

Vikings wear down Pioneers, 28-6

Daily Local News

September 9, 1995

By Carolyn CANDELORI
Staff Writer

BERWYN—The West Chester East High School football team played the waiting game in Friday night's non-league contest against Conestoga. The Vikings knew that both "size" and depth were on their side. It was just a matter of when the same would dawn on Conestoga.

The Pioneers, a stubborn bunch at that, didn't realize, or better yet didn't feel the differences until well into the second half. Conestoga, in its season debut under first year head coach Tim Donovan put up a valiant fight in the first half, particularly on defense, were ultimately worn down by the size of the Vikings and fatigue, losing to East 28-6.

"Conestoga's defense was very aggressive. They came off the ball and I think we missed a couple of backers on blitzes, and that was good on their part," said East coach Joe Carroll of his team's inability to score more in the first two quarters. "It's a tough young team, and I think it shocked our kids in the first half. We did what we had to do to get the job done, and we're

real proud of the kids. It was a combination of rainy conditions, but their defense really played well."

Evidently, Conestoga's solid play on defense sparked its offense—or at least its special teams—at the start of the second half.

Conestoga pulled to within two points when senior back Steve Jackson took the opening kickoff and turned it into a 91-yard, touchdown sprint. The Pioneers were pumped and the Conestoga faithful were frantic. It appeared to be a turning point for Conestoga. The Pioneers were right back in the game, and their defense had already proved in the first half that it could hold East.

And yet the Vikings waited...

"It was a turning point and the kids did everything they could," said Donovan. "Maybe it was fatigue or maybe it was just being outmanned on the defensive side of the ball." "We have big play people. Steve Jackson and Brandon Holland, and Dante Coles, who made some big catches."

"But as I told them we had to play a perfect game in order to win. We came close in our estimation, but we had a couple turnovers and that really hurt us."

Defensive Linemen



Front Row: Nick Simmington, Tom Aichelle, Doug Franklin, Jason Garon, Isiah Byrd;
Middle Row: Brennan McGeorge, Chris Bickel, Scott Cappelli, Joe Seavey, Chris Werner,
Chris Vaughn, Patrick Effgen;
Back Row: Josh Goldstein, Dave Jaros, Jim Pursley, Matt Trimmer, Matt Kidwell,

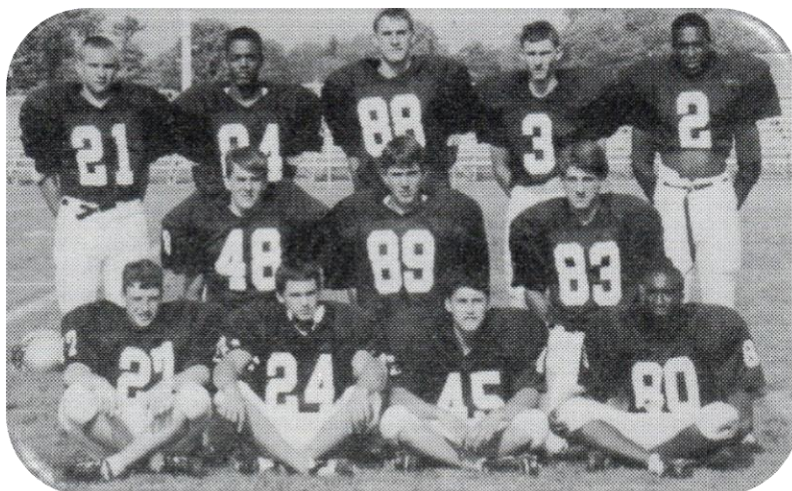
Colin Osborne, Eric Schmalz

Defensive Backs

Front Row: Ed McCann, Dave Sudhaus, Lee Cure, Jeff Osborne

Middle Row: Brian Bleecher, Chris Raftery, Byron Carter

Back Row: Justin Massimiano, Al-Wayne Morgan, Ryan Weidler, Eric Swords, Dante Coles



Pioneers beaten by Ridley

Daily Local News

September 16, 1995

By NEIL GEOGHEGAN

Staff Writer

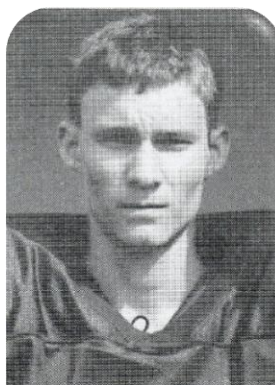
BERWYN—Conestoga opened its Central League football clash on Friday against powerful Ridley looking like a program ready to spring an upset. The host Pioneers scored a touchdown off a turnover in the first minute of the game, sending the partisan crowd at Teamer Field into a frenzy.

“We’re playing hard,” said Pioneers head coach Tim Donovan. “On offense, we’re having a lot of problems with execution. We’re kind of beating ourselves with penalties and turnovers.”

The Conestoga defense seemed up to the challenge limiting Ridley (2-0 overall) to just 207 yards of total offense. But offensively, the Pioneers (0-2 overall) never really threatened to score. Three first downs and 68 yards of total offense just isn’t enough.

“I didn’t feel we took a step forward offensively like we needed to,” said Donovan.

On the second play from scrimmage, Conestoga defensive back Eric Swords swiped a tipped pass and



Eric Swords

returned it 83 yards for the score, and a 7-0 lead. The Pioneers then flexed some defensive muscle by sacking Ridley quarterback Chris Heeney in each of the next three possessions.

“I thought it was our night when that happened,” Donovan said. “I thought (the impressive start) would help the kids believe they could win. That we could beat

Ridley and Ridley’s mystique.” “I thought it was an omen for us.”

“I thought the defense did a great job,” said Donovan. “We were just on the field too long. If you’re out there too long, big plays are going to happen.”

“I think (Conestoga) has improved a lot since I saw them in early scrimmages. They have a lot of speed. I don’t know who in the league have more speed than they do.”

