

Ujobai Debut a Winning One

By JOHN ADDYMAN
(DLN Sports Correspondent)
September 17, 1973

On the lawn outside Conestoga high school Saturday night, they sat. The grass wet, the night air cool. They were quiet. So very quiet.

In the front of them, on the street, passed the victory parade, horns honking, teenagers leaning out windows to shout out the victory.

With just a little over three minutes left in the game. Great Valley had the ball and a three-point lead thanks to a 125-pound soccer emigrant from Peru, Dave Schwartz.

His score held until the last three minutes, when Conestoga quarterback Len Clewett brought the Pioneers to the ten-yard line. Great Valley had been pressing its ball control game once more, but a backfield fumble had been jumped on by Jim Carter and the Pioneers had one last chance to overcome the 3-0 deficit.

Clewett passed to sophomore Frank Alleva for 30 yards and then Great Valley was caught offside on the next play on the Patriot 15. It was symbolically the Patriots' 13th penalty, and the 90th yards stepped off against them. It put the ball on the ten.

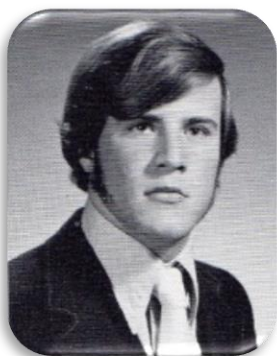
With 2:03 remaining in the game, Clewett jumped out of the pocket and rolled slightly to his right, looking for receiver Rookie head football coach at Conestoga Joe Ujobai tells the rest:

"We sent Alleva (back) and Mike Krasnowiecki (end) across the grain to the left, because that's where we thought the opening would be. Dan Driscoll went straight ahead, and there he was." There he was indeed. Standing up, his shirt dragging, his arms waving in the air, jumping up and down. The defender was circling in behind him, but would arrive a second after the ball did, and after the game was over.

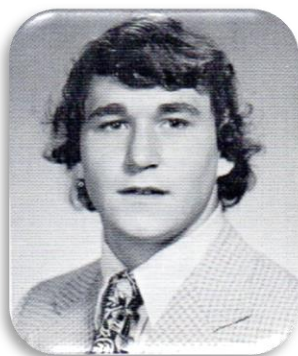
"I'll admit, I was worried," Ujobai said after the game, "but our defense was terrific. Our linebackers, Dave Vegso and John Ames were outstanding."

Ujobai settle some of the questions about the "new" Conestoga offense by installing Rick Groves and sophomore Mike Alston into the lineup as the running backs. The program had no fewer than nine possible combinations for the backfield. He also had special words for sophomore tackle Colin McCarthy, and senior guard George Hahn.

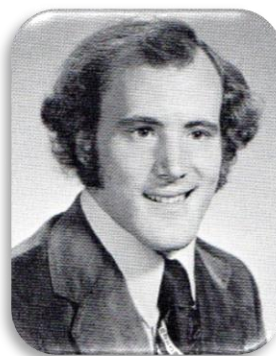
1973 Seniors



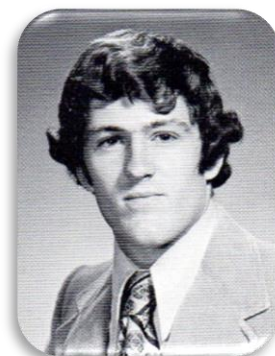
John Ames
6-0, 190 Linebacker



Jerry Bulman
6-1, 197 Linebacker



Ed Carroll
5-10, 175, Defensive Guard



Jim Carter
6-0, 180 Defensive End

Field goal makes difference

Conestoga out-kicked 10-7

By JOHN ADDYMAN
(DLN Sports Correspondent)
September 24, 1973

Last week a field goal separated Conestoga from victory in the last minutes of the game but they were able to overcome it. That same three points provided the margin again Saturday morning but, this time, some last-ditch heroics by the Pioneers fell short.

Conestoga dropped its first game of the season and its first Central League contest to Springfield 10-7 in a defensive squeaker that saw the team that made the most mistakes lose.

