

The 1960 Conestoga Pioneers

The 1960 Conestoga Pioneers were coached by Bill Paolantonio, Joe Ujobai and Joe Kane. They won nine games and tied one to gain undisputed possession of the Ches-Mont Trophy – their first undefeated season since 1934!

Individual honors were plentiful. Four players were named to the All Ches-Mont First Team – the most for any league school and the *Main Line Times*' All Star First Team. They were Tackle Pete Meoli, Guard Bob Menapace, Halfback Dan Cogan and Halfback Dave Thornton. Quarterback Lloyd "Smokey" Stover received Honorable Mention on the *Times*' All Star Team.

Dan was selected as the MVP of the Ches-Mont League. In addition, he was named on the *Blue Shield-Blue Cross* All Scholastic Team and *The (Philadelphia) Bulletin's* All-Scholastic Second Team, and he received Honorable Mention on the All-State Team. Following his standout performance in the Phoenixville game on October 21, he received the *Maxwell Football Award* at a special luncheon in Philadelphia. The *Maxwell Award*, is given throughout the season to both college and high school players who exhibit outstanding ability.



Dan Cogan



Bob Menapace



Pete Meoli



Dave Thornton

Conestoga Romps

Pioneers Overpower Hapless Foe, 45-0

By BILL HAUCK
Local News Staff

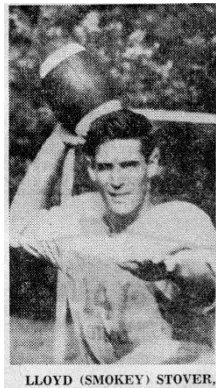
The Conestoga High School Pioneers went on a scoring spree in its opening game last night before an overflow crowd of 5,000 on Teamer Field at Berwyn rolling over the hapless Rams of Harriton High, 45-0.

The touchdown parade was led by veterans David Thornton and Dan Cogan with two TDs apiece. However, the feature run of the evening came when Lloyd "Smokey" Stover went 70 yards on a punt return for a *standing-up* TD after threading his way through the entire Harriton Team.

Stover All The Way

Conestoga kicked off. Harriton held the ball for only three plays

and then kicked the ball back to the Pioneers. Stover was standing on the Pioneer 30-yard stripe when he got the ball, faked to Thornton and cut back up center. For a moment it looked as if he would be tackled, but Stover wiggled and stepped out



LLOYD (SMOKEY) STOVER.

right and into the end zone for a touchdown.

to his left. He found an opening along the sidelines, by-passed two tacklers on about Harriton's 30. With one man trailing him, he went on a sharp diagonal to his

Stover's dash for his TD came right on the heels of the first score of the evening by Thornton. As the lead grew, Coach Paolantonio cleared his bench. Practically a whole new team took over with Dave Pollock as quarterback.

In addition to Thornton's eight-yard touchdown run and Stover's 70-yard punt return, Thornton scored the third TD on 20-yard run around right end. Cogan scored the fourth on a 13-yard run through center; Ron Holliday scored the fifth on an eight-yard run through center; Cogan scored again with a one-yard run through center. The final touchdown was scored when Pollock intercepted the ball and ran 30 yards for the score. Ron Holliday added three PATs.

Game - September 16, 1960

Conestoga Clips Bears On Cogan's Four Scores

Dan Cogan and Lloyd "Smokey" Stover combined for four touchdowns, and a rugged defensive line did the rest as Conestoga overpowered Boyertown, 26-7, last night at Boyertown in the opening Ches-Mont League game for both schools.



Dan Cogan

Cogan, perhaps the best runner in the Ches-Mont, scored all four Conestoga touchdowns, two of them on long passes from Stover. The Pioneers, decidedly outweighed forward wall, pinned Boyertown in its own territory until late in the game. Boyertown did not cross the midfield stripe until late in the fourth quarter after Conestoga Coach Bill Paolantonio cleared his bench.

Conestoga established itself as the team to beat this year in the opening minutes of the game. The Pioneers took the kickoff, and on the third play from scrimmage, Cogan sprinted 60 yards off tackle for the first touchdown. The senior halfback had to outmaneuver four men in the Boyertown secondary to go all the way.

Exchange of Punts

Ron Holliday was instrumental in Conestoga's next touchdown. He got the best of the Bears' Tim Shott on an exchange of punts. Then Dave Thornton, the other half of the Pioneer running punch, softened up the Boyertown line to set up Cogan's second touchdown.