Jackson the Man in Conestoga's Victory

Daily Local News

September 23, 1995

By TOM METZ, Staff Writer

ARDMORE—Tim Donovan had a hunch. Saturday afternoon the first-year Conestoga High School football coach had a feeling that his speedy running back/return man Steve Jackson would do something big. Donovan was right.



Jackson returned the opening kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown and provided the emotional spark for the Pioneers' 27-6 Central League win over Lower Merion.

"Before the game, I told the kids that I had a feeling that Steve would have a big day, it was a hunch," said Donovan. "Next thing you know he runs back the opening kickoff. Steve is the catalyst for us."

Aside from the points, Jackson's sprint down the right sideline provided an important early boost for a team searching for its first win. "We set up a wall left and I saw things open up on the other side so I just cut it back and took off," said Jackson. "Once we got going, we were fine. This our first taste of winning and there is no reason for us to turn back now."

Jackson's early score set the tone for a first half that, saw the Pioneers (1-1, 1-2) take a 14-6 lead after two quarters, despite being held to two first downs and 32 yards total offense. After Lower Merion (0-2, 2-2) scored on its opening drive, the Pioneers widened their lead late in the half, when linebacker Steve Norcini stepped in front of an Adam Solow pass and returned it 37 yards for a touchdown.

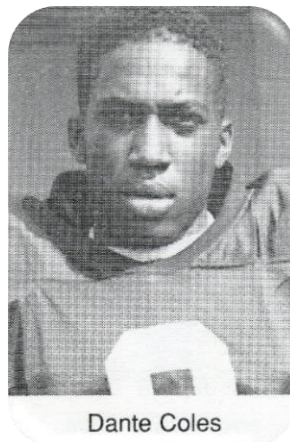
"We were in zone coverage and I saw (Aces' fullback Mike Bright) cut in the middle and I just jumped up and it hit me in the chest," said Norcini. "Then I just took off."

"Norcini is key to our defense," said Donovan. "He is a junior who is making big impact. That interception gave us some breathing room, because Lower Merion was moving the ball."

"We had a little trouble defensively in the first half," said Norcini. "We were running a different defense and we needed to get into halftime and get situated with a few things."

In the second half the game took on a much different complexion as the Aces' offense managed just five first downs and 72 yards of total offense.

"Lower Merion was running an unorthodox formation so we had a few problems matching up," said Donovan. "We only gave up the six points in the first half though so I was very happy with the defense."



Perhaps the most gratifying thing for Donovan was seeing his offense breakthrough for a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns. Dante Coles made the score 20-6 with 10 minutes left on a 39-yard touchdown reception from Byron Thornton.

Brendon Holland then capped off an 18-play, 55-yard drive with a five-yard touchdown run around the left side to put the Pioneers up 27-6 with less than a minute to go. "I told the guys at halftime that I wanted two scores," said Donovan. "That was a credit to our offensive line. We just went with the smash-mouth football and really got a monkey off our backs."

Jackson who led all rushers with 62 yards on 17 carries, echoed his coach's sentiments. "All I needed was a good offensive day to get us going," said Jackson. "We kept shooting ourselves in the foot. We ran dives the whole second half and the line opened up huge holes for us."

41-19 Victory

Pioneers win second game in a row

Daily Local News

October 1, 1995

By MARK ASHENFELTER, Staff Writer

RADNOR—The Conestoga High football team made itself feel right at home at Prevost Field on a glorious Saturday afternoon. With Radnor playing the role of gracious hosts, the Pioneers politely took advantage of virtually every opportunity the Raiders sent their way. And in the first half, the Raiders did everything possible to hand the Central League affair to Conestoga.

The Pioneers—gaining in confidence at every turn—took control early and rolled to a 41-19 victory. And their second win in as many weeks left the guests in high spirits for the short ride home.

“We had to come back and be strong,” said tailback Steve Jackson, who rushed for 195 yards and two first-quarter touchdowns. “We won the game last week, but there were a lot of things we should have capitalized on and mistakes we should have learned from.”

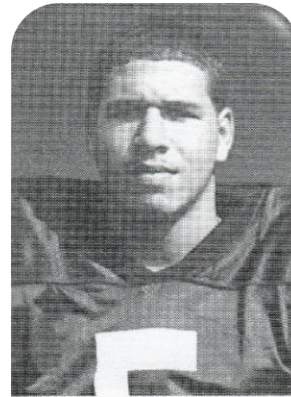
“We came back and learned from those mistakes and played good in the first half. The only negative thing was that we didn’t have the killer instinct.”

While the win was important, the way the Pioneers went about getting it really pleased first-year coach Tim Donovan. “Last week, we had a big win and the kids asked themselves, how good are we?” Donovan said. “We said that we wanted to go out and jump on (Radnor) early.”

“That goes along with the confidence factor. We got a couple of big scores early, the kids start really believing in themselves and things start rolling from there.” For that, Donovan can thank the Raiders who pulled out all of the stops. Radnor opened the game with an on side’s kick that Conestoga recovered.

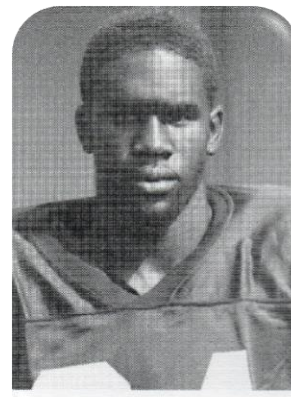
Jackson raced in from 46 yards out three plays later and the tone was set. Radnor’s first possession ended with a botched punt snap that gave Conestoga the ball on the Raiders 13-yard line.

This time, Jackson needed just one play to make it 14-0. Field goals of 36 and 46 yards by Ben Quereau then made it 20-0. Quereau’s first field goal came after Radnor’s Danhugh Clarke fumbled away a punt to Conestoga. His second field goal came after a fake punt went awry for the Raiders.



Bryon Thornton

defense.”



Brendon Holland

“They’ve got a great group of backs. They take advantage of just about every mistake you make,” Alwine said. “You go inside one inch too far, they’re gone. Those backs are good running backs and we had a tough time with them.”