Defensively, the Pioneers are still a team nobody runs over. Once more Conestoga runners could not get untracked, managing only 74 yards for a game total and this after 30 carries.

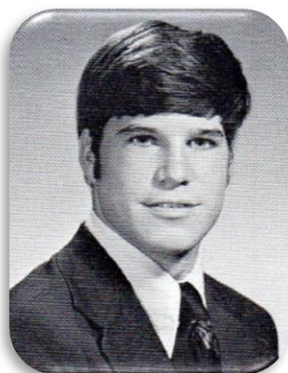
Besides defense behind linebackers John Ames, tackle Dave Vegso, guards George Hahn and Steve Lobb, passing and pass defense seems to be the only game in town. "Our secondary is very experienced," Ujobai said, and quarterback Len Clewett still has no trouble finding right end Dan Driscoll when he

wants to.

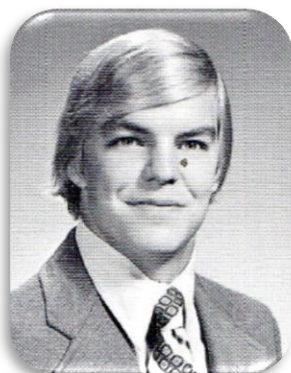
The Pioneers came back after an exchange of downs to score on a pass from Clewett to Driscoll. Conestoga got its chance early in the third quarter, when Reggie Williams intercepted a Mack-rides pass and took it 50 yards to the Springfield 10, but the Pioneers had been caught clipping. Clewett was able to drive his club from the 38 to the Springfield 19, but their drive stalled on four successive running plays.

The Conestoga defense was forced to hold the Cougars back in a goal-line stand and got its last chance to turn the game around. Clewett moved his troops out to their own 35-yard line, then threw a pass to Driscoll at the 48 for another first down. It was called back because of another clip and the Pioneers got stuck again.

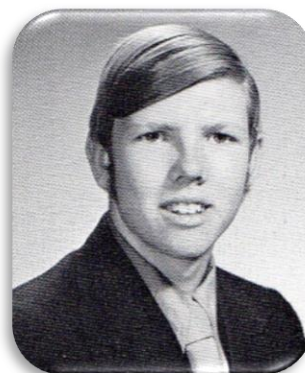
The Pioneers did get the ball once more with 54 seconds remaining and managed to take it to the 35-yard line, but on the next play they made their last mistake of the day, as an underthrown ball was picked off.



Dan Driscoll
6-2, 205 Offensive End



George Hahn
6-1, 180 Defensive Guard



Barry Heidler
5-10, 150 Kicker

Picture not available

Jeff Jackson
6-2, 180 Defensive End

Conestoga Runs to Daylight In 10-0 Win over Penncrest

Daily Local News
October 1, 1973

Last week's version of the Conestoga Pioneers was a passing team, because they couldn't get anything generated on the ground.

This early in the season you sort of expect changes, but not an entire shift in philosophy from one attack to another. Conestoga was worried about ball-handling, and about the way the backs weren't getting any significant yardage.

So, this week coach Joe Ujobai brought in two basketball players to man his backfield, Ted Holland and Dan Driscoll. Both of them are also good football players. Driscoll the glue-fingered right end and Holland the speedy defensive back. The turnaround did something magical, as the Pioneers munched the Penncrest Lions 10-0, in a bruising rushing barrage that was so one-sided, the game was a sleeper after five minutes.

Holland, a 5-10 junior, did the most damage with 110 yards piled up against the Lions in 17 carries as he was able to outrun the linebackers and cornerbacks on most plays, and was reaching the Penncrest secondary early in the game. He's the first Conestoga player this season to gain 100 yards in one game, or 100 yards period.

Driscoll, bigger and more like a fullback at 6'2 and 205 pounds, was carrying the ball up the middle with fair success himself, and drove for 71 yards. With Driscoll out of the line and in the backfield, Conestoga eliminates their best receiver so far this season, and quarterback Len Clewett was able to

connect on only three out of 14 throws during the game, and two went for interceptions.

