

The 1968 Pioneers

Smith, Parrish Trigger Pioneer Offense

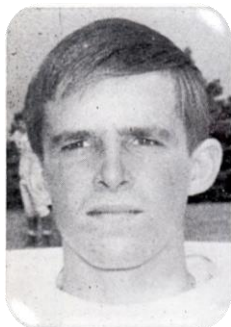
Daily Local News Football Preview
September 10, 1968



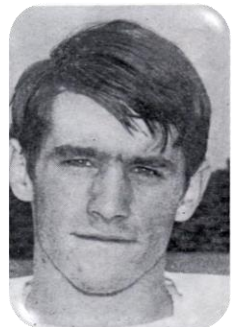
Butch Smith



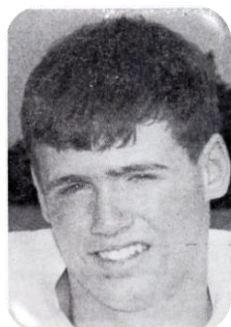
Todd Parrish



Bob Chandler



Jeff Thorne



Bob Foster



Rick Stratton

Take a veteran backfield, mix gently with a light but experienced line, and you have a football club that gives promise of having a successful season. That is the prospect that confronts Bill Paolantonio at Conestoga High School this season.

The Pioneers are loaded in the backfield with such luminaries as *Butch* Smith and Todd Parrish returning for their third varsity year. As if that were not enough, the veteran Main Line mentor has Bob Chandler at the controls and the likes of Jeff Thorne, Corky Foster and Rick Stratton also available.

While Chuck Vogan handled most of the quarterbacking duties for Conestoga last year, Chandler racked up considerable game experience and should feel right at home handling Paolantonio's varied attack. Backing up the 5-8, 150-pound junior will be classmate Foster who goes 5-10, 167-pounds.

Other major losses suffered by the Pioneers as they open Suburban Central League play this year, are end Steve Tift and big Bob Hill, a two-way operator at offensive tackle and defensive center.

Paolantonio's delighted that he can have Smith and Parrish for another year. Smith, who has given West Chester fits in both his varsity years, is a 10-second sprinter. Last year, he tallied on a four-yard bull against the Warriors and, in 1966, he took the second half kickoff back 98 yards for a score. Smith, at 6-0, 190-pounds, is big enough to break tackles, and he gives the Pioneers an all-the-way threat. Parrish is more of a power runner with his 185-pounds packed on a 5-10 frame, and he is devastating in short yardage situations. Together with Smith, he offers Conestoga one of the more dangerous running combinations around.

The backfield power stop there. Currently there is a two-way battle going on for the fullback post between Richard Carter and Bill DiDomenico with Carter currently enjoying the edge. Both are on the smallish side, but both can fly. Other key members of the ball carrying brigade are junior wingback Jeff Thorne, who saw considerable action last year, and Rick Stratton.

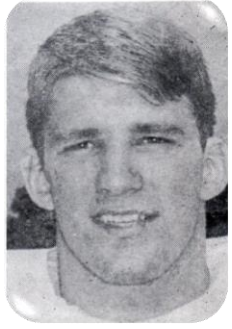
All in all, Paolantonio is satisfied with his backs. "With the exception of Smith and Parrish, we're on the small side," he said, "but Butch and Todd give us a *heckuva* jump."



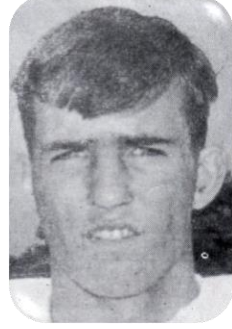
Rich Carter



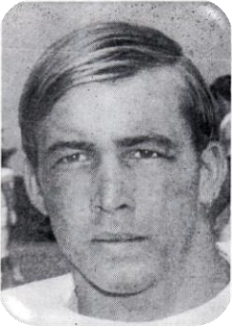
Bill DiDomenico



**Jeff Young
Captain**



Bruce Upper



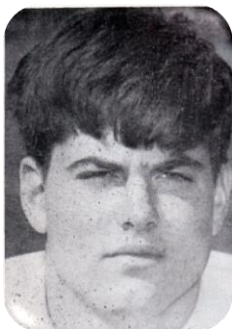
Lindsay Paine



**Hank
Gulbrandsen**



Guy Calloway



Scott Dittmore

The experience and smallness carries over to the line where Captain Jeff Young, a 5-10, 185-pounder, anchors the front wall from his guard position. The Pioneer coaching staff is high on the big senior, and they plan to also utilize his talents as a defensive linebacker.

