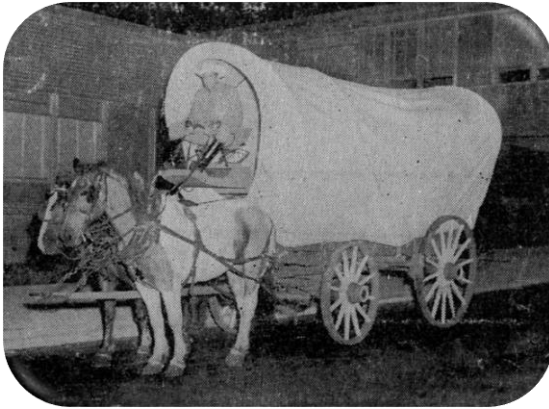


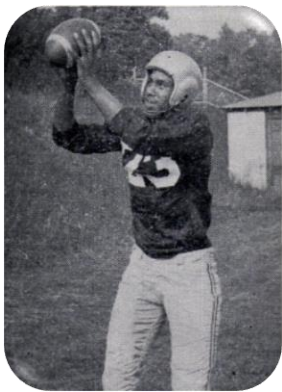
# 1955 Conestoga Pioneers



1955 ushered in a new school, a new mascot and a new Head Football Coach. In the Fall of 1955, students entered the new Conestoga High School, and they adopted their new mascot, the Pioneer. William "Bill" Paolantonio took the helm of the football team. And he was assisted by Mr. James Rosato and Mr. Robert Cumens.

For the second straight year, the team earned the Ches-Mont Championship with an over-all record of nine wins and one loss. And the Garnet and Gray defeated the Garnet and White (West Chester) on Thanksgiving Day by a score of 20-7.

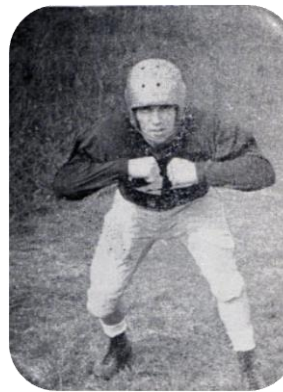
Six pioneers made the First Team Ches-Mont League All-Star Team. They were end Lou Mitchell, Pat Rosato, tackle John Hamilton, guard John Dannaker, halfback Butch Shockley and fullback Bill Delaware. Quarterback Emil Capetola was named to the Second Team, and tackle Herb Wiley received Honorable Mention.



Lou Mitchell



Pat Rosato



John Hamilton



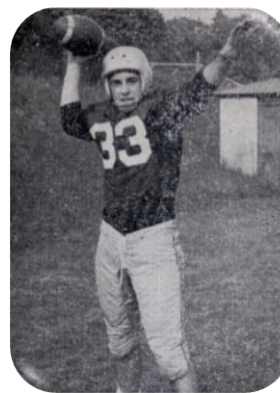
John Dannaker



Butch Shockley



Bill Delaware



Emil Capetola



Herb Wiley

# Conestoga in 47-0 Win Over League Rival

## *Ches-Mont Champs Launch Title Defense with Easy Decision against Dragons*

The defending champions of the Ches-Mont League, under a new name and a new coach, launched their 1955 campaign with a stunning, 47-0, victory over Bridgeport High at Bridgeport, Saturday afternoon.

Champs of 1954 under the name of Tredyffrin-Easttown High, the upper Main Line gridders looked just as good as the first standard bearers of Conestoga

High, the new school at Berwyn. And tutored by Bill Paolantonio, they played the same fine brand of football as was displayed when they were the charges of retired Ernie Meyer. Their new mentor was an aide to Meyer last fall.

The titlists were also unaffected by the switch of their nickname from *Bulldogs* to *Pioneers*.

Paul Eaton, a senior, tallied twice on aerials in leading the Conestoga drive. Emil Capetola, Bill Shockley, Bailey Stewart, Bill Delaware and Bob Barajas each scored one. Shockley's educated

toe accounted for five extra points from placement.