But, that didn't matter much, because the Pioneers runners put 214 yards ahead of them, while Penncrest was held to but 20 and -5 yards in the second half. The Pioneers also had the ball for 64 plays to the Lions' 44, and 16 first downs to four.

Senior Barry Heidler, who was using ammonia capsules before the game even started, cleared his head enough to get the Pioneers out ahead in the second quarter when he kicked a field goal from the four. The margin held until the fourth period, when Holland took the ball over from the five for his first score of the season, and the only touchdown in three games that the Pioneers have managed on the ground. Heidler added the extra point.

The win puts Conestoga's record for the season at 2-1, while Penncrest lost their opener to Radnor, 34-7. The Pioneers are 1-1 in the Central League. In three games, the Pioneers have only yielded one touchdown.

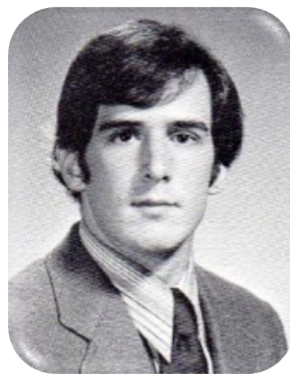
Replacing Driscoll as Clewett's favorite target is Frank Alleva, a 5-11 sophomore back, and he got one pass for 17 yards in the second quarter. Driscoll himself caught two passes late in the game on the last Conestoga drive, both on screen plays, and good for a total of 18 yards.

Conestoga finished the game with backup quarterback Greg Smith carrying the ball to the Penncrest one-foot line, but the Pioneers ran out of time. Penncrest had possession of the ball for only seven plays in that final period.

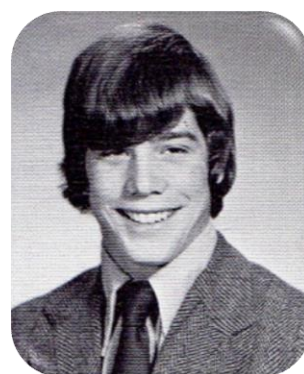
1973 Seniors



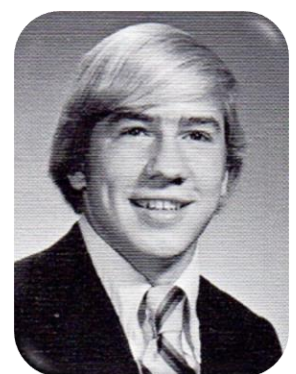
Greg Karnofski
6-0, 180 Defensive Back



Hedden Miller
5-11, 181 Defensive Tackle



Thomas Pillion
5-10, 160 Defensive Back



Tim Ross
5-11, 165 Defensive Back

Personnel Change Helps Conestoga

Daily Local News

October 8, 1973

Two weeks ago at Springfield, Conestoga head coach Joe Ujobai was looking for his team to hit its stride. Instead, the Pioneers absorbed their first and only loss of the season.

That game brought around some changes in the Pioneer backfield, and last week two new backs appeared. Ted Holland and Dan Driscoll, both scoured from other parts of the team, and both basketball players with good hands.

Stage three of the new Conestoga Pioneers appeared Saturday night in Berwyn as the Haverford Fords were thoroughly downed, 27-6. Again, it was a change in the backfield that did it.

Len Clewett, the tall and thin junior quarterback, was made a runner, and backup senior quarterback Greg Smith became a wing back. Both livened up the game and added a new dimension to the Conestoga offense. Smith even added a score.

Ford Mistake Costly

The Pioneers turned the first Haverford mistake into a score when Rick Grove's punt got lost amongst several Haverford red jerseys inside the Fords' 20. Keith Shultis, sophomore offensive guard jumped on the ball and Conestoga was knocking from the 17-yard line. Four plays later, Smith appeared in the backfield, took the ball on reverse

and then reappeared in the end zone 14 yards later. Barry Heidler added the extra point and Conestoga looked stronger than it has at any time of the year.

Driscoll scored in the second quarter and as Haverford was trying to get out of the hole late in the first half, Reggie Williams picked off a Brian Sibson pass and sprinted 28 yards for a touchdown to give the Pioneers a 21-0 lead.