Centering the line is veteran Bruce Upper, a 5-10, 177-pounder junior while veteran Lindsey Paine teams with Young at the guard posts. Manning the tackle slots are senior Hank Gulbrandsen who goes 170, and 160-pound junior Guy Calloway. At the end posts, Paolantonio is using veteran Scott Dittmore and newcomer Charlie Barrett.

“Overall,” say the head coach, “we’ve got a pretty fair football team but we play in a rugged league and every game is tough. Our biggest problem is that most of our squad has to go both ways. Many of the kids in the line played defense last year, and they’re going to need some time to adjust to our offensive patterns.”

Aiding Paolantonio in getting the Pioneers ready for their September 20 home opening game with Penncrest is a veteran coaching staff. Former West Chester tackle Tom Keyser handles the defensive line while ex-Yale lineman Harry Golden takes care of the offensive line, and former Gettysburg star Joe Ujobai works with the backs.

In addition to its tough league schedule, the Pioneers tangle at home against the rough Valley Forge Military Academy team on Friday night, October 11, and travel to the County Seat to meet West Chester in the traditional Thanksgiving Day game. Last year saw the Warriors beat Conestoga, 19-13, after 11 consecutive defeats at the hands of the Pioneers.

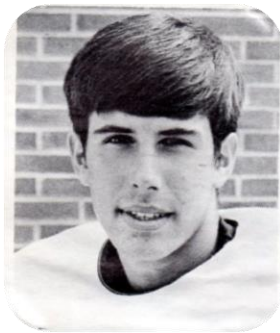
Pioneers Edge Lions, 14-12

By **GEORGE HEASLIP**

(*Local News Sports Staff*)

September 21, 1968

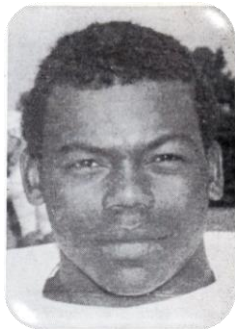
A couple of quarterbacks named Corky Foster and John Cunningham put on quite a show last night before a jam-packed stadium at Conestoga High School as the host Pioneers jarred the touted Penncrest Lions, 14-12, in the season opener.



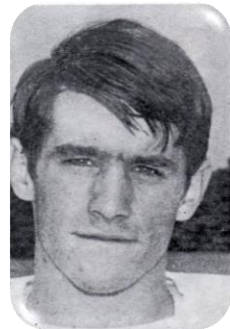
Frank Marcantonio
Place Kicker



Bob Berke
Glue-fingered End



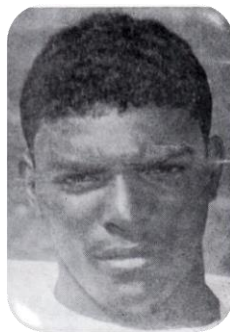
Rich Carter
Hard-running



Jeff Thorne
Halfbacks



Todd Parrish
Hard-nosed Plugger



Butch Smith
All-the-way Threat

Foster's Conestoga eleven took the Central Conference lid-lifter because he had a place kicker named Frank Marcantonio, a glue-fingered end named Bob Berke and a couple of hard running halfbacks named Richie Carter and Jeff Thorne to go along with Todd Parrish, and hard-nosed plugger, and all-the-way threat Butch Smith.

Smith had been touted as the Pioneer's major offensive threat, but Penncrest keyed on the big back all night, and they kept him well bottled up. Smith, however, turned in the big play of the evening when, late in the game with Lion QB Cunningham threatening to overcome Conestoga's 14-12 lead, the 'swiftie' intercepted a long bomb. The theft gave the Pioneers the ball with 1:42 left, and Foster ate up the remaining time.

Bill Paolantonio's Conestoga club opened the game with a 13-play, 68-yard drive that ended with Parrish crashing over from the one. The key play in the drive was a 37-yard pass from Roster to Berke that put the ball on the Penncrest 30. The junior signal caller moved the ball to the five on a couple of reverses and a scramble of his own. Marcantonio's extra point try wobbled, soared, and wobbled some more, but *it counted as much as a Sam Baker beauty.*

Later in the quarter, Penncrest mounted a 67-yard drive, and the Lions scored. The pass for the PAT was smothered by the Conestoga forward wall.