Conestoga, taking advantage of every break, continued its onslaught in the second quarter. Boyertown's punt returner fumbled a Holliday punt on his own 10, and Doug White recovered for Conestoga. Stover caught the Bears napping as he lofted a long pass down the middle to Cogan – all alone in the Boyertown end zone for the third six-pointer. Dave Weld's kick was perfect to make the score 19-0. The ever alert guard White pounced on another Boyertown fumble to set up the final score.

Line Sensational

Conestoga's line's play almost overshadowed Cogan's spectacular performance. Time and again, Pete Meoli and Bob Menapace, certain All C-M candidates led a fierce charge that completely stifled Boyertown's passing and running game.



Pete Meoli



Bob Menapace



Bob Rubbo

Although Bob Rubbo never carried the ball, the senior fullback's sharp blocking played a big role in several long runs. Rubbo established himself as the unsung hero of the backfield.

Game – September 23, 1960

Conestoga Continues Mastery

Thornton, Stover Pace Pioneers' 25-6 Romp

By BYRON FIELDING
Local News Sports Editor
October 1, 1960

Opportunity knocked four times last night for Conestoga High School. Lloyd "Smokey" Stover and a resurgent Dave Thornton were on hand to heed the call as the Pioneers smashed Coatesville, 25-6, in a game that could very well have decided the Ches-Mont League championship before the football season approaches the halfway mark.



Dave Thornton

Thornton rambled through seas of red jerseys for three touchdowns from 3, 35, and 49 yards out. But it was Stover's 101-yard run-back of an intercepted pass with eight seconds remaining in the first half that broke Coatesville's back. This was Conestoga's third win of the season and ninth in 11 years over Coatesville.

Stover intercepted a wobbly aerial about a yard behind his own goal line and raced the entire length of the field behind a wall of ferocious downfield blocking.

Ron Holliday put the Pioneers in position for their first score with a 55-yard punt that rolled back to the Coatesville 8-yard line. Coatesville was unable to make a first-down, and they punted.

From the 48, Dan Cogan and Thornton took turns moving the ball for first downs. Thornton carried the ball over for the score.

The Raiders had a fighting chance after they took the second half kickoff and cut the Conestoga margin to seven points. However, Conestoga bounced right back with Bob Rubbo returning the kickoff from his own 25 to midfield. Stover put on a clever exhibition of ball handling alternating between Cogan and Thornton. It looked as if the Pioneers were going to be content to run out the clock. Stover elected to call on Thornton for a first down try, and Thornton proved to be the choice of the evening. The flashy fullback cut in over his own right tackle, shook free in the secondary, and powered his way through the entire defensive backfield to rack up his third TD.



Bob Estill

The real heroes on any Paolantonio Club must be the linemen. Bob Estill, an unheralded senior tackle, would have to be voted the Defensive Star of the Game. Estill who plays primarily on defense, made 17 tackles – 13 of his take-downs were unassisted. His play in the second half closed

up the left side of the Conestoga line.

Game – September 30, 1960

Pioneers Blast Roberts, 39-6

By BILL HAUCK

Local News Staff

Conestoga swamped Owen J. Roberts High School 39-6 on Saturday afternoon on the Wildcats' field, as the Pioneers romped merrily on their way in quest of another Ches-Mont title.

With Dave Thornton and Danny Cogan in the driver's seat, the powerful Conestoga wagon rolled to five touchdowns before the two stars stepped out to let the subs take over.

Coach Bill Paolantonio started to replace his first team with



Steve Welpott

substitutions before the end of the first half, but he couldn't put the brakes on his well-oiled machine until the end of the third quarter after Steve Welpott plunged over for the final Conestoga score.

When the second half opened, the score stood at 25-0, with two touchdowns for Cogan and two for Thornton. OJR kicked off to Conestoga. Bob Rubbo took the

ball on the Pioneers' 28 and carried to the 47. On the first play, Thornton circled right end and dashed 53 yards for another tally.

Ronny Holliday, Conestoga's junior kicker, not only displayed fine talent with his foot through the game, but he had the fans on their feet with a bristling 87-yard run that was called back for clipping penalty. Dave Weld scored three extra points.