Haverford drove late in the half, and got their only score of the game when Sibson's pass hit a Conestoga defender, intended receiver Bill Cook and then Walt Curry who caught the ball and stepped into the end zone.

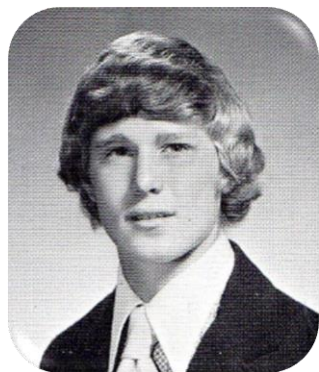
Quarterback Runs Well

In the second half, Clewett started to step out of the pocket and dance down the sidelines, gaining 15 yards the first time he tried, and showing fans something they hadn't seen this year.

Clewett directed the last score of the game in the third period with Ted Holland rambling for 24 yards and the touchdown. He ended up with 81 yards on 18 carries.

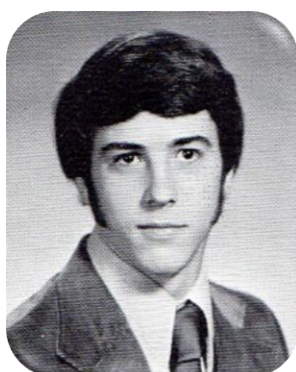
Linebackers Dave Vegso and John Ames led the defensive charge with George Hahn the stopper in the middle of the line. Offensively, Ujobai was happy about the blocking from Shultis and Matt Seasholtz, and Smith's running (three carries, 38 yards).

1973 Seniors



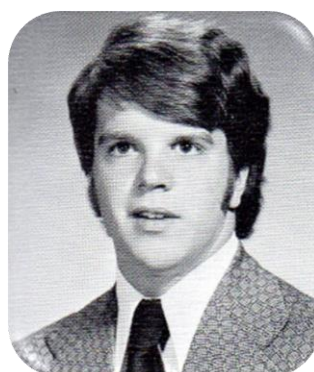
Greg Smith

5-10, 160 Quarterback



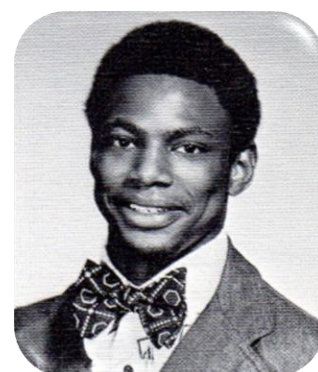
Tom Snader

5-11, 165 Defensive
Back



Bruce Speck

5-11, 180 Defensive End



Craig Thomas

5-10, 155 Running
Back

Big game next week

Pioneers Dominate Upper Darby

Daily Local News

October 13, 1973

To make further use of a newly popular phrase, last night's Conestoga matchup was "nolo contendere" until the last four minutes of the final quarter, when coach Joe Ujobai had the second team in, getting their cleats dirty.

Upper Darby was the next victim in Conestoga's relentless ground attack buildup to the big game for them and the whole Central League next coming Saturday morning, when the Pioneers meet the Marple Newtown circuit leaders.

But last night it was a case of have and have-nots. The Darby Royals couldn't get a first down against the first string, couldn't complete a pass against them, couldn't score against them, and were held to less than 30 yards total rushing, as the Pioneers eased into a 19-6 win.

That meant that Conestoga's defense has now given up two touchdowns this season, and a total of 25 points. Tsk, tsk.

Once again the credit went to the defense for stopping Upper Darby cold, even though Ted Holland had 107 yards with a touchdown run of 32 yards, and Dan Driscoll scored two touchdowns for the offense.

The Pioneers got a good game out of 5-11 senior tackle Heddon Miller, who found himself in the middle of most of the Upper Darby running game.

"They tried to run at him," Ujobai said, "but he's a tough kid. They must have thought that could do something there."