Midway in the second period, the Pioneers put Paolantonio's patented reverses into action, and they went into a 14-6 lead. With Carter and Thorne alternating on the first-to-the-left and then-to-the-right reverse series, Conestoga went from its own 17 to the visitor's five where the Lions held. Then the Pioneer line tightened, and the Lions were forced to punt. Carter took the punt on the 35, and he returned it to the 24. Two plays later, Foster faded back and spotted Berke all alone on the five. The speedy end caught the pass and scored unmolested. This time Marcantonio's PAT was strong and good.

Again, the Lions mounted a scoring drive, but the PAT pass was smothered, and the score was 14-12.

Foster Romps

West Chester, Conestoga Boast Perfect Grid Slates

Daily Local News
September 29, 1968

With the season but two weeks old, the undefeated, untied list of area teams has already dwindled to two: West Chester's powerful Warriors and the surprising Conestoga Pioneers.

Conestoga's Corky Foster had a big afternoon as Bill Paolantonio's Pioneers racked up an impressive 37-12 victory over defending Central League co-champ Upper Darby. The junior quarterback tossed a 22-yard

scoring pass to end Tim Barrett. Later Foster returned punts 78 and 65 yards for the Pioneer's second and third score. Fullback Todd Parrish tallied from the one. Speedy Butch Smith went seven yards for the fifth Conestoga score. Frank Marcantonio booted home five extra points to run his consecutive string to seven.

Conestoga attempts to make its record 3-0 Friday night when they entertain Radnor at the Pioneers' Berwyn field.



Yearbook Photo
#53 Todd Parrish



Yearbook Photo
#32 Warren "Butch" Smith

Pioneers Win 3rd, Top Radnor, 18-6

By **GEORGE HEASLIP**
(*Local News Sports Staff*)
October 5, 1968



Speedy "Butch" Smith

SPEEDY "BUTCH" SMITH scored three touchdowns last night as Conestoga's Pioneers notched their third straight Central Conference victory by upending Radnor, 18-6, at the Berwyn field. Despite Smith's scoring bursts, it was the slashing running of Pioneer fullback Todd Parrish that was instrumental in Conestoga's victory.

Time after time, Pioneer quarterback Corky Foster called on Parrish and the hard charging back responded with a total of 109 yards in 22 carries for the evening.

Smith, who netted 54 yards on 13 carries, opened the scoring for the undefeated Pioneers when he took a short pass from Foster on the five-yard line and went in unmolested at 6:46 of the second quarter. The pass culminated a 33-yard march following a short kick. It took Conestoga nine plays to score with Parrish picking up 16 yards in the drive.

Despite the fact that Conestoga controlled the ball during the first half, piling up 101 yards on the ground and 38 in the air, the home club was unable to tally more than six points. The Pioneer defense held Radnor scoreless in the first half, and they essentially shut-down their offense in the second half. The visitors picked up only 115 total yards, 76 of them coming through the air.

Early in the second half, the Raiders mounted their only scoring drive to tie the score at 6-6. Parrish took the kickoff on this own 30, and he returned it to the Radnor 47 to ignite the Pioneers' second scoring thrust. It took Foster and company but six plays to score with Smith tallying on a twisting, squirming 13-yard burst. Smith and Parrish alternated on the drive as the Pioneer front wall opened huge gaps in the Warrior line.

Radnor once again was unable to move the ball after the kickoff and was forced to punt. Conestoga took over on their own 39-yard line. Ten plays later, the irrepressible Smith slashed off tackle for an eight-yard scoring burst.

Radnor tried desperately to mount a scoring march of its own, but the Conestoga front line, which turned in a top performance all night, kept the pressure on.

Pioneers Lose

Daily Local News
October 12, 1968

Previously unbeaten Conestoga fell to the Valley Forge Military Academy cadets, 25-7. A TD by halfback Jeff Throne averted a shutout for Bill Paolantonio's club.