Conestoga stopped Radnor at its 8 on the next possession, then marched 92 yards for a score. The touchdown came on a 30-yard strike from Bryon Thornton to Dante Coles. “Conestoga is a better football team, there’s no question about it,” Radnor coach Dave Alwine said. “But we’ve got to stop giving people points on offense and

In the second half, the Pioneers continued to pound the ball. While Jackson stole the spotlight, fullback Brendon Holland added 120 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries. “We’ve stayed on the technical side instead of the physical side,” Holland said of recent practices. “We all know we have the physical talent. We just have to put the technical side together.”

Late field goal tops Conestoga

Daily Local News

October 8, 1995

By CAROLYN CANDELORI, Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD—It was a situation where opposing coaches were both betting on the same thing in Saturday's Central League football game. Conestoga High coach Tim Donovan was relying on Springfield kicker Jon Wallin's inexperience to trip him while Springfield coach Rick Taylor was counting on his kicker's youth to carry him through.

Taylor ended up doubling his money as Wallin split the uprights with 32 seconds left in the fourth quarter, propelling Springfield to a 17-14 win over Conestoga.

It was a difficult loss for the Pioneers (2-3), especially after taking an early 14-0 lead. "I have to give credit to Springfield. They made some adjustments, and I knew they would," said Donovan. "We had hoped to get on them early, which we did, but they kind of dominated us in the second half, but that's

why they're the league champions....we were a little outmanned."

Conestoga struck early on two big plays in the first half. Senior quarterback Byron Thornton connected with junior wide out Dante Coles for a 44-yard touchdown pass with 8:30 left in the opening quarter. Coles struck again. This time, Coles stepped up on defense intercepting a Brian Pieri pass on the Springfield 26-yard line and returning it 25 yards. Thornton banged his way into the end zone, and the Pioneers took a stunning 14-0 lead over the hosts.

"We have some big play people," said Donovan. "We knew that we would have to throw the ball a little bit because they were going to take away Steve Jackson, and they did that." Jackson only carried the ball six times, rushing for 14 yards, Brendon Holland picked up some of the slack 80 yards, which included a 62-yard scamper in the second quarter.

Gutsy Conestoga falls to Haverford

Daily Local News

October 14, 1995

By TOM METZ, Staff Writer

HAVERTOWN—In what has become a frustrating pattern for the Conestoga High School football team, a gutsy defensive effort was not enough to overcome an inconsistent offense.

For three-and-a-half quarters the Pioneers stayed within striking distance of the Haverford High Fords before falling to a 20-6 Central League loss Friday night.

Although the Pioneers offense has been up-and-down for much of the season, the pressure was really on the defense to find a way to control Haverford's grinding running attack. "A Wing-T team is run first pass second," said first-year Pioneers coach Tim

Donovan. "They tried to pass some but they hurt us on the sweep."

The Pioneers (2-3, 2-4) yielded 263 yards on the ground but limited the Fords (5-0, 5-1) to only two touchdowns until the final five minutes of the game. "It was just great execution on Haverford's part," said Donovan. "They secured the corners for their sweep."

Aside from 140 yards of total offense from Steve Jackson, the Pioneers managed to just a pair of Ben Quereau field goals. "We really wanted to get Steve the ball in a lot of ways and we did," said Donovan. "We just weren't able to get the big plays we needed."

"The kids are struggling to find a groove," said Donovan. "We thought we were coming out of it against Radnor. The kids have nothing to be ashamed of. We just can't seem to get over that hump."

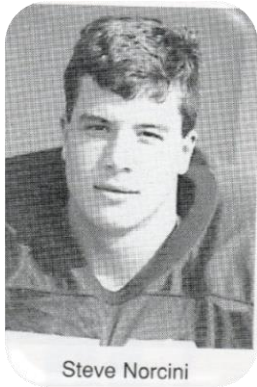
Pioneers dodge late bullet to win

Daily Local News

October 21, 1995

By CARLO IACONO, Staff Writer

BERWYN—Conestoga High School's Steve Norcini just wanted to get close enough to disrupt the timing of Strath Haven quarterback Mike Reed. Norcini did even better. The junior linebacker netted a sack of Reed on a fourth-and-10 from the Conestoga's 13-yard line as time expired Friday night.



Steve Norcini

The sack preserved an exciting 9-5 Central League mark to 3-3 with an overall record of 3-4. More importantly, it was the first Conestoga victory in three close games this season. "We have been so close so many times this season that is good to finally see the kids get over that hump," Conestoga coach Tim Donovan said.

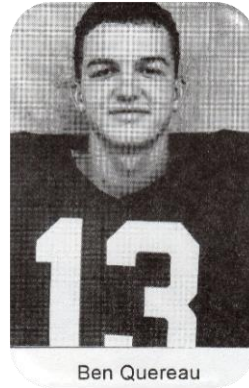
Norcini was inserted on the final two plays of the contest in a dime defensive package specifically designed to rush the passer. It was a desperate situation that Norcini and the rest of the Pioneers tried to avoid.

Holding a 9-3 lead with 1:15 remaining, Conestoga found itself with a fourth-and-five from its own 17. The Pioneers elected to take a delay of game penalty to wind the clock down to 59 seconds.

Punter Dante Coles fielded the ensuing snap and sprinted out of the back of his end zone to volunteer the

two points for the comfort of punting from the 20-yard-line with 55 seconds left.

Conestoga broke up two end zone passes to Long to create the final fourth down play with two ticks left. That is when Norcini's rush sealed the victory. "We just rushed hard and I wanted to get to him (Reed) from the outside," Norcini said. "We had good coverage and a lot of time."

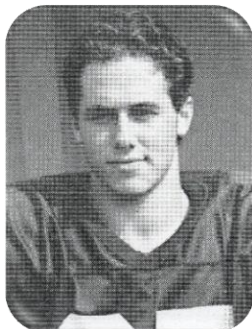


Ben Quereau

Strath Haven took a 3-0 lead into halftime. As the only rain of the contest fell, Wade Groswith booted a 35-yard field goal with 35 seconds left in the half. Conestoga kicker Ben Quereau did Groswith one better. Quereau kicked a 42-yard field goal to knot the game with 1:15 left in the third quarter.

