

Conestoga gridders down East, 31-6

Daily Local

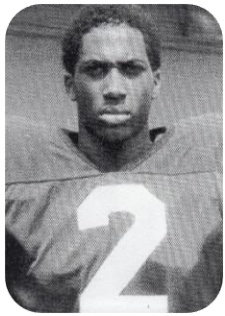
September 8, 1996

By **MARK ASHENFELTER**, Staff Writer

WEST GOSHEN—Conestoga's High football team had three first downs after three quarters. Normally that's a bad thing. Its season-opening performances against a struggling West Chester East squad was anything but bad, though.

The Pioneers first downs, you see, came on touchdowns runs that accounted for 167 yards. Toss in a 43-yard interception return and it's easy to see how an ugly stat sheet can still translate into a 31-6 victory at Zimmerman Stadium.

"I'd have said, 'Oh no,'" Conestoga coach Tim Donovan said with a smile when asked how he'd have felt knowing beforehand that his club's first down total would be so low after 36 minutes. "I would have guessed that we'd be in trouble with only three first downs—no doubt about it."



DANTE COLES

Captain
Senior 6-3, 185
Quarterback
Defensive Back

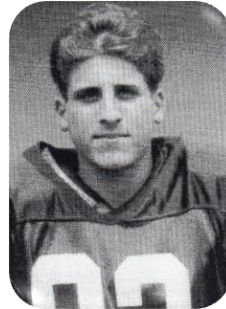
Instead, the Pioneers were clearing the bench in the fourth quarter. Truth be told, the Pioneers still have plenty of work to do. Big plays have a way of covering up small mistakes, though, and that was crucial as Dante Coles proved on the game's first play from scrimmage.

The speedy, quarterback—who been battling a fever on Friday—kept the ball and raced 72 yards down the right sideline. It was a familiar feeling for the team's veterans.

"The same thing happened last year (when) Steve Jackson took a kickoff back for a touchdown real early

in the game," defensive back Byron Cotter said. "Last year we didn't build on it. This year we built on it and got better on every play. By the end of the game, it was all us."

Coles' long jaunt brought a smile to the faces of Donovan and his assistants. "That was something we, as a staff, debated for a good 30 minutes," Donovan said. "...We said let's put the ball in the hands of one of the best athletes and see what he can do."



BYRON COTTER

Senior 5-9, 175
Wide Receiver
Defensive Back

The Pioneers weren't doing much offensively either, but Cotter changed that with a 43-yard interception return to make it 14-0 with 3:20 left in the half.

"They ran the same pattern (earlier) and they got me biting up on it," Cotter said. "I knew they were going to come back to it later."

"When they did, I recognized it. I made the catch and Steve Norcini threw a great block that freed me up

for the touchdown."

"I think that was huge play," Donovan said. "I think that was kind of a turning point. We were struggling offensively other than that one big play. I think that interception really, really helped us."

A 47-yard run by Bobby Horsey helped move the Vikings into scoring position late in the half, but Cotter's second interception, this one at the goal line, ended the threat. Plays of that sort drive a coach crazy.

"We feel like we have big-play people," Donovan said. "I think a lot of that comes with an attitude that the kids believe they can win and that when the money's on the line that they can grab it."

Lower Merion victory

Thursday, September 12, 1996

No article

Pioneers post 'ugly' 28-6 win

Daily Local

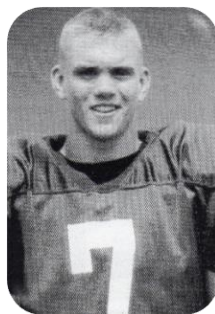
September 22, 1996

By **MEREDITH GLAZER**, Staff Writer

RADNOR—Some people might say Tim Donovan is a perfectionist. After guiding the Conestoga football team to a 28-6 victory over Radnor Saturday at Prevost Field, Donovan—the Pioneers coach—wasn't happy with just winning the game.

But others might realize that Donovan simply believes that there is more to football than winning. "I'm only satisfied if the kids played as close to their potential as possible," Donovan said. "It's nice to win, but am I satisfied? No."

Conestoga's first touchdown was nearly a waste of a good opportunity to capitalize on a Red Raider mistake. The Pioneers gained possession when Radnor's punter dropped the snap, picked it up and was tackled by sophomore lineman Eric Tiffit to give Conestoga the ball on Radnor's 33-yard line.