Conestoga vs. Haverford

October 19, 1968
No article available
Conestoga 7 – Haverford 42

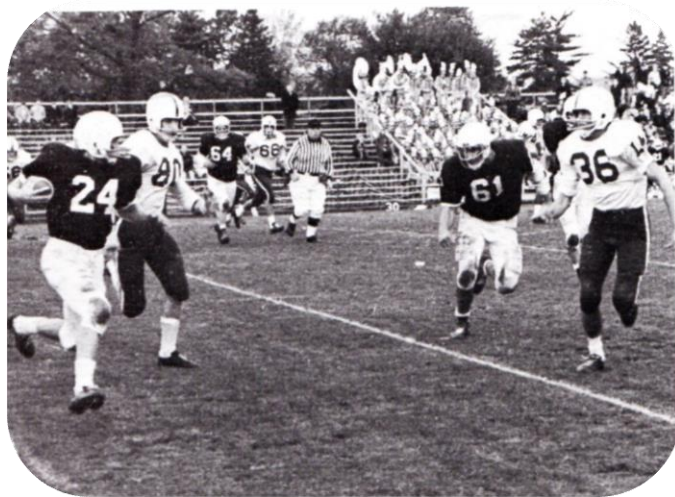
Conestoga vs. Lower Merion

October 26, 1968
No article available
Conestoga 14 – Lower Merion 0

Yearbook pictures from this game
on the following page.



“Butch” Smith has also exploited his speed on defense. Here he is in Conestoga’s conquest of Lower Merion. “Butch” cuts off an enemy score by catching up with LM back #21.



Lower Merion victory 14-0

Above:

#24 is Quarterback Bob “Corky” Foster

#61 is Guard Jeffrey Young

Right: #32 is Warren “Butch” Smith

Yearbook Photos by Craig Bollman, Sr.



Smith Scores 4 TDs

Pioneers Belt Springfield



Daily Local News

November 4, 1968

Speedy Butch Smith turned in probably the finest offensive performance of his career Saturday as he scored four times to lead the Conestoga Pioneers to a 44-27 win over Springfield.

Smith has been a thorn in the West Chester Warriors' side in Thanksgiving Day classics the past couple of years. He took the opening kickoff back 95-yards for a TD, returned another Springfield kickoff 90 yards for a score, tallied on a two-yard dive, and took a 30-yard pass from Corky Foster for his fourth touchdown of the afternoon.

Conestoga, which is now 5-2 overall and 5-1 in Central League play, moved to a 28-14 half-time lead but Springfield cut that margin to 28-27 as the second half began.



Parrish Scores Two

The host Pioneers went back to work in the final quarter. The other half of the Pioneer running duo, fullback Todd Parrish, added two more touchdowns on short dives of one and three yards to make the score 42-28.

The final two points came when Jeff Thorne tackled Springfield's Bill McLaughlin in the end zone.

Conestoga is one game back of league leading Haverford. They host Marple-Newtown at the Berwyn field, Friday night.

Left: Yearbook photo #53 is Todd Parrish scoring TD. Photo by Craig Bollman, Sr.

Conestoga vs. Marple-Newtown

November 8, 1968

No article available

Conestoga 7 – Haverford 7

Turkey Day Warmup

Pioneers Wallop Harriton

Daily Local News
November 19, 1968

To those 50 or 60 Harriton High School football fans who came out Saturday to see their Rams meet the Pioneers from Conestoga, the afternoon was just too long.

From the beginning, the only real question was how badly Conestoga would roll over the Rams at the Harriton High home field in Rosemont. When the dust cleared and those 50 or 60 Ram fans had dwindled to a mere handful, the scoreboard read Conestoga 40, Harriton 0.

Basic Football

Coach Bill Paolantonio's Pioneers did nothing special to gain their romp. Rather, they concentrated on executing letter-perfect blocking, tackling, and running. Sticking with the kind of ball-control football that has always marked Conestoga teams, the Pioneers drove for six touchdowns.

The first quarter score was 13-0; by half-time, it had climbed to 26-0, and the final score was reached early in the fourth quarter.

Smith and Parrish

Butch Smith and Todd Parrish paced the Pioneer attack, Smith scoring 18 points and Parrish 12. Quarterback Corky Foster also contributed to the effort by going over for six points while Frank Marcantonio kicked four of six points to account for the Pioneer total.

Conestoga lost the toss of the coin, but that was the only loss of the day. The Pioneer defense quickly demonstrated its superiority, forcing Harriton to punt after only three plays. Conestoga took over on their own 29-yard line and alternating, Parrish and Smith moved the ball to the Harriton 35 in just four plays.