After forcing a Strath Haven punt, Conestoga scored the only touchdown. Steve Jackson (17 carries for 95 yards) received an outstanding block from wide receiver Ryan Weilder ensuring him of a 29-yard touchdown run. The Pioneers fumbled the snap on the extra point and were left holding a six point lead with 6:46 remaining.

"I would like to emphasize that no one on this team quit playing as a unit, regardless of what happened," Jackson said. "We played 11 strong." Norcini said, "It's a big win. I can't describe it."



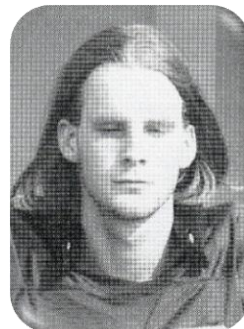
GABE LERMAN

Senior 5-8, 170
Wide Receiver
Defensive Back



MARC PIETRINI

Senior 5-9, 165
Running Back
Linebacker



FRANKLIN PENNELL

Senior 6-0, 175
Tight End
Linebacker



ERIC SCHMALZ

Senior 6-2, 205
Offensive Lineman
Defensive Lineman

24-0 Central League Victory

Pioneers down Penncrest

Daily Local News

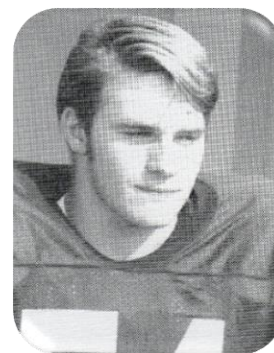
October 28, 1995

Steve Jackson rushed for 218 yards and two touchdowns to help lift Conestoga High School football team to a 24-0 Central League victory at Penncrest on Saturday.

Jackson helped the Pioneers break open what was a three-point-game at halftime by scoring on a 50-yard run in the third quarter and a 23-yard run in the fourth.

Brendan Holland capped the scoring with a 1-yard touchdown run. Kicker Ben Quereau had three extra points and added a 44-yard field goal for Conestoga, which improved to 4-3 in Central League and 4-4 overall.

Penncrest dropped to 2-5 in the league and 2-6 overall.

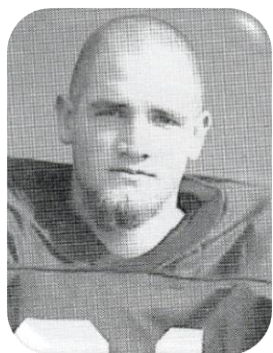


JOE CASSIDY

Senior 5-10, 170

Offensive Lineman

Linebacker

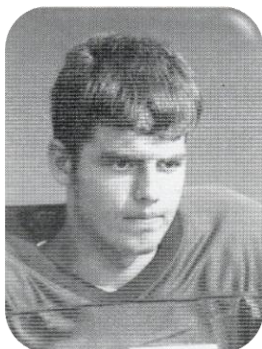


JOSH GOLDSTEIN

Senior 5-11, 185

Offensive Lineman

Defensive End

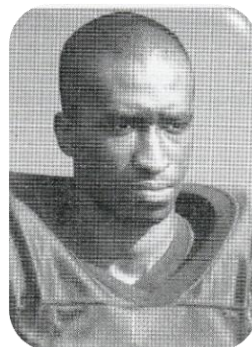


MATT KIDWELL

Senior 6-2, 200

Offensive Lineman

Defensive Lineman



JEFF OSBORNE

Senior 5-8, 160

Offensive Lineman

Defensive Lineman

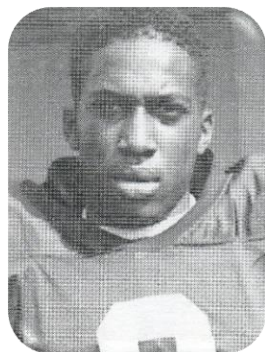


CHRIS RAFTERY

Senior 6-2, 165

Wide Receiver

Defensive Back

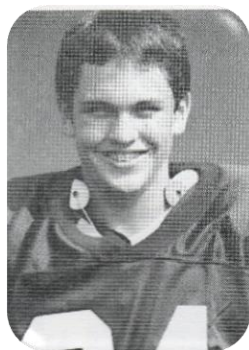


DANTE COLES

Junior 6-2, 180

Wide Receiver

Defensive Back

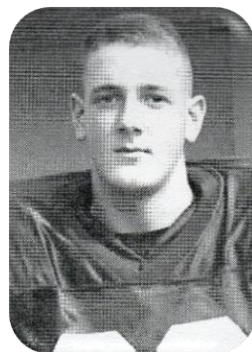


DAVE SUDHAUS

Junior 5-8, 160

Wide Receiver

Defensive Back

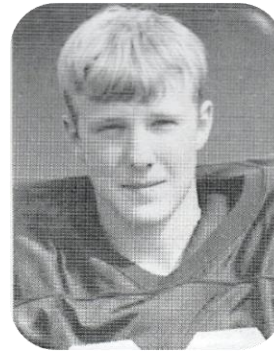


COLIN OSBORNE

Junior 6-0, 170

Tight End

Defensive End



BEAU CHOATE

Junior 5-8, 155

Wide Receiver

Linebacker

Overtime Victory

Underdog Pioneers surprise Upper Darby

Daily Local News

November 4, 1995

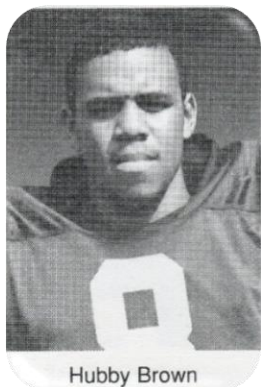
By NEIL GEOGHEGAN, Staff Writer

BERWYN—It was a game that Conestoga deserved to win, even if it did take overtime to finally get it done. The underdog Pioneers gave a loud and boisterous Homecoming crowd at Teamer Field a big thrill on Friday with a 21-14 overtime victory over Upper Darby that wasn't secure until a fourth-down pass play by the visiting Royals came up an inch or so shy of the goal line.

