

Pioneers Tough, Despite Loss of 18 Lettermen

Conestoga Rebuilding, But Appear as Team to Beat

By **BOB INGERSOLL**
Local News Sports Writer
September 13, 1961

Head Coach Bill Paolantonio of the Conestoga High School Pioneers, will be banking on the performance of a relatively green team in his bid to retain the Ches-Mont League title this season.

A graduate of Radnor High School and Elon College in North Carolina, where he played guard for the varsity gridders, burly Bill first coached at Owen J. Roberts in Pottstown before arriving on the Conestoga scene seven years ago.

Since that time, the Pioneers have been a perennial powerhouse, capturing the league title five out of six years and finishing second once. During this hay day, Paolantonio has rung up an impressive 50 wins against seven defeats and two ties.

Graduation took a heavy toll from last year's title winning squad. Bill lost 18 lettermen including the starting backfield and four all Ches-Mont players: Dan Cogan, halfback; Dave Thornton, halfback; Pete Meoli, tackle and Bob Menapace, guard.

"We were hit as hard as any team in the league," remarked Paolantonio, a master at understatement.

Eight Lettermen Return

Only eight lettermen have returned from last year's squad including four starters: Don Schubert, (6-0, 180) guard; John Beatty, (6-1, 175) end; Bruce Buckley, (6-4, 200) end; and Bob Stover, (5-11, 185) center. Around this nucleus of seniors, Paolantonio and his coaching staff are working to build a well-balanced unit.



25 DON SCHUBERT



24 JOHN BEATTY



44 BRUCE BUCKLEY



45 BOB STOVER

The staff consists of Joe Ujobai, a little All-American from Gettysburg College, who is handling the backfield and both Frank Rocco, a Juniata College graduate and Lou Caparro, last year's co-captain at West Chester State and also a little All-American, who are whipping the line into shape.

Bill had his boys running by the middle of the summer and held the first practice on August 21. Sixty-two candidates have turned out and competition is keen for starting births.

Lineup Not Set

"We won't know the starting lineup until game time Saturday," Coach Paolantonio said. On Saturday, the Pioneers will tangle with Harriton High School, in a non-league game at Rosemont.

Running from a wing-T, Bill is presently going with a pair of promising senior quarterbacks: Dave Pollack, (5-11, 155) and Steve Welpott, (5-10, 160). The rest of the backfield is up for grabs.



14 DAVE POLLOCK



22 STEVE WELPOTT

Walt Holland, (5-8, 180) junior halfback, was reported to have broken loose for good gains in a recent scrimmage with Plymouth-Whitemarsh.

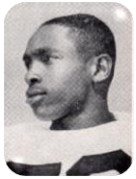
Small Backfield

Bill will be relying on a small, fast backfield this season, considerably lighter than last year's. He firmly believes that it takes a thinking team to play winning ball and practice sessions are constantly punctuated by his bullhorn voice yelling one command, "THINK."

Last year's team was strictly a power offense, chewing up the yardage on the ground, whereas a balanced running and passing attack may well be the case this season.

“We’ve had some irritating injuries so far, knocking players out for a few days at a time, and one sophomore, Floyd Biggers is out for the season with a broken ankle,” said Paolantonio.

Good Potential



19 Walt Holland



28 Dexter Hagy



43 Jack Graham



43 Len Elisio

In addition to the four returning linemen, Bill sees good potential in Dexter Hagy, (5-11, 190) senior tackle. “He’s a big strong boy who was our ace in the hole last year on the second string varsity.”

Another big boy intent on a starting birth is Jack Graham, (6-1, 230) senior tackle.

The sophomores? Watch Lenny Elisio, potential scatback.

What the boys lack in pre-season finesse, they more than make up in spirit. If spirit and desire are indicative of play, Conestoga will again be the team to watch.

When asked what teams he thought were the teams to beat, Paolantonio answered: “All of them; we’ll take them one at a time.”

The 1962 Conestoga Pioneers



Front row: Charles Randolph, Ed Wright, Bill Shain, Jack Graham, Bruce Buckley, Don Schubert, John Beatty, Dave Pollock, Bob Stove, Steve Welpott, Coach Ujobai, Coach Rocco

Second row: Ron Holliday, Bigler Irvin, Dexter Hagy, Paul Dodson, Bob Zansitis, Walt Weater, Cortie Burton, Dave Weld, Coach Caparro.