In a second and three situation, quarterback Foster called for a

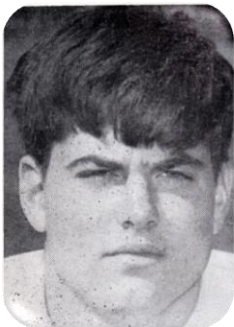
cross-buck with Smith carrying. Breaking a tackle at the line of scrimmage, the big back carried 28 yards for the first Pioneer score.

Parrish and Smith

Following the kick-off, the Rams were again unable to penetrate the Pioneer defense for a first down. They punted, and Conestoga took over on their own 40. In 11 plays, the Pioneers moved 60 yards for another score. Running all the way, the Pioneers attacked inside, off-tackle, and outside in excellent sequence. Again, Foster utilized both his running backs in the drive with Parrish scoring from the two.

Tight Defense

The rout continued with the Pioneers turning in fine performances both offensively and defensively. Strong defense was lead by Scott Dittmore, George Schwartz, Jeff Doherty, Tim Barrett, Lindsay Paine and Parrish



Scott Dittmore



George Schwartz



Tim Barrett



Lindsay Paine



Todd Parrish

No photo available for Jeff Doherty

Warriors Can Deadlock Conestoga Series With Win

Pioneers have won 29, West Chester 28 in Turkey Day Classic

By GEORGE HEASLIP
(Local News Sports Editor)

November 27, 1968

It is all on the line at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning when the West Chester Warriors host the Conestoga Pioneers in the 63rd renewal of the Thanksgiving Day classic.

Most of the followers of the two teams, which have been banging heads every Turkey Day since 1903 (except 1905, 1906 and 1911) will be surprised to learn that, should the Warriors win tomorrow, the ancient series will be in an exact deadlock. But, that is the case. The score right now stands 29 wins for Conestoga, 28 for West Chester and five ties.

1934 Game Confusing

The confusion comes about in regard to the 1934 game. For years, it was reported that Conestoga had won that game, 20-6, but a close examination of the papers of that day show that West Chester actually took a 6-0 decision over Berwyn (now Conestoga). The only touchdown of the day was tallied by Nick Tuckloff, who, stated the *Daily Local News* of the following day, "ran unmolested through the Berwyn secondary defense to the goal line, a jaunt of 25 yards." This fact was corrected in last year's preview article but not in the series graphic.

Pioneers Boast 7-2 Record

The Pioneers, who boast a 7-2 record, have piled up 183 points while allowing 131. However, the two losses handed Bill Paolantonio's club were by the unbeaten Valley Forge Military Academy, 25-7, and unbeaten Haverford, 42-7. After a slow start, which saw them edge Penncrest, 14-12, the Pioneers bombed Upper Darby, 32-12, and edged Radnor, 18-6, before losing twice. Following the Haverford defeat, Conestoga rebounded with a 14-0 win over Lower Merion and a 44-27 decision over Springfield. Marple-Newtown held the Pioneers to a 7-7 tie before Paolantonio's charges blasted Harriton, 40-0 in their final Suburban League contest.

Foster Key Performer

Conestoga's attack is built around two juniors and a pair of seniors. Junior Corky Foster has come fast at quarterback, and he is equally adept at passing and running. He has several coast-to-coast punt returns to his credit thus far and his passing to ends Bob Berke and sophomore Tim Barrett have helped the Pioneers pick up impressive aerial yardage. The other junior back is Richard Carter, a hard runner who is utilized quite often by Paolantonio on his reverses. Carter is also a capable left-handed passer off the option.

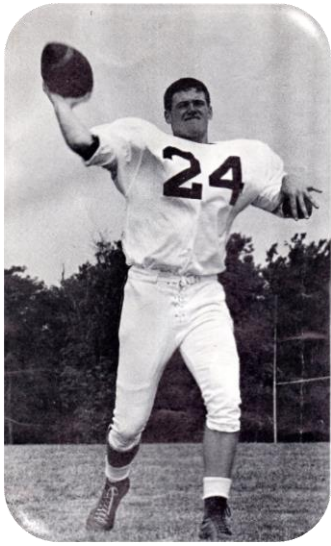
Smith and Parrish, Parrish and Smith

But the bulk of the Pioneer running is handled by a couple of seniors, fleet Butch Smith and pile-driving Todd Parrish. Both have given the West Chester Warriors fits in the past couple of years. Parrish, a 5-9, 190-pound runner chewed up the Warrior defense pretty well in his sophomore year but was held somewhat in check last year. Smith scored one of Conestoga's TDs in last year's 19-13 West Chester win and, in 1966, took the second half kickoff back 98 yards for a touchdown. He also has several long scoring runs to his credit this year.