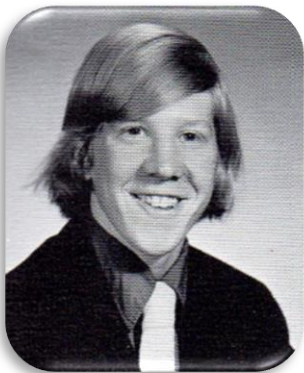
Defensive coach, Jerry McMahon said that "all of the guys we have out there were exceptional." Both men praised George Hahn, Collin McCarthy, Jeff Jackson, Jim Carter and Steve Lobb...the entire front line.

As the game progressed, Conestoga seemed to be in control, but couldn't get the first score across until well through the second quarter. When the second half opened up, things happened quickly, Conestoga got ahead and sat on the lead.

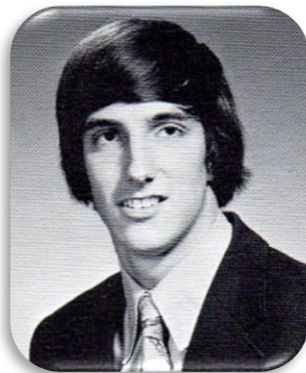
Len Clewett directed the ground attack and threw three passes before ending up in the wrong end of a pileup and hurting his left ankle. He didn't return to the action, but should be on hand next week. Greg Smith took over and showed he wasn't afraid to run the ball, with eight carries and 28 yards, and three pass completions out of six for the night.

Offensively, Conestoga had a good night and Ujobai marveled at Driscoll and Ted Holland, who seem to be everything a coach wants. Driscoll runs hard, is an excellent blocker, and has epoxy-coated fingertips when it comes to pass catching. Holland runs even better, especially in an open field, blocks well for Driscoll and Clewett, and goes back out on the field to play cornerback on defense.

1973 Seniors



Rickey Ward
5-11, 165 Center



Raymond Weber
6-4, 195 Offensive End



Head Coach:
Joe Ujobai

Conestoga Upset Win Moves Pioneers near Central Lead

Daily Local News
October 22, 1973

The Conestoga Pioneers inched closer to the Central League lead with a 13-9 upset over Marple Newtown Saturday morning while Spring-Ford set up the biggest game of the Ches-Mont season this week when Rams ripped Owen J. Roberts 28-0 Saturday afternoon.

Conestoga's win over Marple Newtown improved the Pioneers record to 4-1 in Central League play, right behind Springfield (Delco) and Ridley, both of which own 4-0 league marks.

The host Tigers scored first in the contest as Ed Cini tallied on a 15-yard run after a blocked punt early in the opening period, but from then on it was the Pioneers' ball game.

Pioneer Comeback

Conestoga got that score back later in the first period as Ted Holland, back in punt formation, elected to run and went 33 yards for the score and Ken Kasznel booted the extra point to deadlock things at 7-7.

Marple Newtown took control following the

Conestoga score and failed to sustain a drive, forcing another punt. This time the kick went to Conestoga's Reggie Williams, who took the punt at the 10 and went wire-to-wire for the score that sent the Pioneers into a lead that proved too much for Marple Newtown to overcome.

But, just as the punt had already turned from a disadvantage to an advantage for Conestoga, it was to turn back to a disadvantage once more before the game ended. Marple Newtown picked up its final two points of the game when a punt attempt by the Pioneers' Rick Groves was blocked and rolled out of the end zone to make the score 13-9 and that's the way it stayed.

Marple Newtown enjoyed a 171-91 edge in total yards as both teams showed anemic offensive production, but all of the Pioneers' yardage came on the ground. Conestoga did not attempt a pass all day, a move which Ujobai attributed to a lack of field position.

The Pioneers will come right back with another big game this week as they visit Radnor (3-1) Saturday at 1 p.m.



Rick Groves
Junior Running Back



Greg Smith
Senior Quarterback

14-14 Tie

Nobody Wins in Main Line Standoff

Daily Local News
October 29, 1973

It was a standoff on the Main Line. Conestoga and Radnor, two schools very much alike in character and brand of football met Saturday afternoon in a Central League game that hasn't been decided yet.

The Pioneers jumped out to a 14-0 lead, Radnor kept on coming in the second and third periods to tie it up. That's the way the thing ended, with nothing solved, and a long winter and spring yet to come before the two teams can get this settled.