Third row: Tom Hidell, Alton Murden, Lee Wilson, Walt Holland, Jim Frazier, Dick Beatty, John Whitelock, Burke Moody, G. Orr, Fields Porter, John Wyatt, Ed McBride

Fourth row: Len Elisio, Dave Clark, Win Harris, Bob Pegg, Conrad Hamilton, Rick Taylor, Jim Hennessey, A. Greene, M. Wilson, L. Lock

Fifth row: R. Sabbi, Floyd Biggers, L. Richardson, S. Dyers, Stephen Spencer, J. Hovanietz, C. Darlington, D. Alleva, S. Pierce

Sixth row: P. McDonald, R. Barrett, W. Winchester, J. Jackson, C. Greshem, B. Lee, M. Barajas, S. Spear, Vernon Calloway, F. Summers, Coach Paolantonio

The players whose first initial appears did not graduate from Conestoga. The school split in 1962, and those men graduated from the Great Valley High School – still part of the Tredyffrin-Easttown School District.

Holland, Holliday Combine for 4 TDs

Pioneers Roll to 34-7 Victory Over Harriton

Daily Local News
September 18, 1961

Conestoga came through with a 34-7 triumph over Harriton Saturday but lacked the supreme power it had on last year's undefeated eleven.

Conestoga and Harriton each gained eight first downs but the Pioneers legged out 340 yards of which 209 came on the ground. Harriton, meanwhile, managed 62 yards rushing and 157 overall.

The power lost from last year was evident late in the first period when Conestoga drove in for the first score. The Pioneers, powered by the lunges of Walt Holland, moved to five first downs and within a yard and a half of the goal. On four straight downs, Harriton threw their weight into the middle of the line and held Conestoga motionless.

But from the second period on, Coach Bill Paolantonio's charges showed a break away attack which will probably be their trade mark for the season.



18 Ron
Holliday



19 Walt
Holland

Walt Holland, who gained over half of Conestoga's ground yardage – 135 yards – powered the Pioneers past penalty and finally tore over right tackle to score from 12 yards out. Ron Holliday booted his first of four conversions to put Conestoga in front 7-0.

Harriton moved quickly to the visitors 30 on a 15-yard penalty and a long pass, but a fumble recovered by Bob Stover turned into a 14-0 lead when Steve Welpott threw a 50-yard pass to Holliday who took it just behind two defenders and sprinted the final 19 yards to score. Holliday also made the conversion.

Defensive Battle

Late in the half, the Pioneers again drove behind the arm of Steve Welpott, but were refused a tremendous 25-yard swing pass to Ron Holliday because of an illegal use of hands violation.

The second half saw both teams square off into a defensive battle which resulted in another touchdown for Conestoga while Harriton could only manage one first down.

Conestoga took the ball on Harriton's 41 but were faced with a third and ten situation when they pulled the most deceptive play of the game. Welpott handed off to Holliday moving towards the right sidelines and then lofted a pass directly downfield where John Beatty took it and sidestepped the safety man and went in standing up.



24 John Beatty



22 Steve Welpott

Holliday Goes 57

Holliday opened the third period scoring when he started in back of the line and cut off tackle into a gaping hole on the right side and went out to beat the secondary in a 57-yard chase.

Three minutes later Walt Holland ran an inside reverse just inside left guard and burst right through the secondary and out to the left out of bounds line to tally the Pioneers final TD on a 39-yard jaunt.

Conestoga Scores C-M Win

Pioneers Roll It Up At Spring-Ford

Daily Local News
September 25, 1961

Conestoga High School rolled over Spring-Ford High 34-12 Saturday afternoon on the Rams field under a hot September sun for the Pioneers second straight victory of the new football season.

Sparked by Ron Holliday and Walt Holland, Conestoga did most of its scoring in the first half and added a lone tally early in the third period.

Momentarily, as the Pioneers kicked off to the Rams at the very outset of the game, it looked as if Conestoga would have the ball on the Rams ten yard line as a Spring-Ford's Bobby Yerk dropped the ball, and it bobbed back and forth. Yerk recovered, however, and the Rams went on to a first down. The next series of plays fizzled for Spring-Ford when during an attempted pass was intercepted by Bruce Buckley of Conestoga.

Holliday, on the very first carry by the Pioneers, went from Conestoga's 38 to the Ram 35 for a first down. On the next play, on a hand-off from quarterback Steve Welpott, Holland went through the left side of the Ram line, cut sharply to the outside and went down the sideline for the Pioneer's first

touchdown. Holliday kicked the extra point and the score stood at 7-0.