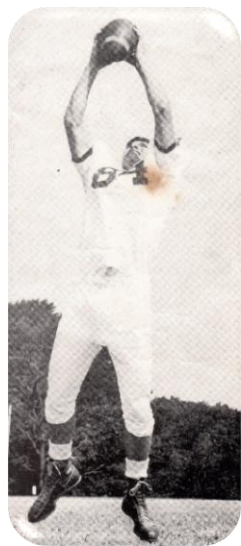
Jeff Young - Pioneer Leader

Up front, the Pioneers are built around guards Captain Jeff Young, 6-0, 186-pounder and Lindsay Paine, 6-0, 175-pounds, and center Bruce Upper, 6-2, 180-pounds. The tackle slots are held down by a pair of 190-pounders, Guy Calloway and Hank Gulbrandsen.

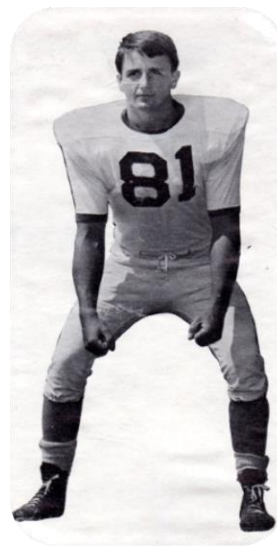
Handling the point-after chores for the Conestoga eleven is junior Frank Marcantonio, who has turned in a creditable job all season.



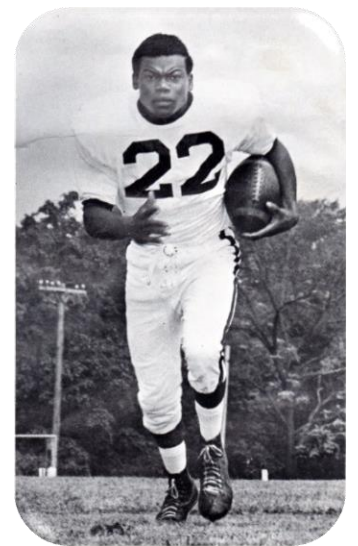
Corky Foster



Bob Berke



Tm Barrett



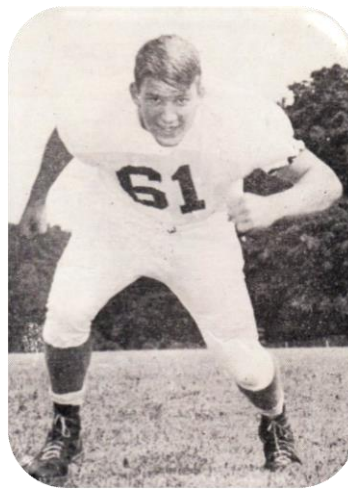
Rich Carter



Todd Parrish



Butch Smith



Jeff Young



Lindsay Paine



Bruce Upper



Guy Calloway



Hank Gulbrandsen



**Frank Marcantonio
Holding is Bob
Sullivan**



Fond Farewell

Kneeling: Hank Gulbrandsen, Jeff Young, George Schwartz, Jeff Christman, Lindsay Paine, John Shea

Standing: Jeff Hyde, Todd Parrish, Bill DiDomenico

Missing from the picture: Butch Smith, Jeff Doherty, Steve Braun

Pioneers Rip Warriors, 27-7

Foster scores one touchdown, passes for two

By **GEORGE HEASLIP**
(Local News Sports Editor)

November 29, 1968

Corky Foster did everything yesterday, except stuff the turkey, as he lead the Conestoga Pioneers to a convincing 27-7 Thanksgiving Day win over the West Chester Warriors in the 63rd renewal of the ancient rivalry. The 5-9, 165-pound quarterback ran for one touchdown, passed for two others and set up the fourth score with a pass interception as the Pioneers opened a 30-28-5 gap in the Turkey Day series

After the first quarter that was all West Chester, the visiting Conestoga eleven took the ball on their own one-foot line and went all the way in seven plays to score their first touchdown with Foster romping the final 44-yards on a fourth down and two fake punt.