Conestoga coach Joe Ujobai was thankful to get out of the game with a tie.

Tough Defensive Battle

Conestoga had the momentum and the scoring punch for the first half, and the game might have been a rout if the Pioneers had been able to follow through after a 72-yard scoring drive first thing. But they couldn't, and fans watched a good defensive struggle as Radnor put one more touchdown on the board than anyone else has been able to do this season against the rock-ribbed Conestoga defense.

"We're a little hurt. We had a lot of bruises and minor injuries after the game. Both sides were hitting very hard," Ujobai said. And injuries were bringing about a shuffling in the Conestoga roster.

Quarterback Len Clewett is out with a broken leg, and last week Ted Holland was pressed into service.

Saturday, it was backup QB Greg Smith who took over, but his arm is suspiciously prone to short passes. With Clewett on the sidelines, Conestoga may have lost the long ball. "Greg can throw it when he wants to," defended Ujobai, but Smith was 5 for 14 with one interception Saturday afternoon. His longest completions were for 25 and 33 yards, both were caught by back Dan Driscoll, who then ran for the yardage.

Good Ground Attack

But, you can't fault Conestoga's running game, which accounted for 229 of the 314 yards of total offense the Pioneers racked up against a tenuous, clinging Radnor Raider offense. Smith, who can run well, picked up 106 yards on 20 carries. His longest gain, a quarterback sneak on the fourth play of the game, picked up 38 yards and set up the first Pioneer touchdown.

Holland put in another heavy day in the backfield with 23 carries and 94 yards, but looked tired in the last quarter when his double duty on defensive secondary began to tell. Holland absorbed a lot of punishment, especially in drives straight into the line, and must have had fun trying to get out of bed Sunday morning.



Left: #25 **Reggie Williams** – Junior Defensive Back
Right: #77 **Colin McCarty** – Sophomore Linebacker

Pioneers Survive Scare; Trip Lowly Lower Merion

Daily Local News
November 3, 1973

All season long, head coach Joe Ujobai has been insisting that his Conestoga Pioneers have been looking at each game as it comes.

Last night's opponent should have been a patsy. Lower Merion, with one highly-toted backfield star and not a great defense hasn't been a threat to anyone but the mailman, as the Bulldogs rest in the Central League cellar.

But in Ujobai's own words, "they put it together" last night and gave Conestoga a fright when the Pioneers nearly threw the game away on mistakes. In the first period, and on the first set of downs, the Bulldogs slid right downfield for a score. Lower Merion came up with a quick rap play from the power-I formation. Zip!! Kevin Murray slashed for 13 yards on the first play of the game. Right up the middle.

McMahon pulled his defense together early in the second period. "We moved the guards farther inside," he said. "They were head up on the linemen, we just moved them to the inside shoulder. We had been over-penetrating and they went shooting by us."

But just as the Pioneer defense shackled the running game, the Bulldogs unlimbered the artillery, and the secondary was shelled for the second TD. Conestoga helped with a 15-yard clipping call on a

punt that gave Lower Merion good field position.

Williams Takes Off

With their backs to the wall, the Pioneers stopped a later drive, then Reggie Williams took the ball back 53 yards on a punt return, and Conestoga scored from the 13-yard line when Ray Weber made a spectacular catch in the end zone.

Weber had cut between two defenders, turned, and was pushed from behind just as the ball came down. He caught it with one hand, hit the inside of the end zone with one foot and went out of bounds with the ball. The Pioneers needed a circus catch like this to show that they were still alive while being munched by a smaller, lesser team.

The Pioneers finally put the game away in the fourth period after stopping Lower Merion on the three yard line midway in the third quarter. Ted Holland, who had 61 yards rushing to lead all ball carriers in the game, took it across from the one with 6:34 left in the game.

Ujobai had kudos for Reggie Williams who turned the game around for the Pioneers. "He's the best safety around," coach said. "Even though he's 5'5 and 120 pounds." But as good as Williams' run was and Driscoll's catch, and Greg Smith's run for the flag that gave Conestoga the two extra points needed to win the game, Ujobai missed the super grab of the night.