Right near the end of the first quarter, an attempted pass was dropped by the Ram end, and the ball was recovered by the Pioneers on their own 41-yard line. Holland immediately picked up nine yards as the first period ended.

Like a well-oiled machine, Conestoga began a 63-yard march down the field with a series of nine well mixed plays by Welpott. The drive featured a pass-run play - Holliday to John Beatty, that traveled for 31 yards to the Rams 15. Here Beatty was knocked down by three Ram tacklers. The big push was finally climaxed with Holland going around right end for two yards and his second TD for the day.

The next time Conestoga got the ball it was on its own 10 yardline, after the Pioneers had been detected for clipping. This seemed to spark the boys from T-E and sent them on a 90-yard drive and their third TD. Biting off yardage in large hunks, Conestoga picked up four first downs, Holliday then took the ball on the Ram five and streaked over for the

score. Dave Weld kicked the point after TD to make the score 20-0.

As time began to run out for the second period and after each side had a turn with the ball, the Pioneers picked up a Ram fumble on the Spring-Ford 40. Holliday, taking the ball on the next play, ran to his right, stopped and threw to Beatty. The six-foot-one end took the ball in stride, outran Rams' secondary defense and went into the end zone for Conestoga's fourth TD. Weld again booted the extra point and the half ended with the score 27-0 in favor of the Pioneers.

When the second half opened, Spring-Ford kicked off to the Pioneers who continued the *touchdown parade* by putting on their fourth sustained drive of the afternoon. Holliday took the opening kick from the Conestoga 32 to the 45. Eight plays later found Alton Murden in for the Pioneers last score of the day. Murden moved the ball from the Rams two into the end zone on a slant play over the middle of the Spring-Ford line. Weld again kicked the extra point. The score was 34-0.

Coach Bill Paolantonio made numerous substitutions, and it was during this time that the Rams scored twice.

Conestoga Strikes Early, Trounces Boyertown

Powerful Pair Lead Pioneer Eleven

By **BILL HAUCK**
Local News Staff
September 30, 1961

The Conestoga High School's grid wagon rolled on to its third victory last night in powerful spurts as the Pioneers downed a bulky Boyertown High School 33-7 on Teamer Field.

The question of who would win the game was never in doubt from the opening kick-off as Ron Holliday took the ball on his own 20 and went to the 50, and a first down. Taking the ball on a hand-off from Steve Welpott, he barreled his way around right end to the one. Welpott then took the ball and dove over center for the first touchdown. Holliday stepped back, kicked the extra point and the score read 7-0 after one minute and 10 seconds of play.

Conestoga kicked off to Boyertown. On their third play, the Bears fumbled, and the ball was recovered by Holliday on the Bear 43.

Metz Scores

Walt Holland took the ball on the first play of the series, carried to the 33 and a first down. Welpott took the ball off center, dropped back and spotted Tom Metz down on the nine yard line. He threw a long one to Metz, who took the pass and ran over for the second TD of the game.

On the third kickoff of the game, the Bears were unable to convert a first down. Ron Holliday was waiting for their punt on his own 35-yard line. He carried the ball to the 40. On the next play, he went to the Bear 42 for a first down. Welpott again stepped back and this time threw to John Beatty waiting on the 20, who snared the ball from two defenders and carried to the 10. Holliday went to the three, and then Holland slanted over the middle on the next play for the TD. Holliday made it two for three kicking the extra point. The score read 20-0 in favor of the Pioneers.

During the second period, Conestoga got possession of the ball when the Bear punter stepped back to kick. Don Schubert blocked the kick. He recovered the ball on the Boyertown 25-yard line. The Pioneers were unable to get the ball in for another TD, and Boyertown took over.

Pioneers Drive

Again, Boyertown punted out, and Metz took the ball on the Bear 49, passed it over to Holliday who went to the 41. Welpott next threw to

Holliday at about the 17. A penalty sent the ball back to the 46. Holliday then threw the ball to Beatty who went to the Bear's 11. Welpott passed to Bruce Buckley over the middle, and he moved to the eight. Murden went to the five, Holliday went to the four, but time ran out in the half.

The opening of the second half saw Boyertown give a big push. However, after two successful gains for first downs, the ball got away from the Bears, and Conestoga took over.