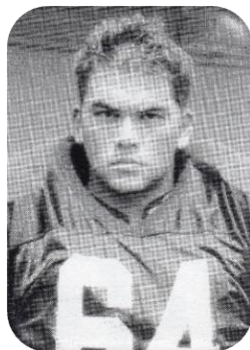


**MATT
DIAMOND**

Junior 5-9, 160
Wide Receiver
Defensive Back

The Pioneers' total yardage on the next three plays was minus 1, but quarterback Dante Coles' fourth-and-11 pass to Matt Diamond got the first down and set up Coles' two-yard touchdown run.

The second interception also occurred as the Raiders approached the end zone. This time, the ball was intercepted in the fourth quarter by Dan Lovell at Conestoga's eight-yard line. Tight end Colin Osborne ran the ball into the left side of the end zone, but the play was called back on a penalty. On third-and-13 at the 34-yard line, Coles connected with wide receiver Jon Sarley with 25 seconds left in the third quarter to give the Pioneers the 28-6 lead they would maintain through the final period.



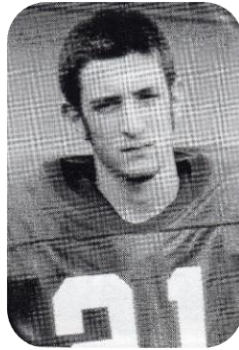
JOE SEAVEY

Captain
Senior 6-1, 230
Offensive Lineman
Defensive Lineman



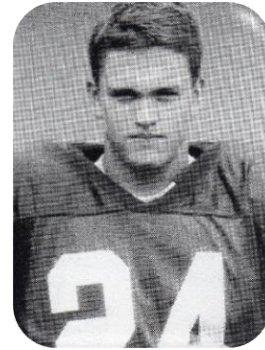
BEN ETHERINGTON

Senior 5-10, 160
Punter
Kicker



TOM BROWN

Senior 5-10, 175
Wide Receiver
Defensive Back



DAVE SUDHAUS

Senior 5-8, 165
Wide Receiver
Defensive Back

Conestoga remains unbeaten, 24-21

Daily Local

September 28, 1996

By **CARLO IACONO**, Staff Writer

BERWYN—Big plays were both a necessity and the difference in Conestoga High School's football team's 24-21 Central League defeat of Springfield Friday evening. The host Pioneers garnered the most of the big plays the two teams traded and held off a strong Cougar second-half comeback at Teamer Field.

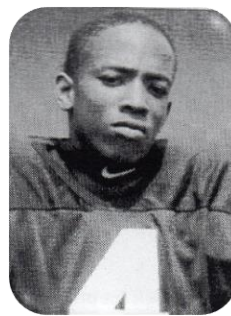
Conestoga is now 4-0 for the first time since the Central League championship teams of the late 1970's. The defeat of Springfield makes Conestoga 3-0 in the league and looking for its first title since that era.

"Our team goal is to win the Central League championship and go undefeated," Conestoga running back Kamari Stroman, who led the way with 196 yards rushing said. "It feels great, but we still have a lot to do."

"I was proud of our resiliency," Conestoga coach Tim Donovan said. "We played a great football team tonight and our kids came right back at them." Ben Quereau's 26-yard field goal in the opening minute of the last quarter was the difference.

Quereau, who consistently booms extra-points 30 yards through the uprights, had his line-drive field goal attempt tipped at the line of scrimmage. The ball had enough strength to float sideways and only two feet above the bar to give Conestoga back the lead that vanished in the second half.

Defensive back Gary Carter preserved the win on an interception with 49 seconds remaining to stop the



GARY CARTER
Senior 5-10, 150
Wide Receiver
Defensive Back

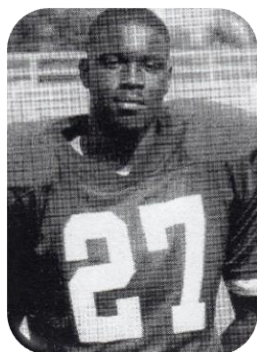
Cougars from making another comeback. Conestoga quarterback Dante Coles took the third play from scrimmage on a keeper that he cut back to the middle of the field for an 81-yard score.