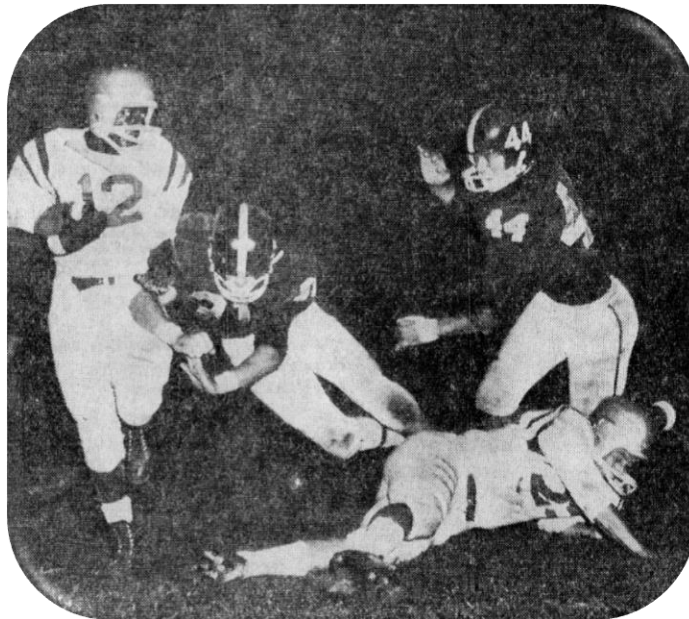
Game - October 8, 1960

Photo Gallery



CONESTOGA'S DAN COGAN outlegs a pursuing Coatesville Raider (44) for a 15-yard carry in the Pioneers' drive for a second quarter touchdown.

Conestoga 25 / Coatesville 6.
D.L.N. Photo October 1, 1960



OUTTA' MY WAY - Conestoga's Dave Thornton (12) brushed aside Conshohocken's #31. Don Schubert puts a block on Conshy's #44 to spring Thornton loose on a 63-yard touchdown run.

Conestoga 53 / Conshohocken 6
D.L.N. Photo October 15, 1960

Conestoga Swamps Conshy After Scare

By BYRON FIELDING
Local News Sports Editor

Stung by an early touchdown, Conestoga's unbeaten Pioneers unleashed a furious attack to roll over Conshohocken, 53-6, last night at Teamer Field.

Conestoga found itself on the wrong side of the score for the first time in five games this season when Conshy picked off a pass on their 40-yardline and raced down the sidelines for the game's first touchdown in the third minute of play.

Conshy's lead was short lived. The Pioneers came right back with their touchdown twins, Dave Thornton and Dan Cogan to march 65 yards in seven play with Cogan crashing over from the four yard line to tie the score. Dave Weld's first of five extra point conversions put Conestoga ahead to stay.

In the first half, Thornton and Cogan accounted for most of the Pioneers' 301 yards rushing, and the 'Poison Ivy' pair accounted for four touchdowns. They have scored 16 touchdowns between them in four Ches-Mont League games.

Coach Bill Paolantonio kept his starters in for one more touchdown in the early minutes of the second half. Another clipping penalty set up a passing situation on the Conestoga 31. It was third down and eight to go when Stover faded back behind good protection. The Pioneer strategist hit wingback Gus Rubbo about the middle of the field on the Conshy 45, and Rubbo legged it all the way for a sensational 69-yard scoring play.

Every Day a Holliday

Junior halfback Ron Holliday gathered in another Conshy punt on the Conestoga 33 near the left sideline. He reversed his field and picked up a wall of blockers down the right sideline to go all the way for a 67-yard touchdown.

Conestoga's line stopped Conshy following the kickoff, and on a second down play, Holliday hurdled over right guard and streaked to the outside to go in standing up for his second touchdown. The score was 46-6.

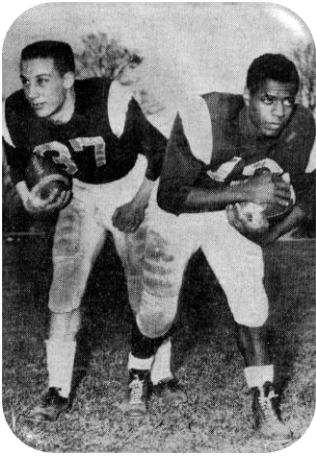
Then with Steve Welpott and Jim Frazier taking turns directing the team, Conestoga started a march from its own 33. Sophomore Walt Holland alternated with Alton Murden and Tom Metz to move the ball to Conshy's one-foot line in 15 plays. Holland plowed over to complete the evening's scoring. Game - October 14, 1960



Ron Holliday

Thornton and Cogan Pace C-M Scoring with 48 Points Apiece

Daily Local News
October 21, 1960



Dan Cogan & Dave Thornton
Conestoga's Touchdown Twins

With the half-way point in Ches-Mont action coming up this evening, Dave Thornton and Dan Cogan, Conestoga's touchdown twins, are in a dead heat for League scoring honors. Both have crossed the oppositions' goal lines eight times apiece for individual point totals of 48.