Holland Goes In

Holliday on two carries went to the 48, and on the next play, Holland went all the way to the Boyertown 47 and a first down. Holliday carried to the 42, but a penalty brought the ball back to the Conestoga 37. Welpott threw to Holliday who was knocked down on the Bear 32. Holland finally took the ball on the 13-yard line and went in for the TD.

In the beginning of the fourth quarter, Metz intercepted a Bear pass on his own 40. Holliday went to the 30. Welpott heaved another long one to Metz who again snatched the ball out from between two Boyertown players. Holland went to the one, and Bigler Irvin dove to the one foot mark. Welpott dove over the center of the line for the Pioneers' final TD.



HALFBACK WALT HOLLAND (19) is on the move for Conestoga High, scoring one of his two touchdowns on a 13-yard run off right tackle.

D.L.N. Staff Photo



EVEN THOUGH A BOYERTOWN HIGH LINEMAN has grabbed him by the leg, Conestoga's Ron Holliday (18) broke away for large gain in last night's game at Teamer Field in Berwyn.

D.L.N. Staff Photo



LOU CAPARRO, kneeling at right, the assistant coach at Conestoga High and a former great at West Chester State, works on the injured leg of halfback Ron Holliday.

D.L.N. Staff Photo



REFEREE SIGNALS TOUCHDOWN as Conestoga halfback Walt Holland bursts across the goal line from the two-yard line against Boyertown last night. Conestoga's Dexter Hagy (28) is in the foreground.

D.L.N. Staff Photo

Conestoga Powerhouse Rocks Coatesville 26-7

Holliday Scoots For 3 TD's as Pioneers Win Fourth Straight

By BILL HAUCK
Local News Staff
October 7, 1961

Conestoga High School took a giant step toward the Ches-Mont League title as the Pioneers dumped Coatesville High 26-7 last night before 4,800 fans on Scott field in Coatesville.

Ron Holliday, the Pioneer's "Galloping splinter," ran wild as he scored three touchdowns and kicked two extra points, while Steve Welpott, the boy with the golden arm, went over for one TD and to Holliday for another. The Red Raiders scored for Coatesville with about a minute left in the game.

The Pioneers drew first blood after 3:34 of the first period when after a series of plays, Walt Holland broke loose around the right side of the big Raider line and moved from the Coatesville 39 to the six. Two thrusts by Holliday and a carry by Holland set Welpott up to crack through the center of the line for the first TD. Holliday kicked the extra point to make it 7-0.



18 Ron Holliday



19 Walt Holland



22 Steve Welpott



44 Bruce Buckley

Ball Changes Hands

For the remainder of the first quarter and most of the second, the teams exchanged control without scoring. With 35 seconds left in the half, Welpott dropped back, found Holliday open down field, fired a perfect shot that traveled 42 yards in the air, which the "Splinter" grabbed over his head and went the remaining distance for a standing up TD. Holliday booted the extra point to make it 14-0.

Conestoga Holds

The second half began with the Pioneers kicking off to the Raiders, and Conestoga held them for a series of downs. Ron Holliday took the Raider punt on his own three-yard line. He started cutting to his left and after shaking off two tacklers within five yards of the sidelines, he darted straight down the field. At the midstripe, Holliday broke away from two more Coatesville tacklers, then finding daylight moved all the way into pay dirt,

For the remainder of the quarter, the two teams battled at fairly evenly as each netted two first downs. At the outset of the fourth period, the Raiders were moving but when they reached Conestoga's 36, they misqued on a pass which was intercepted by Bruce Buckley who carried back to the Raiders 39. On three tries, the Pioneers went to the 27 and a first down. On the next play, Holliday got one yard to the 26. Welpott attempted to pass but the throw was knocked down. Holliday then took the ball, ran to his right, found an opening, turned the corner and went in for Conestoga's last TD of the evening.

On the play, Holliday was given a good block by an unidentified (*due to a pile up*) teammate, and it was the key that opened the door for the "splinter" to go the distance



CONESTOGA HALFBACK RON HOLLIDAY, the Ches-Mont League's leading scorer, is pictured streaking for one of the three touchdowns he scored in the Pioneers' 26-7 win over Coatesville at Scott Field last night.