Conestoga running back Stroman started a Pioneer drive midway through the second quarter with an 86-yard touchdown run straight up the middle of the Cougar defense. Stroman later added a 13-yard score to give

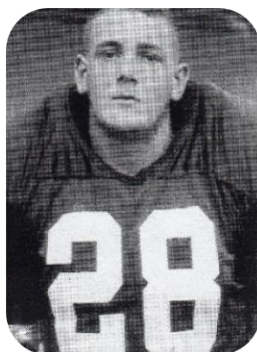
Conestoga the 21-7 halftime lead.

"The big plays came from the offensive line just blocking," Stroman said. "The whole team, even Gary (Carter) getting his first varsity experience came up big for us." Stroman and Coles were essentially Conestoga's one-two punch on offense. Stroman finished with 196 yards on 25 carries. Coles, running the option and assisted by the long score, ran for 126 yards on 16 carries. The pair accounted for 322 of the 325 total rushing yards.

"That was just a tremendous game by both of them," Donovan said. The Pioneers needed the ground game because there was no air travel from them. Coles was 1-for-8 passing with only a two-yard completion in the second half.



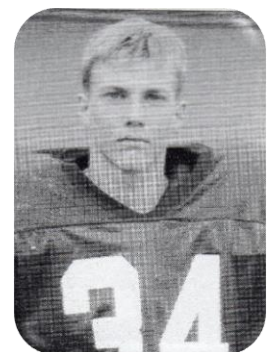
TYREE SKINNER
Senior 6-0, 185
Fullback
Linebacker



COLIN OSBORNE
Senior 5-9, 180
Running Back
Defensive Back



BRENNAN MCGEORGE
Senior 5-11, 185
Fullback
Linebacker



JON SARLEY
Senior 5-10, 165
Wide Receiver
Linebacker

Pioneers remain undefeated, 35-21

Daily Local

October 5, 1996

By **JASON GUARENTE**, Staff Writer

BERWYN—The Conestoga High School football team entered its Friday evening game versus Haverford ripe to be upset. The Pioneers were without starting quarterback Dante Coles due to a hip injury, and were facing an energetic, but winless, Central League opponent in the Fords. They also had a date against unbeaten Strath Haven just one week away.

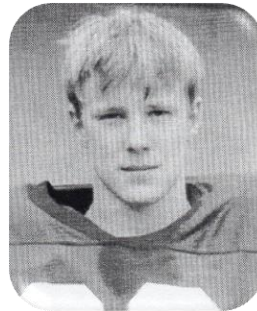
Conestoga avoided a letdown and showed the skill that allowed it to power its way to an undefeated record of its own (4-0, 5-0) by thrashing the Fords, 35-21. It didn't start out easy for the Pioneers, though, as they fumbled the ball on their first three possessions.

A hungry Haverford team took advantage of the mistakes, with rapid scoring strikes following two of the fumbles. "I was concerned because the problems were with the exchanges from the new quarterback," Conestoga coach Tim Donovan said. "I think it's a sign of maturity for the team that nobody really panicked."

Instead, the Pioneers and their offensive line dominated the remaining three quarters with the men in the trenches opening one gaping hole after another for running back Kamari Stroman. Stroman amassed 339 yards and four touchdowns on 31 carries for the Pioneers.

"It was the biggest shock," Stroman said of the early deficit. "We've got to show that we're a championship team and that we can come from behind." The Pioneers rattled off 35 consecutive points in the second and third quarters, largely due to big runs from Stroman.

The 180-pound back chugged in from six and 17 yards to manage a tie going into the intermission. "We said at halftime if we stop beating ourselves, we'll be OK," Donovan said. As the Pioneers' mistakes diminished so did Haverford's chances of victory.



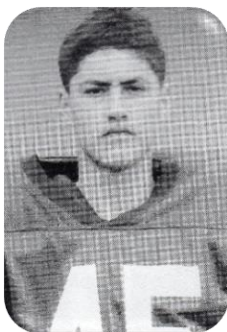
BEAU CHOATE
Senior 5-9, 170
Fullback
Linebacker

Conestoga started the second half with a 6-play, 65 yard drive culminating in a 29-yard spurt from Stroman. A costly fumble on the ensuing kickoff was recovered by the Pioneers' Beau Choate, and Conestoga was quickly threatening again.