Dan Cogan was the first to register a big total in C-M scoring. He did it in the opening League contest by scoring all four touchdowns against Boyertown. Dave Thornton, his running mate, didn't tally in the game. But when he did break loose, he left a welter of Raiders in his wake.

The flashy back crossed the Coatesville goal line three times, dimming Raider hopes for a League championship in the process. Since that evening of September 30, Thornton has been moving right along, and unless something highly unusual takes place, he should be a top contender by the time the season ends.

Cogan, who didn't score a point in the Coatesville game, picked up two TDs as the Pioneers routed Owen J. Roberts by a 39-6 score. In this game, Thornton caught up with him as he tallied three times.

Conestoga's Power Overwhelms Phoenixville Spirit, 24 to 14

Hosts Find PHS A Tough Customer as 7,000 Fans Watch

By **JACK JEFFERS**
The Daily Republican
October 22, 1960

The powerful Pioneers of Conestoga downed a stubborn, fighting eleven of Phoenixville High School by the score of 24-14, last night at Teamer Field before 7,000 screaming, frenzied fans. On the running of Dave Thornton and Danny Cogan, the Pioneers were able to push two touchdowns across the goal line in the last period and emerge still undefeated.

Thornton carried for one touchdown in the first period on a one-yard plunge, and Cogan chalked up six points in the third, but the Phantoms had the lead 14-12 as both PATs failed. Then Cogan carried across from one-yard out and later from four yards out, and the Pioneers had the game, 24-14.



Dan Cogan



Dave Thornton



"Smokey" Stover



Bob Menapace



Pete Meoli



John Beatty

Cogan Scores Three TDs As Conestoga Comes From Behind To Trip Phantoms In Thrilling Test Before 7,000 Fans

The Coatesville Record
October 22, 1960

Left halfback Dan Cogan ran wild in the second half of the Conestoga-Phoenixville game to lead the Pioneers to a 24-14 come-from-behind victory at Teamer Field in Berwyn last evening.

His tallies, added to the six pointer registered by fullback Dave Thornton in the first stanza, added up to a sweet revenge victory for the Pioneers who were upended 25-6 by the Phantoms last season. It was the first defeat of the season for Phoenixville who had tied one and won three in League competition.

The Phantoms drew first blood in the contest, both of their scores coming in the first quarter. At the end of the first, the score was 14-6.

Then Dan Cogan put on a brilliant display of running for the second Pioneer TD. Taking a handoff from Lloyd "Smokey" Stover, he went into the right side of his line, paused for a split second, then ripped through the secondary shaking off tacklers right and left to go into the end zone standing up.

With the lead tally beckoning, Dave Thornton came to the right side of his line, found an opening and slid through for six yards.

Cogan attempted to go through the same hole but found it had been plugged. On the next play, he got a terrific blocking effort from Bob Menapace and Pete Meoli, and he went in for the score.

A fumble, recovered by Pioneer John Beatty, on the Phoenixville 25 set up the final Conestoga touchdown. In the final minute of the game, Cogan took a handoff from Stover, and he went off right tackle with a tremendous burst of power, carrying two Phoenixville defenders into the end zone with him.



HOLD ON DAN – Conestoga's Dan Cogan is about to have the ball knocked out of his hands following his second quarter kick-off return. D.L.N. Photo
Conestoga 24/ Phoenixville 14
October 21, 1960



BOB ESTILL (43) CRASHES through the Phoenixville line to partially block a punt in the fourth quarter. The punter was deep in his end zone when a whole host of Conestoga linemen led by Estill and Don Schubert (25) broke through. The punt sailed out to the PX nine-yard line, and Cogan scored three plays later to put the Pioneers ahead. D.L.N. Photo

Pioneers Score 34-6 in Ches-Mont Triumph

By BYRON FIELDING
Local News Sports Editor

Conestoga unleashed its furious running attack early in the game and backed it up with a super charged defense to roll over upset-minded Downingtown 34-6, Saturday afternoon before a standing room only crowd at Downingtown.