AND HERE'S THAT MAN HOLLIDAY AGAIN, ripping of a large gain despite the effort of a Coatesville tackler at left.
D.L.N. Staff Photo

Pioneers Romp Over Owen J. Roberts

Holland Leads Conestoga Club With Two TD's

By **BILL HAUCK**
Local News Staff
October 14, 1961

Conestoga High School rocked Owen J. Roberts High 39-0 last night on Teamer Field, Berwyn, in a game that went from the sublime to the ridiculous. The Pioneers touchdown parade, two by Walt Holland, and one each by Steve Welpott, Ron Holliday, John Whitelock and Cortie Burton never got started until near the end of the first period.

Actually, the game opened with a fast start by the Wildcats. OJR kicked off to Conestoga forcing the Pioneers to fumble, and upon recovering the ball moved it to the Conestoga four-yard line in three plays. However, Conestoga held and the drive sputtered out as the Pioneers took over.

Pioneers Settle Down

Conestoga, slightly shaken after this first melee, finally settled down as the first period was nearly ended. Holland intercepted a pass on the Pioneers' 29. Eleven plays and five first downs later Welpott pushed the ball over center for the first TD.

At the outset of the second quarter, the next score came quickly when after the kick off, OJR's QB fumbled, and the Pioneers fell on the ball on the one-yard line. The stubborn Wildcats held for the next two plays and even pushed the Pioneers back to the three. Holliday on his third try slanted between left tackle and end to score.

Right before the half ended, Welpott attempted a pass, but it was dropped. Welpott went back again and found John Beatty on the OJR 45. Beatty ran with the ball and traveled to the five before he was knocked down. Holland then went around the left side, turned the corner and went in for the touchdown. Dave Weld successfully added the extra point after three penalties moved the ball back to the 25.

Following a series of plays immediately after the opening of the third stanza, OJR punted to Alton Murdon, who took the ball on the Conestoga

36 and moved to the 43. A clipping penalty forced the Pioneers start a drive at their own 27. After four first downs, the Pioneers had the ball on OJR's 43. Welpott, who had five hits in six tries for a total of 124 yards, stepped back and sent another long throw into the arms of Beatty at the 30. Beatty traveled to the seven. Holliday then took the ball to the two, and Holland went over for the TD. Weld kicked the PAT.

Whitelock, Pioneer tackle, Scores

The crowd had barely set back in their seats when after the Pioneers kicked off, the OJR QB attempted a pass. Out of nowhere came big John Whitelock, Conestoga tackle, who swooped the ball in on the run and dashed down the left side of the field, going 25 yards for the fifth tally.

The next time the Pioneers had the ball, Welpott connected for a pass to Holliday that was good for 18 yards. Welpott then caught Tom Metz with a throw good for another first down. Weld who went in at halfback ran the ball to the three. Cortie Burton who also went into the backfield was given the ball, and he went around left end for the final score. Weld kicked another PAT, and the score was 39-0.

Conestoga Routs Conshohocken 40-0

Holland Gets Three TD's For Pioneers

By BILL HAUCK
Local News Staff
October 21, 1961

Power laden Conestoga High School battered hapless but plucky Conshohocken High 40-0 last night in a game that unleashed vicious tackling and hard blocking by the Pioneers as they held their hosts to one first down and a minus one rushing average. Conestoga shook loose, three fleet powerful running backs that scored six touchdowns, one a first string sub who dazzled the crowd with a brilliant 68-yard dash.

Alton Murden Spectacular Run

With about two-thirds of the third quarter gone, Alton Murden, who has been showing promise all season as a breakaway runner, clicked for the big TD of the evening. The touchdown followed an exchange of 15-yard penalties between both clubs. Conshohocken had punted the ball out of the end zone, and it was put into play on the Conestoga 20. Walt Holland, who scored two in the first period carried the ball to the 32. A Golden Bear personal foul moved the ball to the 47. On the following play, a Pioneer holding penalty moved the ball back to the 32.

Murden who had come into the game took the handoff from Steve Welpott, started to the left, picked up blockers, and then cut straight down the sidelines. At about the 30, only the Bears' safety stood up between Murden and the goal line. Instead of cutting away, Murden ran through the defender as if he wasn't there.