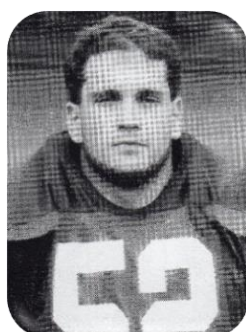
A touchdown run by Dan Lovell three plays later turned the halftime tie into a 14-point Conestoga advantage before Haverford even had a second half possession. Stroman capped his outstanding evening with a 62-yard run untouched through the Fords' secondary on the Pioneers third drive of the quarter.

"My offensive line is great," Stroman said regarding his huge rushing numbers. "It's the best in the Central League." The Pioneers triumph sets up a battle for first place in the Central League next Saturday between Conestoga and Strath Haven.

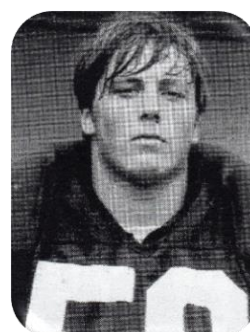
"It's the biggest game of the year," Donovan said. "It's a great opportunity for our kids to play in a meaningful game that they haven't had a chance to in many many years."



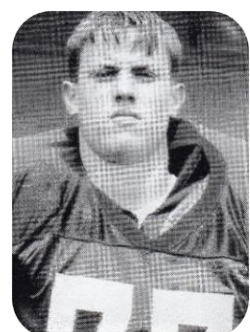
LEE CURE
Senior 5-9, 170
Wide Receiver
Defensive Back



DAVE JAROS
Senior 6-2, 240
Offensive Lineman
Defensive Lineman



CHRIS WERNER
Senior 6-0, 200
Offensive Lineman
Defensive End



JIM PURSLEY
Senior 6-2, 195
Offensive Lineman
Defensive End

Last-second win keeps Pioneers perfect

Daily Local

October 13, 1996

By **JASON GUARENTE**, Staff Writer

Ben Quereau, Conestoga's placekicker, calmly booted a 24-yard field goal that put the Pioneers over the top 23-20, and stunned a capacity homecoming crowd at Strath Haven.

WALLINGFORD—As the final seconds were about to tick off the clock, Ben Quereau stood alone at the 15-yard line waiting to get his chance. On both sides of him were the combatants that had battled to resolve an epic contest between two undefeated Central League scholastic football rivals, Conestoga and Strath Haven.

Quereau, the Pioneers' senior placekicker, ignored the pressure and calmly booted a 24-yard field goal that put Conestoga over the top 23-20, and stunned a capacity homecoming crowd at Strath Haven. "Quereau's the best high school kicker I've ever seen," Conestoga coach Tim Donovan said. "That's a big weapon."

As vital as Quereau's kick was, the biggest weapon the Pioneers had on Saturday

afternoon was quarterback/running back Dante Coles, who returned after a one week absence because of a bruised kidney.

Coles completed three passes for 74-yards and made two spectacular leaping receptions over Strath Haven cornerbacks to help Conestoga overcome a 20-7 deficit late in the third quarter. "I was thinking we needed a big play and we could win this game," Cole said.

Donovan mixed up his usual one dimensional rushing attack with timely passing from Coles and backup quarterback Matt Diamond. After a 13-yard touchdown pass made the score 20-7, Donovan turned to a surprisingly array of passes.

"We felt like we had to do something different, mix it up a little bit and we did that." Donovan said. The result was rapid scoring drive with Coles immediately finding Diamond on a 35-yard toss to put the Pioneers in Panthers' territory.

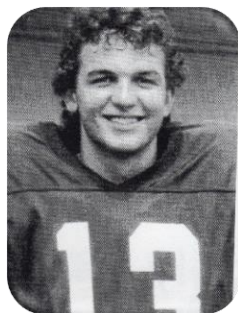
Two plays later, Diamonds returned the favor with a high arcing pass that seemed destined to be intercepted before Coles rose above the Strath Haven defender to cradle in the touchdown. The Pioneers defense which has been stellar all season, tightened on the Panthers, stifling them for the remainder of the fourth quarter.