It was the biggest win of the season for a Conestoga squad that held powerful Upper Darby to 170 yards of total offense and just one offensive touchdown. The Royals entered the game with an 8-1 overall mark and post-season aspirations. The Pioneers (6-3, 5-4 overall) spoiled those hopes and then held a massive on-field celebration with fans and friends.

"We've thought all along that we have the making of a great team," said rookie head coach, Tim Donovan. "We just have to learn how to win. All year long we've stayed close in the big games and tonight we finally learned how to win."

As it is with most breakthrough victories, it wasn't easy. Thanks to a dominating defensive performance, Conestoga opened a 14-6 lead heading into the fourth quarter. But Upper Darby put together a seven-play, 65-yard scoring drive—and a successful two-point conversion—to knot the score at 14 apiece.



Hubby Brown

The suddenly confident Royals then drove to the Pioneers 5-yard line with 38 seconds remaining, but Conestoga's Dante Coles blocked a potential field goal. The Pioneers Hubby Brown picked up the ball and returned it to near midfield. Two plays later quarterback Bryon

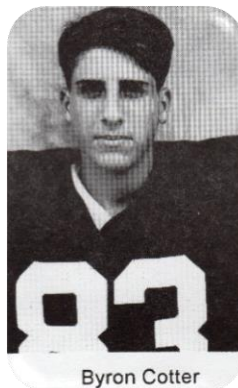
Thornton hit tailback Steve Jackson for a 44-yard reception, and that set up another potential game-winning field goal with 5.2 seconds remaining in

regulation. But Ben Quereau's 39-yarder was blocked, sending the game to overtime.

"We were disappointed about that field goal, but it added more drama to the whole situation," said Jackson, who rushed for 50 yards on 19 carries and now has 855 yards for the season. "This was my last game at Teamer Field—my last home game—and just like all of the seniors on this team, we didn't want to save anything. We wanted to leave it all on the field."

Conestoga won the toss, elected to take the ball, and promptly scored on its first play of overtime when fullback Brendon Holland rambled 10-yards for the TD on an off-tackle play that he bounced to the outside. "We noticed (Upper Darby) was crashing hard (inside) so we told Brenden not to be afraid to take it outside, and that's what he did," Donovan explained.

The Conestoga defense then rose to the occasion once again. After holding the Royals to just one first down and 27 yards of total offense in the first half, the Pioneers prevented Upper Darby from scoring during its four-down overtime possession. On fourth down, receiver Mike McFarland hauled in a pass near the goal line but was stopped just inches away from pay dirt by defensive back Byron Cotter.



Byron Cotter

"The strength of our team all year long has been defense," Jackson admitted. "We sputter at times on offense, but the defense always comes through."

"Upper Darby had playoff hopes and Central League championship hopes, and we ruined it for them. After what happened to me against them last year (a 42-7 setback) this one was sweet." The Pioneers took an early 7-0 lead, as Jackson scored from 30 yards out after Conestoga cashed in on an Upper Darby turnover.

The Pioneers then extended the lead to 14-6 with a 66-yard scoring march that ended with the first of Holland's two-scoring runs, this time on a 10-yard draw play midway through the second quarter.

Jackson's big night helps Conestoga win

Daily Local News

November 11, 1995

By JERRY REIMENSCHNEIDER, Staff Writer
FORT WASHINGTON—If they gave points for dominating the line of scrimmage, Conestoga High's football team would have won in a laughter. But they don't give points for that. So, the Pioneers, despite holding the ball for 28 minutes and enjoying a staggering 227-52 rushing advantage, had to settle for a more serious win.

Senior tailback, Steve Jackson's 171 yards and late 34-yard touchdown run clinched Conestoga's 19-7 non-league win at Upper Dublin Friday night. Jackson's night was a highlight reel in many respects. His late touchdown started on a pitch left, but Jackson broke two tackles as he circled backwards to his right and turned up field.

"They were keying on me all night," said Jackson, who carried 24 times. "The hole got clogged up, so I knew I had to take a chance and just cut back."

"That's just athletic ability," said Conestoga head coach Tim Donovan whose Pioneers climbed to 6-4 with one game—a Thanksgiving date with Marple Newtown—remaining. "That's the kind of talent I'm blessed with on this team. When I make a call like that, he makes it look good."

The run not only sealed the deal over pesky Upper Dublin, but also put Jackson—who had 855 yards coming in—past the 1,000-yard barrier for the season. "It's been a total team effort," Jackson said. "Our line has blocked great all year, and I just ran behind them into the holes."

Jackson and teammate Brendon Holland (12 carries, 60 yards) did just that all night long, including several times on an impressive drive to start the second half. Up just 9-7 at halftime, the Pioneers staged a 14-

play, 70 yard march that chewed 10:43 from the game clock.

But they couldn't crack into the end zone. Ben Quereau's 22-yard field goal, his second converted kick of the night gave Conestoga a precarious 12-7 lead.