Holland Scores First

In winning the toss, the Pioneers elected to receive, and they immediately began pounding a march down the field. Welpott handed off to Holliday, and then Holland. After ten plays with six carries by Holland and four first downs, the bull-like back took a seventh handoff from Welpott, drove through center, cut slightly to his left and went over for the first TD. Score 6-0

Holland Scores Again

Near the end of the period, Holliday punted to Conshohocken's four-yard line, where John Beatty hit the Bear's safety. Three plays later, Conshy punted back to the Pioneers. Holliday took the ball to the Bears 26. On the next play, Holland, carrying the ball, *getting a key block by Beatty*, slanted over his left side to pay dirt. Dave Weld kicked the PAT. Score 13-0

Holliday Scores 3rd TD

With all the glory going to Holland so far, Steve Welpott felt it

was time to limber up his throwing arm. His first pass to Bruce Buckley missed the mark, but his second connected with Buckley for a gain of 23 yards. With a first down and 27 yards away from another TD, Welpott again stepped back and aimed one at Holliday who was racing toward the goal line. The Conestoga splinter took the ball on a dead run at the four and went in for the third TD. Weld kicked the PAT. Score 20-0

Holliday Scores Again

The next touchdown came on a drive from Conestoga's 47 that netted two first downs. At the nine Holliday cut off to his right side and went over for his second tally. Weld again kicked the PAT. When the whistle blew at the half, Conestoga walked off the field with the score at 27-0 in its favor.

Murden Scores His Second

Midway in the third period Murden began to put on his dazzle show with his long haul, that making the score 34-0. Coach Bill Paolantonio's subs continued to pile up yardage and first downs until they had six to their credit. Jim Frazier, working at quarterback, mixed up his plays well. Al Murden taking a hand off, went around left end, found a hole and cut straight down the field for the last touchdown. Final 40-0.

Conestoga Remains Unbeaten

Pioneers Win Over Phantoms

*Daily Local News
October 30, 1961*

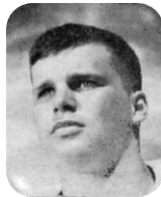
With quarterback Steve Welpott leading the way, unbeaten Conestoga High copped its sixth consecutive Ches-Mont League game and its seventh win of the season in defeating a stubborn Phoenixville High eleven, 20-0, on the Phantoms' gridiron Saturday. The Conestoga victory set up the Pioneers for the league's most important game of the season Friday night. That's when Pottstown, also undefeated in six outings, visits

Teamer Field in Berwyn for the game which undoubtedly will decide the league championship.

Close Contest

Saturday's contest at Phoenixville was closer than the 20-0 final indicated. The two clubs battled evenly through most of the first half until Welpott connected with Bruce Buckley for a 34-yard pass play to give the Pioneers a first down at the Phoenixville one with the clock running out.

Welpott took it over himself on a sneak, and Conestoga left the field with a 6-0 advantage at the intermission. The Pioneers came back to strike for two more TDs in the final period.



42 Walt Weaver

Tackle Walt Weaver Scores TD

Conestoga tackle Walter Weaver scored the first touchdown of his scholastic career when he picked up a Phoenixville fumble at the Phantom 13 and rumbled 13 yards into the Phoenixville end zone untouched for the six-pointer.

Another Phoenixville fumble spelled doom for the Phantoms as Conestoga's John Beatty recovered and set up a third TD. Welpott scored this one on another sneak from the one.

Pottstown TD in Last 10 Seconds Tops Conestoga

By CHARLIE BECK
Local News Sports Editor
November 4, 1961

Conestoga High came within 10 seconds of retiring as the undefeated champion of the Ches-Mont League last night in Berwyn. But with a throng of almost 10,000 screaming fans looking on, Pottstown high halfback Ken Quinter took a pitchout and coolly passed to end Doug Pollock for a touchdown that gave the Trojans a

thrilling 12-7 victory over the Pioneers.

The final whistle sounded after the following kickoff, and Pottstown had taken a huge step toward the Ches-Mont championship.

Walt Holland and Ron Holliday were shut off from the flanks, and they found little room to move through the heavier Trojan forward wall. The Trojans, however, lacked scoring punch after driving deep in

Conestoga territory on several occasions.

Conestoga scored its lone TD with just 2:20 left in the second period, when Steve Welpott passed nine yards to end John Beatty. A 65-yard aerial from Welpott to Holliday had set up the score. Dave Weld's kick for the PAT hit the right upright and bounced in for the seventh point.



CONESTOGA'S RON HOLLIDAY (18) skirts his right end on this play but fails to elude Pottstown's Carroll Bechtel ready to make the tackle.

D.L. N. Staff Photo

Trojans Score in Last 5 Seconds to Unseat Conestoga

By WARREN HOWARD
Pottstown Mercury Sports Writer
November 4, 1961

Pottstown's Doug Pollock flagged down a touchdown pass with five seconds remaining in the game for a 12-7 Trojan victory over Conestoga. The win left the Trojans unbeaten string at eight for the season. Conestoga fell for the first time in more than two seasons.