Warriors Stopped

After dominating the opening period, the Warriors were stopped completely in the second and third periods. Probably the turning point of the ball game came on the final play of the opening quarter. Midway through the period, West Chester took the ball on their own 22 and marched to the Conestoga one. With fourth and a foot, the Warriors tried to wedge Jim Reeve in for the score but the officials ruled that the Pioneer front wall had held.

Foster Goes to Work

After stopping the West Chester offense, Foster went to work with a big assist from Butch Smith. The Pioneer quarterback rolled out to the five and then handed off to Smith who turned the corner and raced 43 yards to near midfield. The speedy halfback who picked up a total of 90 yards on 18 carries, nearly broke it for the distance.

Foster rolled again to the West Chester 48, but a procedure penalty set the Pioneers back to their own 42. Here veteran Conestoga coach, Bill Paolantonio, sent in a razzle-dazzle play that clicked for 14 yards. Foster handed off to Rich Carter who dropped back and threw a completion to Foster at the West Chester 44. Here the Pioneers had a fourth down and two, and the ever-present Foster dropped back into punt formation. Instead of kicking, he took off down the right sidelines for 44 yards and the score. Seven and a half minutes later Conestoga got on the scoreboard again when Foster hit sophomore end Tom Bucci with a 21-yard aerial, again on a fourth and long yardage situation.

Foster Again

West Chester failed to move the ball after the halftime intermission, and the Pioneers rolled 47 yards in 15 plays with Foster hitting Bob Berke in the end zone with a 12-yard toss. Again the score came on a fourth down play.

Foster had a couple of more tricks up his sleeve however, and he used them to up the Conestoga margin to 27-0. Forced into a passing game, West Chester, although pinned deep in their own territory, threw in a first down situation. Foster picked off the aerial and brought the ball back to the Warrior six.

A Pioneer clip put the ball all the way back to the 46-yard stripe, but it took Foster just six plays to move into the end zone with the key play a 33-yard pass to another sophomore end, Tim Barrett. Todd Parish, who was otherwise completely contained by the West Chester line all morning, dove the final yard for the score.

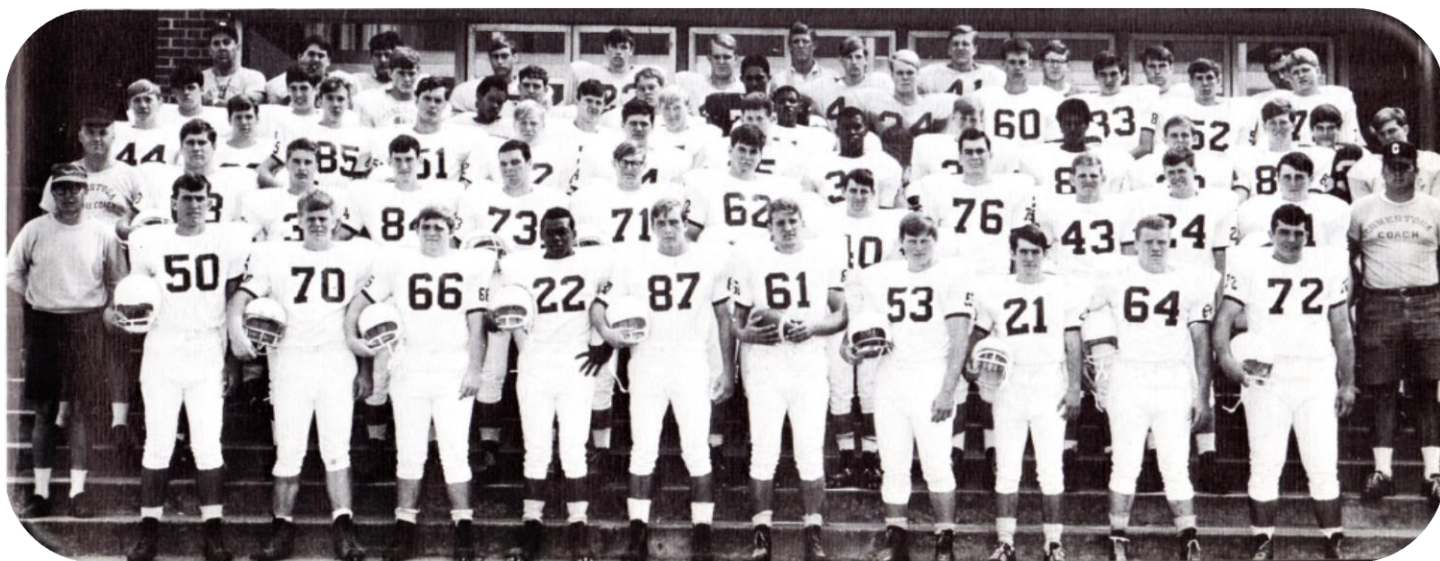
Conestoga wound up 7-2-1 and second in the Central League. The Pioneers only losses came at the hands of powerful Valley Forge MA and Haverford. Foster will be back next year as will Bucci and Barrett and Carter.