Eaton got his touchdown by snagging a 25-yard pass from Capetola and a one-hand heave by Stewart. Capetola ran 13 yards to score after picking up a fumble. Delaware checked in with the longest scoring jaunt, a run of 32 yards. Shockley charged eight yards to score, and Stewart tallied on an 18-yard sprint. Barajas grabbed a blocked punt and raced 24 yards for his tally.

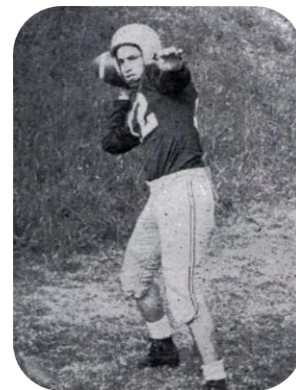
*Daily Local News*  
September 19, 1955



**LAWRENCE HENRY, CONESTOGA HIGH SCHOOL BACK**, halted by headlock after eight yard gain late in the second period of the opening Ches-Mont League football game with Bridgeport. George Ford (34) tries to help him out.



**PAUL EATON, A SENIOR**, tallied twice on aerials in leading the Conestoga drive.



**BAILEY STEWART SCORED ONE TD** in the Pioneer victory over Bridgeport 47-0

# Conestoga In Home Opener This Evening

Conestoga High, which launched its defense of the Ches-Mont League football championship with a 47-0 victory over Bridgeport last Saturday, will open its home campaign, in a non-league clash with St. Matthew's of Conshohocken tonight. Game time on Teamer Field, adjacent to the new school in Berwyn, is 8:00.

Bill Paolantonio, new head coach of the Pioneers, will stand pat on the line-up used against Bridgeport.

Emil Capetola will do the signal calling in a backfield otherwise featuring Bill's: Bill Delaware and Bill Shockley will be the starting halfbacks while Lou Murphy will get the call as fullback.

On the line, Paolantonio will have Lou Mitchell and Art LeGar as ends, Herb Wiley and Jim Beltz as tackles, Jim White and Pat Rosato as guards and John Hamilton at center.

*Daily Local News*

September 23, 1955



Art LeGar



Jim Beltz



Jim White



Lou Murphy



Bill Delaware



Bill "Butch" Shockley

## *Bills Fill the Bill for Coach Bill at Conestoga*

Two of the four Bills who are starters for Coach Bill Paolantonio at Conestoga High this fall scored two touchdowns apiece as the Pioneers notched victory #2 of 1955 in a non-league game with St. Matthew's High of Conshohocken, last night. The game was played on Teamer Field at Berwyn, and it was the home opener for Conestoga. The score was 27-0

Bill Delaware, fleet junior halfback, scored in the first and second periods while Bill Shockley, burly senior fullback, crossed the

enemy goal line in the second and third segments of action. Conversion points were added after three of the touchdowns.

Unscored upon to date the Pioneers have totaled 74 points in two games - 47 against Bridgeport and 27 last night.

Delaware got the Conestoga attack on a paying basis with a 55-yard scoring jaunt in the first period. It developed from an end sweep in which the runner got great blocking to reach open territory.

Shockley, known as "Butch" as well as Bill, got into the scoring act with a 30-yard ramble in the second period. Before the half was reached, Delaware scored again, this time on a 20-yard sprint.

The final tally came in the third period, when the Pioneers drove downfield to reach the 15, and Shockley bulled his way over from that point.

The Pioneers ran up a total of 195 yards in ground gained from scrimmage while St. Matt's was held to 67.

*Daily Local News*

## Pioneers Top Golden Bears By 20-6 Count

Unbeaten Conestoga High, the new joint high school at Berwyn which replaced Tredyffrin-Easttown High, came from behind for its third straight victory in a postponed game with Conshohocken High Saturday night. Rain washed out the game, scheduled for Conshohocken, Friday night.

To notch their second non-league win, the defending champs of the Ches-Mont circuit, spotted their rivals a first period touchdown, wiped it out with two tallies in the second and added a third early in the second half.

Lou Mitchell, interchangeable end and halfback for the Pioneers got Coach Bill Paolantonio's forces back into the ball game in the second period when he returned a punt from the Conshohocken 32 to the 18. A ground attack moved the ball to the one, and Mitchell crashed over for the score. Bill Shockley converted the PAT.