Donovan went back to the basics that allowed his team to churn up consistent rushing yards the entire season. A 10-play drive, nine of which were on the ground, culminated in a powerful three-yard burst by Hubby Brown off the left side to even the score at 20 with just over six minutes remaining in the regulation.

A flustered Strath Haven team was quickly forced to punt again, giving Conestoga the ball and a chance to pull out the victory. Coles sensed the Panthers were fatigued on defense, because the majority of them rested on one knee during a timeout late in the game.

"They were worn out in the fourth quarter," Coles said. "You could tell they hadn't been in a dog fight. All their games had been blowouts." Conestoga stuffed the ball down Strath Haven's throat with pounding runs by standout back Kamari Stroman and Coles to set up Quereau's kick.

Donovan hopes this win is just the beginning of a Conestoga run at its first Central League championship since 1978. "We got a lot more left," Donovan said. "This is a game that will give us a lot of confidence. We have a tough schedule ahead."



BEN QUEREAU

Senior 6-1, 195

Punter

Kicker

Pioneers stay unbeaten with a 21-7 victory

Daily Local

October 22, 1996

By **JASON GUARENTE**, Staff Writer

BERWYN—The look in the eyes of Conestoga High School football coach Tim Donovan had a little more intensity than usual as he paced the sideline during his team's Central League game versus Penncrest on Monday. The coach was intent on avoiding the kind of lackluster performance that could reverse the Pioneers' fortune after a huge upset victory over Strath Haven one week ago.

Conestoga overcame a gutty performance by an overmatched Penncrest team, and capitalize on one critical Lions turnover to prevail 21-7. "We did not have a good week of practice," Donovan said. "It was a big letdown from an emotional win over Strath Haven, and we had to jump on them a little bit."



KAMARI STROMAN

Senior 6-2, 175
Wide Receiver
Defensive End

Conestoga rode a spectacular performance from their number one rusher Kamari Stroman. The senior tailback punished the Lions with 201 yards on 26 carries behind another stellar outing from the Pioneers' offensive line. "I just got a little lucky," said a humble Stroman. "My line was blocking real good, they really stepped-it up."

Darnell Greene stuffed home the game's opening score from one yard out. That was all the scoring the

Pioneers' defense would allow, though. "All season our defense has been setting the tone, it's the key to our team," Donovan said.

It was the third consecutive week Conestoga found itself behind in the early going, trailing by 14 and 13 points to Haverford and Strath Haven respectively before eventually pulling out victories in those games.

The deficit didn't alter what has been Donovan's game plan all season, however, the Pioneers skillfully used two of their best athletes in Stroman and quarterback Dante Coles to piece together two efficient scoring drives that erased the deficit.

The first touchdown came on a 24-yard run by Stroman, who sprinted untouched through the Lions' secondary early in the second quarter.

On the Pioneers' next possession, they methodically used 15 plays to churn out 88 yards and used over half of the second quarter clock to gain a 14-7 lead. "We've been very successful playing a smash-mouth football," Donovan said. "We had some success doing that (on Monday)."

With less than a minute remaining in the first half, an errant toss by Penncrest on an option play resulted in a fumble deep in its territory. Kamari Stroman dove on the loose ball at the Lions' eight yard line to give Conestoga another excellent scoring chance before halftime.

Three plays later, Coles snuck across the goal line with a devastating score that put Penncrest in a 14-point hole. A crushing tackle by defensive captain Steve Norcini stopped just short of a first down on a fourth down run to end any thoughts of Penncrest may have had of a comeback.

The win keeps the Pioneers at the top of the Central League standings at 6-0 in the league and 7-0 overall. "Strath Haven took a lot out of us," Stroman said. "That was a real big win for our program. We were thinking ahead (against Penncrest), but that's not going to happen no more."

Pioneers top Royals to remain unbeaten

Daily Local

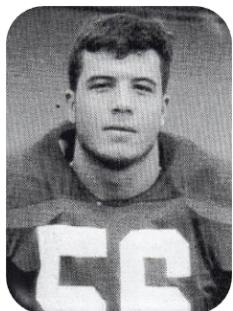
October 27, 1996

By **MARK ASHENFELTER**, Staff Writer

UPPER DARBY—If there's anything good about being mediocre, it's that expectations are limited. That was certainly the case last year when Conestoga High's football team shocked Upper Darby in overtime. The circumstances are reversed this year, which is why the visiting Pioneers were wary heading into Saturday's Central League affair. With Ridley looming on the horizon, Conestoga knew it couldn't lose focus.