The Pioneers, battling back from a 6-6 tie a week ago, scored on the second play of the game and ran up a 21-0 lead at the half to all but sew up the Ches-Mont League championship. Dave Thornton dashed 60 yards with less than a minute gone in the game to give the fans a preview of what was to come. Conestoga scored at least once in every period after Thornton's run with a display of raw power and overwhelming line superiority.

Thornton tallied the first Pioneer touchdown on a play that has become a classic with the Main Liners. Thornton took a delayed hand off from Lloyd "Smokey" Stove breaking over right tackle. The Pioneer blockers executed a perfect mouse trap on the Downingtown left tackle, and Gus Rubbo took care of the linebacker as Thornton broke out to the sideline. The Pioneer flash turned on a burst of speed as he crossed midfield and simply outran the rest of the Downingtown defenders to score unmolested.

Holliday Sets It Up

Ron Holliday set up Conestoga's next touchdown on a drive near the end of the first quarter that hit pay dirt in the second period. Conestoga was faced with a



CONESTOGA'S RON HOLLIDAY breaks away from a Downingtown tackler. Holliday gained 42 yards on this swing pass play. DLN Photo

fourth down kicking situation from its own 43. Holliday, back to kick, was rushed hard. Realizing he would never get the kick away, he elected to run with the ball. The speedy junior halfback shook off two Whippets as he turned to the right side and scampered 22 yards for a first down.

Thornton and Dan Cogan moved the ball into touchdown territory.

Thornton twisted over from the two-yard line.

In the next series, Conestoga linebacker Harlan Fisher came out of nowhere to intercept a flat-pass near the Downingtown 45. All by himself, he scampered the distance for the put-the-game-far-out-of-reach score. Cogan, who had been held to 22 yards rushing in the first half, started the Pioneers rolling from their own 36. Cogan, a workhorse of a 64-yard drive, slammed over from the two-yard line for another score.

The big play in the final Conestoga drive was a swing pass from Stover to Holliday. Holliday pranced and danced through the entire Downingtown defense to the 16. Four plays later, he was rewarded for his efforts with a touchdown run from the Whippet three-yard line.

Pioneers Conquer S-F As Cogan Runs Wild

By BYRON FIELDING
Local News Sports Editor

Conestoga trailed 20-19 at the end of three quarters in a seesaw thriller that could have gone either way before Dan Cogan took charge. The *Maxwell Award* winning halfback climaxed Conestoga's 65-yard go ahead drive early in the fourth quarter on a 21-yard, second effort run through the entire left side of the leaky Spring-Ford defense.

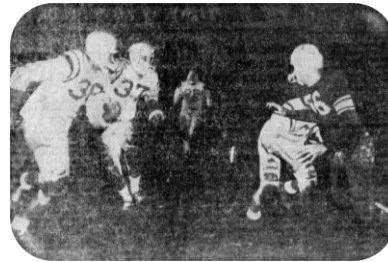
But Conestoga wasn't out of the woods until midway in the period. With a third and one situation his own 22, Conestoga quarterback Lloyd "Smokey" Stover elected to gamble on a wide pitchout to Cogan. Cogan, behind crisp downfield blocking, broke through the right side of the line and sped 78 yards down the sidelines for the Pioneers' fifth touchdown. Ron Holliday converted successfully to give the Pioneers a little breathing space.

Defense Out the Window

Conestoga's rugged defense had yielded only seven touchdowns in eight previous games but last night, Spring-Ford threw almost everything in the book at the Pioneers who needed a victory to sew up their first undisputed Ches-Mont League crown since 1955.

Both teams scored the first time they got their hands on the football. Dave Thornton ran the opening kickoff back from his own five to the 46-yard line. The Pioneers scored eight plays later with Thornton crashing over left tackle from the one.

Conestoga needed a break to score its second touchdown. The Pioneers faced a punting situation from their own 42 shortly after the second quarter began. Holliday got the punt away, but he was piled into by two burly linemen after the ball left his foot. Spring-Ford was called for roughing the kicker, and



Ed Osman (56) tries to hem in Conestoga star Dan Cogan (37) as the Pioneer ace picks up 20 yards. Pete Meoli (left) and Bob Menapace move in. D.L.N. Photo

Conestoga had a first down on the Spring-Ford 43. It took nine plays this time for the Pioneers to hit pay dirt. Finally Cogan slanted over for his first touchdown from the four.

