	Eric Redmond	DB	12	68	Joe Bendinelli	OG	11
33	Doug Miller	DB	12	70	Tim Curran	DE	11
35	Sean Bailey	FB	11	71	John McKay	OT	10
36	Pat Paro	FB	12	72	Bill Wyatt	OT	12
37	Tom Flynn	WB	12	73	Scott Schmidt	DT	10
39	Tom Spector	K	12	74	Dave Steimke	OT	12
40	Dave Tucker	DE	12	75	Brent Hillhouse	DT	10
41	Sam Karmilowicz	DB	11	76	Frank PitTs	DT	11
43	Mark Ingram	DB	12	77	John Dannaker	DG	11
44	Uylous Ingram	DB	12	78	Ed Olson	OT	11
45	Steve Dickerson	SE	11	79	Chuck Kaniuka	OT	12
46	Al Berger	DB	11	80	Keith McLean	DE	11
47	Jim MacKenzie	LB	10	81	Tom Latta	SE	11
48	Ventor Wright	FB	12	82	Bruce Niccolo	TE	12
49	Nathan Geter	TB	10	83	George Antonini	DH	12
51	Jeff Courter	OG	11	84	Gavin Byrns	DG	10
53	Rory O'Kane	C	11	85	Steve Stanko	TE	10
55	Mike DiAntonio	LB	12	86	Skip Lorimer	DE	12
56	Richard Shirkness	DB	12	87	Mark Trudel	SE	11
57	Greg Oates	C	11	88	Chip Dunnuck	TE	12
58	Mike Machikas	LB	12	89	Louie DeLuca	SE	10