Not This Time

Todd Parrish #53 helps stack up West Chester's Jim Reeve.

1968 Conestoga Pioneer Football Team



Front row: Coach Ujobai, Bruce Upper, George Schwartz, Hank Gulbrandsen, Rich Carter, Lindsay Paine, Jeff Young (Captain), Todd Parrish, Jeff Thorne, Guy Calloway, Jim Pettia

Second row: Coach Golden, Jim Doherty, Rich Stratton, Bob Berke, Michael Byrnes, John Shea, Scott Dittimore, Bill DiDomenico, Jeff Christman, Jeff Hyde, Bob Foster, Tim Barrett, Coach Keyser

Third row: John Bulman, Carl Huling, Charlie Hable, Dave Wells, Mike Salvadore, Jim Spinelli, Chris Clair, Pinder, Earle Smith, Don Lee, Bob Chandler, Duff Emerson, Steve Witmer, Geoff Loman

Fourth row: Dave Fillippo, Frank Marcantonio, Mike Hughes, Walt Stroman, Pete Melchiorre, Bob Sullivan, Mark Pace, Mike Parrish, Jon Butcher, Rich Carter, Randy Rudderow, Charles Worden, Tom Bucci, George Pennypacker, Pete Ingersoll

Fifth Row: Coach Paolantonio, Vinnie DiMartini, Richard Navarro, Barry Baylson, Ellis, Jim Forrester, Steve Barwn, Tom Hess, Rusty Piersons, Steve Daily, Tim Daily, Scott Henkels

Not pictured: Butch Smith



Big Gun

Conestoga's Corky Foster picks up some vital yardage on this third quarter run in yesterday's 27-7 Pioneer win over West Chester. The brilliant junior quarterback turned in a standout performance, running 44 yards for one TD, passing for two others and intercepting a pass to set up a fourth touchdown. Foster picked up 85 yards rushing and threw nine passes for six completions and 90 more yards in the Turkey Day battle.

1968 Team Roster

Number	Name	Position	Class	Number	Name	Position	Class
20	Bob Chandler	Back	11	62	Scott Dittimore	Tackle	11
21	Jeff Thorne	Back	11	63	Jeff Doherty	Tackle	12
22	Rich Carter	Back	11	64	Guy Calloway	Tackle	11
23	Carl Huling	Guard	11	65	Mike Parrish	Guard	10
24	Robert Foster	Back	11	66	Henry Gulbrandsen	Tackle	12
25	Chris Clair	Back	11	70	George Schwartz	Tackle	12
30	Bob Sullivan	Back	10	71	John Shea	Tackle	12
31	Rick Stratoon	Back	11	72	Jim Forrester	Center	10
32	Warren Smith	Back	12	73	Randy Rudderow	Tackle	10
33	Mark Pace	Center	10	74	Jim Spinelli	Tackle	11
34	Earle Smith	Back	10	75	Dave Fillippo	Tackle	11
40	Bill DiDomenico	Back	12	76	Jeff Christmas	Tackle	12
41	Mike Hughes	Back	10	77	Pete Ingersoll	Tackle	10
42	Mike Salvadore	Back	11	80	Duff Emerson	End	11
43	Jeff Hyde	Back	12	81	Tim Barrett	End	10
44	Tom Hess	Guard	11	82	Don Lee	End	10
50	Bruce Upper	Center	11	83	Tom Bucci	End	10
51	Dave Wells	Tackle	11	84	Bob Berke	End	11
52	Don Collins	End	10	85	Steve Braun	End	12
53	Todd Parrish	Back	12	86	Frank Marcantonio	End	11
60	Rick Bent	Tackle	10	87	Lindsay Paine	Guard	12
61	Jeff Young	Guard	12				