While still in the first half, Conestoga went ahead at 14-6 when quarterback Emil Capetola pitched a 38-yard pass to Mitchell, who took it in the clear and rambled 14 yards to score. Again Shockley booted from placement for the bonus point.

In the third period, the Pioneers drove 65 yards for their final score with fullback Shockley plunging across from the one.

*Daily Local News*  
October 3, 1955

September 24, 1955

## Conestoga Handed First Grid Setback Loses to Radnor, 19-6, As Neighborhood Rivalry Is Renewed

The string (*victory string*, that is) ran out on Conestoga High as it lost to neighborhood rival Radnor High, 19-6, on Teamer Field in Berwyn, last night. It was the first defeat for Coach Bill Paolantonio's Pioneers in four starts.

Although it won decisively, Radnor had to come from behind after Bill Delaware smashed over from the five for a Conestoga touchdown in the first period.

*Daily Local News*  
October 8, 1955



## Pioneers Rap Upper Merion by 20-7 Count "Butch" Shockley Scores Two and Delaware One in Boosting Record to 4-1

Conestoga High brought its 155 gird record to a 4-1 standing with a 20-7 victory over Upper Merion High in a postponed non-leagues game on Teamer Field in Berwyn yesterday afternoon.

The Pioneers scored three time and held a 20-0 edge before the Spartans finally got over their touchdown in the dying minutes of action. Bill Delaware launched the Conestoga scoring with a 35-yard scamper into the end zone in the first period.

"Butch" Shockley, Coach Bill Paolantonio's big fullback attended to the rest of the Pioneer point-production. He scored in the second period on a 25-yard run after taking a pitch-out from Emil Capetola. The same maneuver was repeated in the fourth quarter with the exception that on this occasion Shockley traveled 50 yards for the TD.

Art LeGar, Conestoga end, crossed the Upper Merion goal line after a 30-yard jaunt in the second period but a penalty against the Pioneers nullified the play.

*Daily Local News*  
October 18, 1955

## Pioneers Top Red Raiders in Loop Fray

***Come From Behind after Trailing Coatesville and Win Out by 14 to 6 Margin***

Conestoga High had to come from behind to notch its second straight Ches-Mont League victory, by a 14-6 score, against Coatesville High under lights at Scott Field in the Steel City last night. The Pioneers, with a 5-1 overall log, previously won over Bridgeport in the league.

The Raiders took a 6-0 lead on a nine-yard pass from Paul Chengler to Mike Logue. Conestoga fought back in the second period and got a scoring break when Pat Rosato broke through to dump Raider Carl Pavolic in a hand-off and jolt the ball from his hands. John Dannaker, one of Coach Bill Paolantonio's guards scooped up the ball and was off on a 37-yard sprint to the end zone. Big Bill Shockley converted with a placement to give the Pioneers a 7-6 edge, and they were not headed.

The insurance touchdown for the upper Main Liners came in the third period when Shockley bulled his way over from the three at the end of an 89-yard drive. Highlight of the advance was a 47-yard scamper across midfield by halfback Bill Delaware. A 15-yard pass interference penalty, plus nine and eight yard runs by Shockley put the ball in scoring position.

*Daily Local News*, October 22, 1955

## Pioneers Win Over Trojans by Easy 23-0

Conestoga flexed powerful football muscles last night and made a roaring challenge to all Ches-Mont League title-seekers by mashing powerful Pottstown 23-6.

The Pioneers cashed in one in the first quarter, twice in the second, and added a safety in the third frame to humiliate the arc-splashed Trojans before 3,000. George Ford, Lou Mitchell and Bill Shockley were the scoring gridders for Conestoga. Ford scored on a 55-yard pass play, Mitchell grabbed another aerial good for 18 yards and a TD, and Shockley circled his flanks for 25 yards and the third counter. Shockley converted three PAT's.