The Pioneers scored with 2:19 left in the first half on an eight-yard aerial from Steve Welpott to end John Beatty. It climaxed a drive of 89 yards, all but two of which were made via the good right arm of Welpott. The big play of the drive was a 63-yard pass-run play between Welpott and Ron Holliday. Holliday then tried to leg it around left end, but was bumped out for no

gain. Welpott found Tom Metz on the 10 for another first down. Fullback Walt Holland then cracked off tackle for a pair of yards, and on the next play Beatty snagged the TD pass. Dave Weld's placement was good for the bonus point.

Welpott Passes Pioneers Over Downingtown 20-6

It's A Touchdown



CONESTOGA HALFBACK RON HOLLIDAY crosses goal line with touchdown on eight-yard run in first period.

Downingtown retaliated with an aerial exhibition of its own before two minutes had elapsed. QB Jim Price uncorked a 31-yard bomb. Holliday tried to bat it down, but the ball was deflected off his fingertips into Whippet end Bill Pollock's waiting arms.

Welpott to Buckley, 3rd TD

Thought of an upset in the making were further dispelled as Welpott connected on his second scoring aerial in succession, hitting end Bruce Buckley on a 15-yard toss in the final 30 seconds of the half. As time was running out in the half, Welpott stole the limelight hitting on passes of 29 and 13 yards before firing to Buckley for the score.

Pioneer Defense

The Pioneers fell back on their defense to maintain the lead in the second half. They dug in putting the big rush on the Whippet QB to contain the Whippets. "Welpott played a good game for us," said Bill Paolantonio, Pioneer coach, "and the entire team put out for the victory." Lou Caparro, assistant coach echoed these sentiments adding, "Downingtown is always touch, and they're always up for this one."

Connects Twice For Scores

By **BOB INGERSOLL**

Local New Sports Staff

November 11, 1961

An aroused Conestoga High eleven rebounded from last week's defeat by Pottstown to handily whip the visiting Downingtown Whippets 20-6 last night and guarantee a second-place Ches-Mont finish. Relying on the talented arm of senior signal caller, Steve Welpott, the Pioneers struck for two touchdowns through the air and one overland in an all-first-half scoring splurge.

Holliday Carries, 1st TD

With less than four minutes remaining in the first quarter, Ron Holliday burst over left guard from eight yards out, was stopped momentarily, but wriggled loose to break into the end zone standing up. Holliday split the uprights to put the Pioneers in front 7-0. A fine run by Alton Murden to the Whippet 46 set up the first scoring drive. The drive featured a pair of first-down Welpott passes, the first raveling 10 yards to Tom Metz and the second going for 22 yards to John Beatty in the left flank.

Welpott to Metz, 2nd TD

Midway through the second period, Welpott faded back from the Downingtown 10 yard line in a fourth and six situation and flipped to Tom Metz who snagged the pigskin over his shoulder in the right corner of the end zone. Holliday put a sure toe to the ball, vaulting Conestoga to a 14-0 bulge.

Pioneer Defense Stars In Final Ches-Mont Game

By **BOB INGERSOLL**
Local News Sports Staff
November 24, 1961

Playing their final game of the season and their Ches-Mont League swan song, the Conestoga Pioneers whitewashed West Chester 21-0 yesterday on home turf to win their eighth in nine league outings, finishing a strong second behind undefeated Pottstown.

An overflow Thanksgiving Day crowd saw Coach Bill Paolantonio's gridders manhandle the Warriors in far more convincing fashion than the score might indicate.

Three of the four starting backs contributed to the final tally. With a minute remaining in the first quarter, Ron Holliday burst off tackle and sprinted 12 yards up the middle to pay dirt.

Early in the second quarter, an errant snap from the Warrior center sailed into the end zone, where it was recovered by another Warrior for a two-point safety. With time running out in the first half, senior

quarterback Steve Welpott bucked over on a sneak from one yard out, and Holliday split the uprights to put the Pioneers in front by 15.

Walt Holland frosted the cake, in the final eight minutes of the contest, belting through the middle from one yard out to cap a 59-yard march.

Ball Control

Ball control played an instrumental role in the Conestoga victory. The Pioneers hung on to the pigskin to wear down the West Chester defense a yard at a time. In the first half, the Pioneers ran more plays than the Warriors did in the entire game, and they completed the contest having run 82 plays from scrimmage, nearly twice as many as the Warrior with 42.