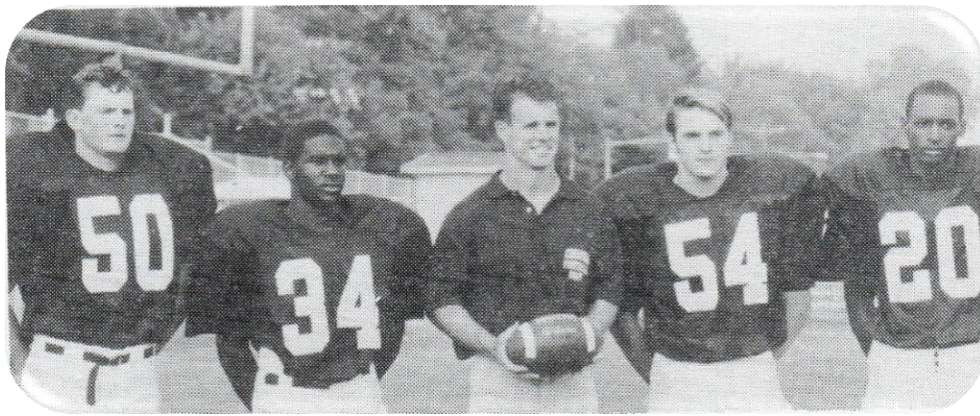
Conestoga's lone first half touchdown came when quarterback Byron Thornton found Byron Cotter in the left corner of the end zone from 26 yards away. Cotter outdueled the Upper Dublin cornerback to make a spectacular catch and save Conestoga from wasting a one-sided half.

By halftime, Conestoga had twice as many first downs as the Cardinals and 51 more yards. Yet the lead was just two points. "We were frustrated," said Jackson. "We only punted once in the first half, but we couldn't get it into the end zone."

"I challenged them all at halftime," said Donovan, "and we came out with basically an 11-minute drive, then had to settle for a field goal. Still, they responded to the challenge."

The Pioneers responded again, this time on defense, when Upper Dublin threatened to take the lead early in the fourth quarter. Two pass-interference calls on Conestoga gave the Cardinals a first down at the Pioneers' 7. On the next three plays Conestoga's defense forced a 3-yard loss, an incompleteness and a sack for another 9-yard setback.

Then, on fourth down from the 19, Upper Dublin's Jed Moyer hit Carl Haag near the goal line, but Haag fell a yard short of the end zone. After the teams traded punts, Jackson broke his breathtaking run to close the door on Upper Dublin. "They put up a heck of a fight," Jackson said, "but we knew we were the better football team."



Captains
 Eric Schmalz,
 Brennan Holland,
 Tim Donovan
 (Head Coach),
 Joe Cassidy,
 Steven Jackson

10-9 Victory

Conestoga best year since '78

Daily Local News

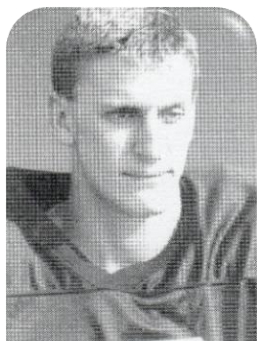
November 24, 1995

By NEIL GEOGHEGAN, Staff Writer

NEWTOWN SQUARE—The Conestoga High School football team staged a marvelous come-from-behind victory Thursday morning, and in the process, accomplished something that no Pioneer gridiron squad has been able to achieve in 17 long years.

A late surge gave visiting Conestoga an exciting 10-9 Central League triumph over Marple Newtown which secured a 7-4 campaign for the never-say-die Pioneers. It marks the programs first seven win season since 1978.

"We knew we had to step it up if we wanted to get to 7-4," said senior quarterback Bryon Thornton, who engineered the game-winning touchdown drive in the final five minutes of this defensive struggle.



Ryan Weidler

The Conestoga offense struggled much of the day, turning the ball over four times. But with the game on the line late in the fourth quarter and trailing 9-3, the Pioneers drove 66 yards in seven plays to win it. Thornton scored on a four yard run, and set up the TD with a 40-yard toss to Ryan Weidler. Ben Quereau's extra point wound up

being the difference. "I'm very happy for Ryan Weidler," Conestoga coach Tim Donovan said. "He had an up and down season, but in the crucial point of the game, he made a tremendous catch."

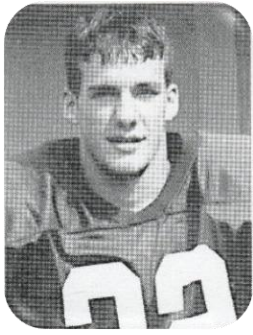
The late heroics almost overshadowed a rock solid performance by the Conestoga defense, which limited a potent Marple Newtown attack to less than 200 yards of total offense and only 12 yards on the ground. Villanova bound quarterback Chris Gicking was under constant pressure and the Tigers managed just one touchdown and it came immediately after a Pioneer turnover.

In all, the Pioneers sacked Gicking five times and hurried his throws all day. Marple Newtown's only really threat—Gicking to wide out Paul Brown—accounted for 146 yards, which was more than three-quarters of the Tigers total offense.

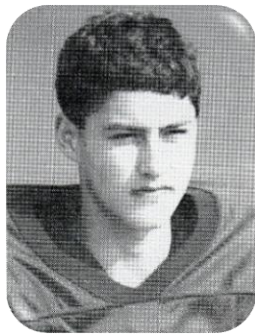
Running back Steve Jackson coughed up the football twice on consecutive possessions for the Pioneers in the first half. But he did rush for a game-high 91 yards on 23 carries.

"Turnovers really hurt us today, but we have tremendous speed on defense and we took advantage of that," Donovan said. The Tigers ended the scoreless deadlock late in the third quarter when Chris Groeber nailed a 22-yard field goal, but Conestoga responded with a 41-yard march to narrowly missed a 39-yard field goal in the second quarter—successfully booted one from the same distance with 9:37 remaining to culminate a drive that stalled at the 23.

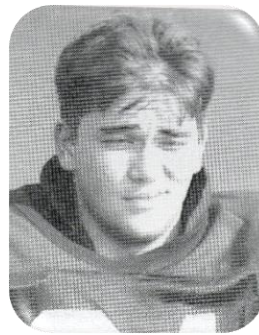
"We told the kids before the game that we are trying to turn the tide of this program, and start a new tradition," Donovan said. "We used the (lengthy span since a seven-win season) as a motivational thing. Hopefully this means we've turned the corner."