In the second half, Conestoga took to the air

when it got the ball. Stover's second toss resulted in a pass interference call that gave Conestoga a first down on the S-F 43. Cogan carried it to the 40. Thornton took a deep pitchout going to his right after Stover had faked beautifully to Cogan going into the line. Thornton's great speed carried him unmolested to the S-F goal line for his second touchdown.

Cogan gained the unbelievable total of 190 yards rushing in the 15 carries for an average of 12.7 yards per carry. Thornton was *almost* as good with 163 yards in 19 carries.

Unbeaten Conestoga Crushes Warriors, 40-7

Winning Total Sets New High In Old Series

By "Butch" McDevitt
Local News Staff

Two seniors bowed out in glory and a junior gave notice of greatness ahead as Conestoga High, completing an undefeated season, coasted to a 40-7 victory over West Chester High in their 55th annual Thanksgiving Day game.

Although the prospects of a close scrap were far from bright some 3,000 fans turned out to watch the traditional rivals battle in Farrell Stadium on the West Chester State College campus.

West Chester could not check Conestoga's terrible twosome and brilliant No. 3 man, Ron Holliday, as each picked up two touchdowns in spectacular action of the winning attack. The resulting 40 point total was the highest attained by either the Main Liners or the Warriors in the series dating back to 1903.

Already assured of the championship, Conestoga had only the glory of victory and the thrill of giving Paolantonio another unbeaten team to spur them on yesterday.

Early Touchdowns

There was no waiting for Conestoga fans as they appealed to their team to win. Less than two minutes after West Chester kicked-off, the Garnet and Gray had scored. The score was a two-man – Cogan and Thornton – effort. Cogan finished things off with a sweep around his own left end. A wall of blockers allowed him to race unchecked into the end zone. Cogan scored the second TD as he smashed through the line from the five-yard line. The two touchdowns gave burly, hard-running Cogan 103 points for the Ches-Mont season, a new individual scoring record.

Dave Takes Over

A third TD came before the first period ended. This one was contributed by Thornton on a 47-yard romp which started as an off-tackle thrust and saw the tall Main Liner break into the clear. A terrific block by right end John Beatty put Dave in the clear.

West Chester got a drive moving, but it was checked by an interception. Then Thornton on a

wide sweep to the right rambled 74 yards to his second touchdown.

Holliday Arrives

With the score at 27-0, Coach Paolantonio called off both Cogan and Thornton, and just a few minutes later Holliday, a fancy-stepping halfback took over the hero role for the Main Liners. On an end sweep similar to the one which Thornton scored, Holliday raced 62 yards into the end zone, only to have the play recalled by a penalty. Two plays later, Ron broke loose again and went 31 yards for the touchdown.

The talented Junior scored again soon after the opening of the second half. He started the 51-yard scoring drive with a 36-yard run. Dave Pollock and Steve Welpott pushed it down to the 12. The Warriors held for two downs. A jump pass put the ball on the one, and Holliday smashed over for the score. Holliday produced the most points for Conestoga in the classic. Along with his two TDs, he converted on four of six PATs.

Conestoga High School, Berwyn Champions – Ches-Mont League



First row, l. to r., D. White, L. Stover, F. Kegel, D. Thornton, P. Meoli, H. Fisher, D. Cogan, R. Rubbo, S. Welpott, R. Menapace, D. Kopp, R. Estill, K. Goshorn (Mgr.). Second row, W. Holland, J. Gross, C. Schindler, R. Mannal, C. Burton, R. Stover, R. Holiday, D. Pollock, D. Weld, D. Ammerman, J. Beatty, B. Buckley, T. Malick (Mgr.). Third row, R. Walters, W. Weaver, G. Orr, E. Wright, W. Lutz, B. Irvin, D. Hagy, D. Schubert, T. DuFresne. Fourth row, T. Bodman, C. Moll, E. Toner, B. Pierce, J. Hodgson, D. Mahoney, T. Metz, A. Murden, J. Frazier, R. Beatty, G. Scoby. Fifth row, P. Brown, N. Childs, W. Fedora, P. DiMarino, R. Hodgson, E. McBride, J. Goodchild. Sixth row, R. Farrington (Mgr.), J. Scott, J. Whitelock, R. Wright, L. Wilson, Joe Ujobai (Asst. Coach), Bill Paolantonio (Head Coach), Joseph Kane (Asst. Coach), B. Edwards, E. Carpoletti, R. Zansitis, V. Scamell, P. Dodson, G. Brown, B. Moody (Mgr.).

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