Bruce Speck
Senior
Defensive
End



John Ames
Senior
Linebacker

Conestoga Tops Wounded Warriors 16-0

Daily Local News
November 23, 1973

West Chester's Warriors and the Conestoga Pioneers have banged heads 68 times in their traditional Thanksgiving day football confrontations.

The Pioneer defense was outstanding as the 9,200 fans that jammed into Teamer Field could attest.

Only once did West Chester penetrate into Conestoga territory and that was an abortive drive on the first series of the second half. The Warriors then moved to a first down at the Conestoga 39 but a misguided pitch to Curt Newell lost six yards and the mild threat died.

Conestoga QB Greg Smith, who had his troubles all morning trying to hit his receivers with his passes, did come up with a big completion on the first play.

The senior Pioneer signal-caller, although under heavy pressure, connected with big Ray Weber on the right sideline and the 6'4, 195 pound tight end roared all the way down to the West Chester four yard line.

Only a shoestring tackle by Matt Trembley saved a TD but the tackle only delayed things, as on the next

play, exciting Ted Holland ripped around right end, breaking two tackles and went in for the score. Barry Heidler added the first of his two PAT's to give Conestoga a 9-0 lead with more than three minutes still remaining in the first period.

Warrior Defense Tires

With the Warriors offense only managing a total of 39 offensive plays while Conestoga was running off 61, the West Chester defenders had to spend an inordinate amount of time on the field.

At that, it held Conestoga in check until Williams, certainly one of the finest defensive safeties around despite his 5'7, 125 pounds, intercepted a Till pass to set up the final Conestoga TD.

Big Stat Edge

Conestoga earned a wide edge in the statistical battle while piling up 13 first downs to the Warriors' six, totaling 234 yards to West Chester's 97 and getting 102 of those yards through the air.

Holland led all runners with 53 yards on carries, 25 of those yards coming from one exciting play where he covered a total of nearly 60 yards going from one side of the field to the other while breaking half a dozen tackles.



George Hahn
Senior Defensive
Guard



Ted Holland
Junior Back

1973 Conestoga Pioneers

Number	Name	Position	Class	Number	Name	Position	Class
20	Greg Smith	QB	12	60	George Machikas	DG	10
21	Tim Zero	QB	11	61	Chip McCown	OG	10
22	Len Clewett	QB	11	62	George Hahn	DG	12
23	Mike Alston	OB	10	63	Ed Carroll	DG	12
24	Craig Thomas	OB	12	64	Keith Shultis	OG	10
25	Reggie Williams	DB	11	65	David Massey	DT	11
30	Ted Holland	DB	11	66	Jerry Bulman	LB	12
31	Frank Alleva	OB	10	67	Steve Lobb	DG	11
32	Greg Marquardt	OB	11	70	Dave Wendell	DT	11
33	Rick Groves	OB	11	71	Hedden Miller	DT	12
34	Tom Snader	DB	12	72	Rich Riddle	OT	10
35	Pete Weiland	OB	11	73	Bob McCollum	OT	10
36	Brian Mahoney	DB	11	74	Jon Leiser	OT	11
40	Ken Kasznel	OB	11	75	John Vogan	OT	11
41	Mark Esslinger	LB	11	76	Matt Seasholtz	OG	11
42	Mike Pillion	LB	11	77	Colin McCarty	LB	10
43	Greg Karnofski	DB	12	80	Mark Wilson	DE	11
44	Tom Pillion	DB	12	81	Jeff Jackson	DE	12
45	Steve Pettia	OB	10	82	Mike Kraxnowiecki	OE	11
46	Tim Ross	DB	12	83	Barry Heidler	K	12
47	Rick Ward	C	12	84	Jim Carter	DE	12
50	Dave Vegso	DT	11	85	Ray Weber	OE	12
51	Sean Mahoney	C	11	86	Jim Rosato	OB	11
52	Bruce Speck	DE	12	87	Dan Driscoll	OE	12
53	Bill Lund	C	10		William Olsen	DE	11
55	John Ames	LB	12				