And while the Pioneers had trouble running the ball early, they got the ground game going in the second half on the way to a 19-7 victory. "It's an emotional roller coaster," Conestoga coach Tim Donovan said. "This is the first time we've been through something like this. They're finding out it's hard to be on top."

"It requires a great deal of concentration. It's difficult—more so mentally and emotionally, I think, than sometimes physically—and that's what they're finding out." "It has been difficult, but we've been enjoying it for the whole ride."



STEVE NORCINI

Captain

Senior 6-0, 215

Offensive Lineman

Linebacker

While linebacker Steve Norcini and defensive back Byron Cotter played key roles for the defense, Conestoga (7-0, 8-0) once again rode the back of Kamari Stroman at the offensive end. The senior carried 36 times for 205 yards and both touchdowns. The 5-foot-11, 180 pound senior really didn't get going until the second half. That wasn't surprising as the Royals (3-4, 3-5) have been tough against the run all year.

The Pioneers led 6-0 at the half on the strength of 24-and 32-yard field goals by Ben Quereau. Stroman though never doubted things would start to click. "We knew their big line would hurt us coming in, but we just adjusted," Stroman said. "In the second half, we just tried to hurt them by going to the outside."

Coles expected the Royals to be emotionally charged at the game's upset. "We knew they were going to play us tough because of last year," Coles said. "We came out, took their best shot and gave them our best shot."

"In the second half, we talked to our line and got them excited. The line blocked well for Kamari to get him the 200 yards." Stroman picked up the pace on Conestoga's second possession in the third quarter. Runs of 15, 18 and 9 yards got it close and he went the final 21 on a fourth and 1 to make it 13-0 with 2:46 left in the quarter.

Despite the slow start on the ground, Donovan was pleased with the way his linemen reacted. "We told our kids that we were going to play smash-mouth football, like we've been doing all year," Donovan said. "Upper Darby is one of the biggest teams we've played all year and they did a great job defensively the whole game against us."

The Pioneers didn't do too bad defensively, either. Cotter had an interception while Coles had a pair of interceptions and blocked a field goal attempt. Now the Pioneers can turn their full attention to Ridley. And that's just fine with Stroman.

"It's the biggest game of our lives," he said. "Almost every game we go into is the biggest of our lives because we're looking to go undefeated."

"And everybody's just waiting to knock us off."

Pioneers suffer first loss, 13-0

Daily Local

November 2, 1996

By **NEIL GEOGHEGAN**, Staff Writer

FOLSOM—With a chance to secure the program's first league championship in 18 long years and clinch a rare berth in the PIAA District 1 playoffs, the Conestoga High School football team invaded Central League power Ridley at a fever pitch on Friday.

The visiting Pioneers were spurred on by a Conestoga crowd that dwarfed the Ridley faithful in both size and enthusiasm. But all that emotion apparently got the best of the previously unbeaten Pioneers.

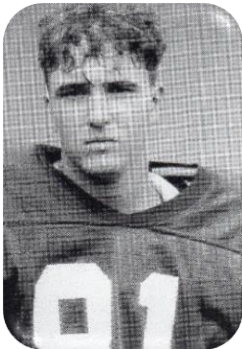
"We might have been too up for the game," admitted Conestoga head coach Tim Donovan. "It was a huge crowd and our kids have been hearing about this game all week in school." "This hurts. It hurts everyone."

The Pioneers (7-1, 8-1 overall) are still in line for a share of the Central League title—their first since 1978. But Donovan is now worried his team may have a difficult time getting the disappointment of the setback out of their system in order to move on with the rest of the season.

"This is the greatest challenge we've had in two years here," Donovan said. "We can still get a piece of the title," said senior linebacker Steve Norcini. "We just need to have a great week of practice and come back stronger than ever."

"We're too talented and too sound as a unit to let this mess up our whole season." Friday's showdown quickly developed into a defensive struggle. The Conestoga defense forced three first-quarter turnovers, but failed to turn any of those chances into points.