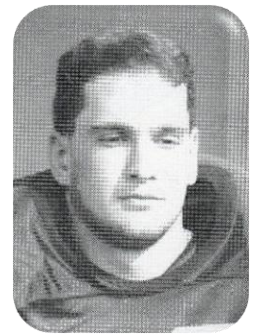
BRENNAN MCGEORGE
 Junior 5-10, 175
 Fullback
 Defensive End



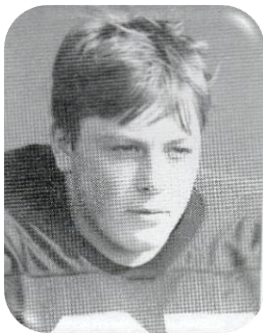
LEE CURE
 Junior 5-10, 150
 Wide Receiver
 Defensive Back



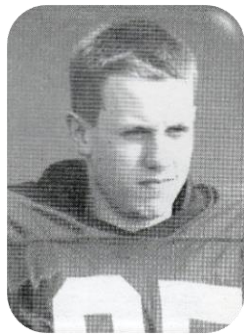
JOE SEAVEY
 Junior 6-0, 205
 Offensive Lineman
 Defensive Lineman



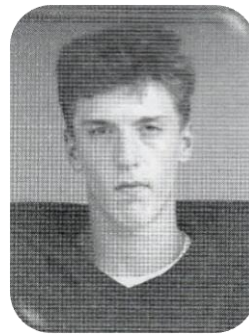
DAVE JAROS
 Junior 6-2, 225
 Offensive Lineman
 Defensive Lineman



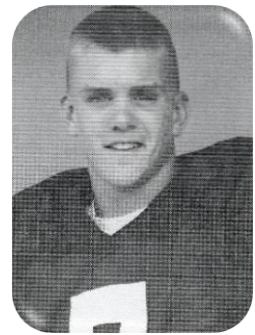
CHRIS WERNER
 Junior 6-0, 195
 Offensive Lineman
 Defensive Lineman



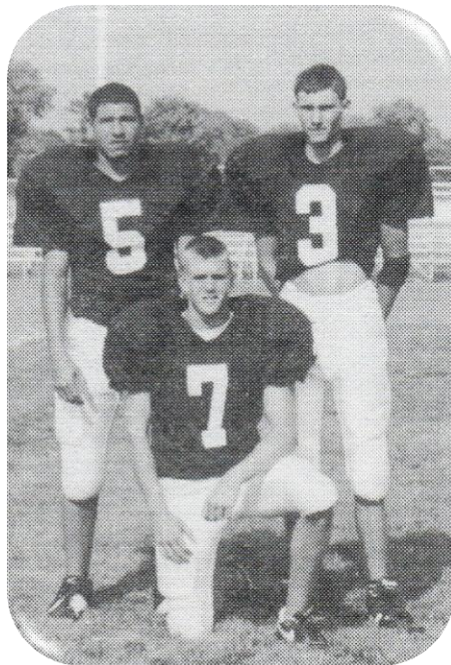
JIM PURSLEY
 Junior 6-2, 180
 Tight End
 Defensive End