Defensively the Pioneers demonstrated it was no fluke that only one team, Pottstown, was able to score more than one against them. The Conestoga defensive unit held the Warriors to a minus 53 yards rushing and two completions for 18 yards through the airways.

30-yard Romp

On the first play of the Pioneers' first possession, Holliday weaved through a gaping hole in the center of the Warrior line and hotfooted it up the right sideline on a 30-yard romp, the longest of the ball game. Sparked by a 15-yard aerial from Welpott to end John Beatty and hard-nosed running by Holliday and Holland, the Pioneers drove to the West Chester 11 in 14 plays before a Welpott pass on fourth down was deflected.

The Warriors netted a yard in two carries, and they quick-kicked to the Conestoga 45. Welpott fired 26 yards up the middle to Holliday, and then the Warriors were penalized 15 yards. The stage was set for Holliday's 12-yard scoring burst.

The Pioneers win boosted their series margin to two games. Conestoga has won 27 clashes and West Chester 25 since the series originated in 1903. "The boys wanted to win, and they did," said Pioneer coach Bill Paolantonio.

Welpott & Beatty Named to First Team

Seven Pioneers on All Ches-Mont Teams

Quarterback Steve Welpott and end John Beatty were unanimous selections for the First Team All Ches-Mont Squad. Welpott, the golden-armed youth who can throw the ball a long way was a shoo-on for top quarterback honors. He is a top student, and he could wind up in the Ivy League, although there are many colleges after him.

John Beatty is unquestionably the outstanding wingman in the league. He is a flawless pass receiver and a fine blocker. Teaming with Welpott, the two were the most dangerous passing combination in the league. A good student, he may wind up in the Ivy League or at Gettysburg.

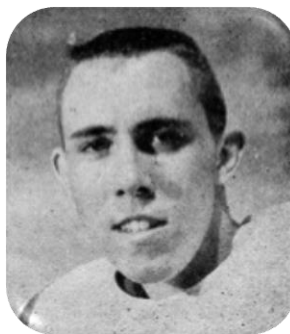
Chosen for Second Team honors were running back Ron Holliday, tackle Bob Zanstis and guard Don Schubert. Receiving Honorable Mention were center Bob Stover and running back Walt Holland.



John Beatty
Senior End
6-1, 175



Steve Welpott
Senior Back
5-10, 160



Don Schubert
Senior Guard
6-0, 180



Bob Zanstis
Senior Tackle
6-0, 172



Ron Holliday
Senior Back
5-9, 145



Bob Stover
Senior Center
5-11, 185



Walt Holland
Junior Back
5-9, 180

1961 Football Roster

No	Name	Pos	Class	No	Name	Pos	Class
10	Tom Hidell	Back	11	37	Frank Sommer	Tackle	11
11	Jay Reis	Quarterback	10	38	Dick Beatty	Guard	11
13	Bigler Irvin	Back	12	39	Bob Pegg	Tackle	10
14	Dave Pollock	A	12	40	Charles Randolph	Tackle	12
15	Alton Murden	Back	11	41	John Wyatt	Guard	10
16	Win Harris	Guard	10	42	Walt Weaver	Tackle	12
17	Rick Corey	Back	10	43	Jack Graham	Tackle	12
18	Ron Holliday	Back	12	44	Bruce Buckley	End	12
19	Walt Holland	Back	11	45	Bob Stover	Center	12
20	Dave Weld	Back	11	46	Ed Wright	End	12
21	Burke Moody	Quarterback	11	47	Dave Clark	Guard	10
22	Steve Welpott	Quarterback	12	48	Bob Zansitis	Tackle	12
23	Cortie Burton	Back	12	50	Tom Metz	Back	11
24	John Beatty	End	12	51	John Comsia	Tackle	10
25	Don Schubert	Guard	12	52	Jim Hennessey	Back	10
27	Bill Shain	Guard	12	53	Steve Pierce	End	10
28	Dexter Hagy	Tackle	12	54	Brad Pierce	Center	12
30	Lee Richardson	End	10	55	Jim Frazier	Quarterback	11
31	Lee Wilson	Guard	11	56	Rick Taylor	End	10
33	Paul Dodson	End	12		Conrad Hamilton	End	10
34	Lenny Elisio	Back	10		Fields Porter	Back	10
35	John Whitelock	Center	11		Ed McBride	Manager	11