"If you would have told me that we'd hold them to 13 points, I would have said we win the game, Donovan said. "Our defense did a great job but they were just on the field way too much."



DAVE KELLER
Senior 5-9, 175
Wide Receiver
Defensive Back



Coaching Staff

Dan McShane, Tom Russell, Head Coach Tim Donovan,
Matt Gibson, Kevin Pechin
Craig Phillips missing

Conestoga blasts Boyertown, 69-24

Daily Local

November 10, 1996

By **CARLO IACONO**, Staff Writer

BERWYN—Playing with a sense of purpose, the Conestoga High School football team moved forward after just missing the PIAA District 1 playoffs. The Pioneers treated the Homecoming crowd at Teamer Field to a 69-24 non-league pasting of winless Boyertown Saturday afternoon.

The Central League's Conestoga piled 581 total yards of offense and 10 touchdowns in trying to erase the memory of last week's playoff-eliminating league loss to Ridley. The Pioneers now stand at 9-1 overall (8-1 Central) and have two goals remaining. They want to win their last two games to be the first team in school history to reach 11 wins. In the process, they will have to defeat formidable West Chester Henderson next week.

"We got back to the basics and don't have the pressure of being the top team. We went out there and had fun," Conestoga coach Tim Donovan said. "I heard coach Walsh (Henderson) say it was the playoff game for the teams that just missed. We are going to look at it as our playoff."

Conestoga wasted no time in pounding Boyertown. Quarterback Dante Coles lined up as the

slot back while halfback Kamari Stroman took the snap on the first play. Coles took a Stroman handoff on a reverse and tossed a 66-yard pass to Jon Sarley.

Two plays later, Stroman assumed his customary role of receiving handoffs and scored the first of three rushing touchdowns. The senior finished with 216 yards on 13 carries in a little over two quarters of work. Stroman's 61-yard second touchdown pushed him over his cousin Jason Durrell as Conestoga's single-season rushing record holder. Durrell posted 1,404 yards in 1989. Stroman now has 1,569 yards for the season with two games left.

"Coming off that loss (Ridley) we tried to come out here and get a real big win," Stroman said. "We were trying to get that game out of our system. We haven't had a blowout all year, so it was real nice."

Boyertown again fumbled the first play from scrimmage and Steve Norcini recovered the ball and returned it 21 yards for the score. Conestoga had a 26-0 lead and all the points it needed with 7:12 remaining in the first quarter. Nine minutes of real time had elapsed since the 2 p.m. start and the game was essentially over.

"We were having a lot of fun, but the sign of a real good team is to play real sound football," Donovan said. "We tried that by stopping the penalties and creating turnovers."

Juniors

Front Row: Charlie Wu, Taiwan Cunningham, Matt Diamond, Ed McCann

Middle Row: Justin Massimiano, Scott Cappelli, Dan Lovell, Jason Garon, Tom Aichele

Back Row: Chris Bickel, Kevin Stroman, Chris Vaughn, Mike Mozzone, Ari Chirstakis, Patrick Effgen



Henderson claims 'Chester County Bowl' 34-13

Daily Local

November 17, 1996

By **CARLO IACONO**, Staff Writer

Henderson shook off the effects of a flu that postponed the game from Friday evening to produce its traditional power running game.

The Warriors garnered 212 rushing yards.

WEST CHESTER—As the two area teams that just missed the PIAA District 1 playoffs, West Chester Henderson and Conestoga High Schools battled for intra-county bragging rights at Dicks Stadium. Host Henderson capitalized on Conestoga turnovers and mistakes to claim a 34-13 nonleague victory.

"We felt we had to play error-free, and we didn't do that," Conestoga head coach Tim Donovan said. "We had a lot of errors and they didn't." Both teams now stand at 9-2 overall with traditional Thanksgiving Day games remaining on their schedules.

Conestoga faces Marple Newtown with a chance at securing a piece of the Central League title, its first in 18 years. It had been 22 years since Henderson and Conestoga last squared off. The originally scheduled game took on added interest when both teams just missed playoff berths.