MATT TRIMMER
 Sophomore 6-0, 175
 Tight End
 Defensive End



MATT DIAMOND
 Sophomore 5-9, 150
 Quarterback
 Defensive Back

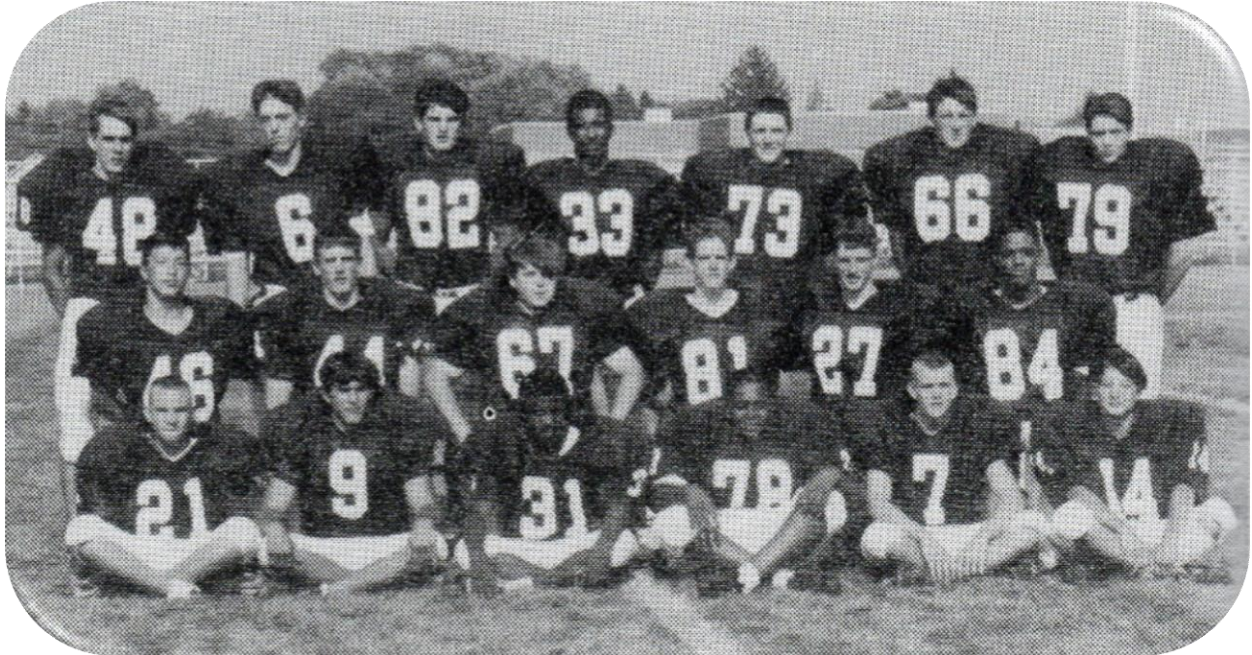


Quarterbacks

Front: Matt Diamond

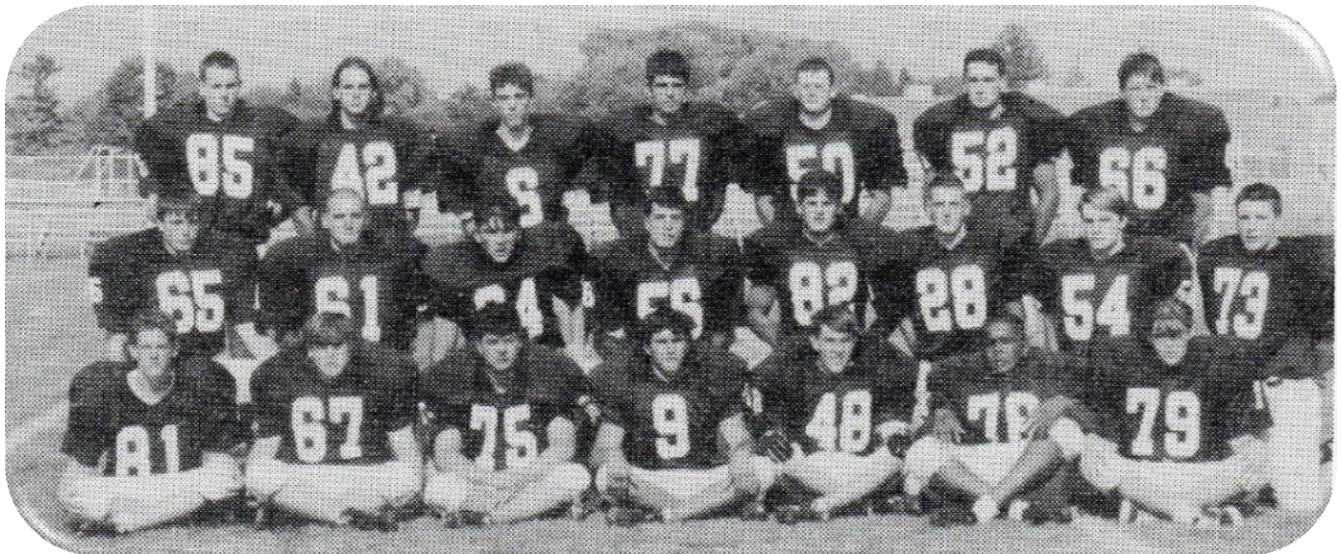
Back: Bryon Thornton, Eric Swords

Sophomores



Front Row: Justin Massimiano, Mike Mozzone, Taiwan Cunningham, Isiah Byrd, Matt Diamond, Dan Lovell
Middle Row: Charlie Wu, Scott Cappelli, Nick Simmington, Tom Aichelle, Ed McCann, Al-Wayne Morgan
Back Row: Brian Bleacher, Matt Trimmer, Chris Bickel, Shea Comfort, Chris Vaughn, Pat Effgen, Jason Garon

Offensive Line



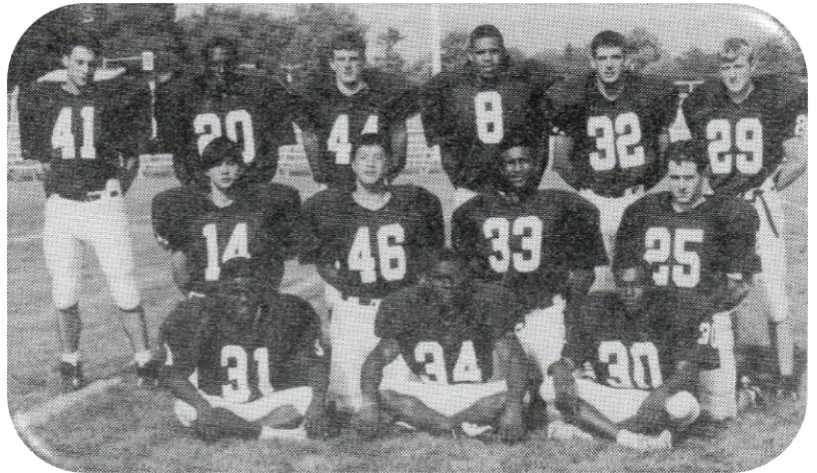
Front Row: Tom Aichelle, Nick Simmington, Doug Franklin, Mike Mozzone, Brian Bleacher, Isiah Byrd, Jason Garon
Middle Row: Chris Werner, Josh Goldstein, Joe Seavey, Steve Norcini, Chris Bickel, Chris Osborne, Joe Cassidy
Back Row: Jim Pursley, Franklin Pennell, Matt Trimmer, Eric Schmalz, Dave Jaros, Pat Effgen

Running Backs

Front Row: Taiwan Cunningham,
Brendon Holland, Chris Brown

Middle Row: Dan Lovell, Charlie Wu,
Shea Comfort, Gabe Lerman

Back Row: Marc Pietrini, Steven Jackson,
Scott Cappelli, Hubby Brown, Brennan
McGeorge, Beau Choate



Receivers



Front Row: Justin Massimiano, Dave Sudhaus, Bryan Thornton, Brennan Holland, Gabe Lerman

Middle Row: Taiwan Cunningham, Chris Brown, Lee Cure, Al-Wayne Morgan, Charlie Wu, Jeff Osborne,
Matt Diamond

Back Row: Chris Raftery, Ed McCann, Ryan Weidler, Steven Jackson, Eric Swords, Dante Coles, Byron Cotter

The 1995 Conestoga Pioneers were mentored by Head Coach Tim Donovan. Their 7-4 season was the best since the 1978. The season opened with two losses to West Chester East and Ridley followed by two wins over Lower Merion and Radnor. Two losses to Springfield and Haverford gave the Pioneers new resolve, and they completed the season with five wins over Strath Haven, Penncrest, Upper Darby, Upper Dublin and Marple Newtown. Underdogs in the Upper Dublin contest and trailing in the Marple game, the scrappy men found a way to pull out the victory. Outstanding for the team were Steven Jackson, Brendon Holland, Dante Coles, Eric Swords, Steve Norcini, Bryon Thornton, Ben Quereau, Hubby Brown, Bryon Carter and Ryan Weidler.