Conestoga took control with a 75-yard opening drive that consumed 7:42. Kamari Stroman punched it in on a 1-yard dive for a 7-0 lead. It was Conestoga's only lead and sustained showing of offense. Henderson

held Stroman, a 1,500-yard back to 53 yards on 13 carries. The senior halfback had 41 yards on the first drive alone.

Forced to the air, the Pioneers experience problems. After Henderson marched right back with a rush-heavy, 77-yard, 5:07 drive, the Pioneers offense was ineffective. "All week we've been worried about sickness. We had a hard time getting quality practice.

Conestoga looked to have the swing in momentum at the start of the second half. Dante Coles intercepted a Ray pass to thwart the Warriors' starting drive. But Ray returned the favor on the very next play by intercepting a Cole's pass and running it to the Pioneer 29-yard line.

Coles then moved Conestoga to the Warrior 19-yard line on the ensuing drive. But Coles fumbled the ball on a scramble and Jennings scooped up the ball and ran 70 yards. Montgomery gained the remaining five yards on the next play stake a 27-7 Henderson lead.

Coles was then able to sustain a drive with an incredible 45-yard pass completion on a scramble. Matt Diamond completed that drive with a 23-yard strike to Coles as a wide out. The fourth-down conversion put the Pioneers within 27-13 at the close of the third quarter.

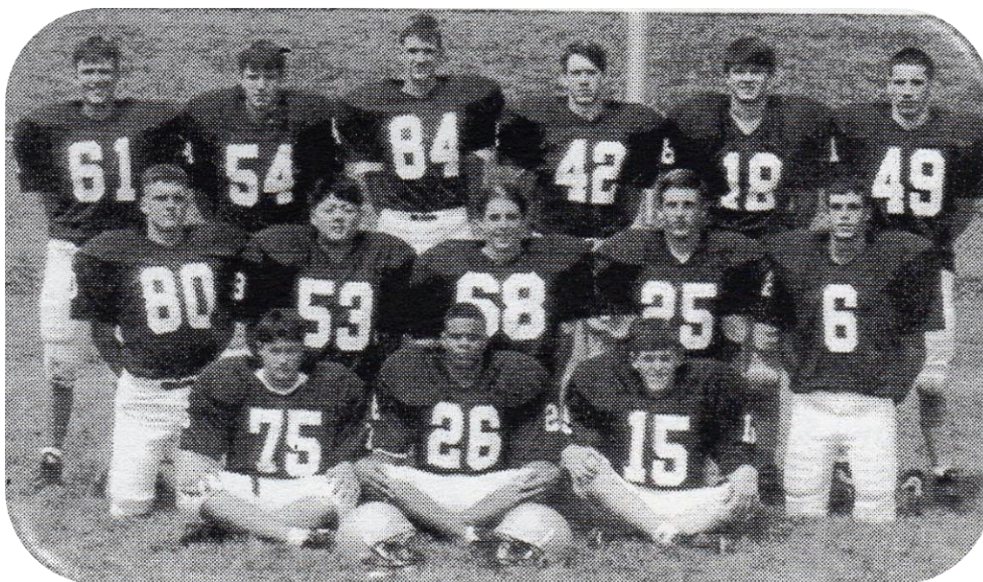
"We came out with a lot of mental mistakes," Cole said. "The loss hurt. We just beat ourselves with penalties and mistakes."

Sophomores

Front Row: Kent Yavuz, Brandon Smith, Travis Allred

Middle Row: Mike Desjadon, Alex Ahn, Tench Tilghman, Tom Wimer, Kyle Wildemore

Back Row: Scott Stilson, Erik Tiff, Dave Brennan, Matt Walters, Brad Stanley, Larry Cabrelli



The 1996 Conestoga Pioneers were Tri-Champions of the Central League with a ten win- two loss season. Tim Donovan was the head coach. Dante Coles, Steve Norcini and Joe Seavey were the team captains. It was exciting reading as the team collected eight wins before their first loss to Ridley but only by a score of 13-0 which prompted Coach Donovan to laud his defense.

Throughout the season, the offense racked up the points:

West Chester East victory 31-6

Lower Merion victory – no article

Radnor 28-6

Springfield 24-21

Haverford win 35-21

Strath Haven 23-20

Penncrest 21-7

Upper Darby 19-7

Boyertown 69-24

Marple Newtown victory – no article