*Daily Local News*, October 29, 1955

## Conestoga Clears C-M Title Path of Big Obstacle

***Delaware, Shockley and Ford Score in 27-0 Rout of Downingtown As Defending Champions Keep Slate Clean***

Conestoga High smashed through the big road-block in its path to retention of championship rating in the Ches-Mont League with a resounding, 27-0, victory over Downingtown High before some 2,000 chilled but enthusiastic fans on Teamer Field in Berwyn Saturday afternoon.

### **Overall Record, 7-1**

Beaten only by undefeated Radnor in eight outings, the Pioneers never looked better for their new coach than they did Saturday. They scored in three periods as they gained 224 yards, net in 30 carries. Completing two of four passes, they picked up 86 yards.

Bill Delaware, Coach Paolantonio's fast-stepping, 155-pound halfback got the Pioneers off to a great start with a 53-yard touchdown spring in the early minutes of the first period. Downingtown had received but could not gain and punted to the Conestoga 52. "Butch" Shockley, super-charged fullback smashed for five yards on the first Conestoga play from scrimmage, and on the next play Delaware danced through the Whippet line and raced unmolested into the end zone.

### **One For "Butch"**

Just four plays later, Conestoga got into possession again, and on its first play, Shockley swung wide around the end and sprinted 43 yards to the Papertown two. On the next call he charge across the pay-off strip.

Conestoga worked hard for a second period touchdown, going 68 yards in a march which did not include any long gains. The advance was capped when Delaware galloped around the Whippet wing for eight yards and a touchdown.

### **Ford In Act**

There wasn't any more scoring until the closing period, when George Ford, big, burly Pioneer wingman, took a 29-yard pass from Emil Capetola and was in the clear for a 30-yard ramble into the end zone. The 59-yard play came with five minutes left to play.

Two of the extra-point conversions came on placements by Shockley and one on a pass from Capetola to Lou Mitchell.

*Daily Local News*

November 7, 1955

# Conestoga Certain of Championship in Ches-Mont Loop

## ***Completes Defense of Title by Crushing Phantoms***

Conestoga High crushed Phoenixville 34-6 and got an assist from Downingtown High when it upset Coatesville 14-7 to clinch championship honors for 1955 in the Ches-Mont League.

The Pioneers, who as Tredyffrin-Easttown High, won the

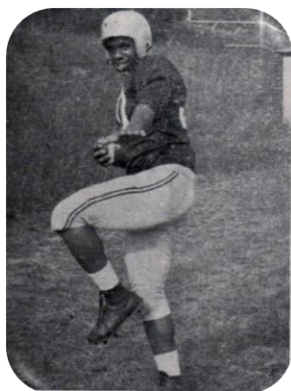
league title last year, have won five Ches-Mont games in a row and have only their Thanksgiving Day annual left on the schedule.

Burly "Butch" Shockley, powerful fullback for the Pioneers brought his league scoring total to 52 by adding 16 points on two touchdowns and four extra-point conversion against the Phantoms. He got his first touchdown on a 76-yard romp in the second period. In

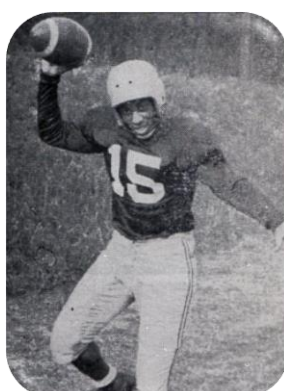
the third, he plunged over from the one for his second. Bill Delaware ran seven yards, and Bill Murphy ran 14 yards for touchdowns, while Jack Thornton scored by running five after grabbing a 17-yard heave from quarterback Emil Capetola.

***Daily Local News***

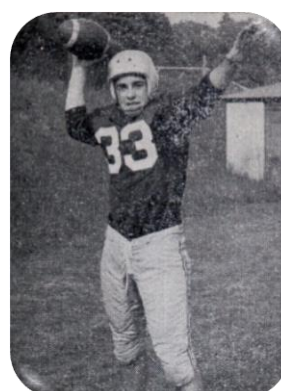
November 14, 1955



"Butch" Shockley



Bill Delaware



Emil Capetola

## **Good Backs Help Paolantonio Make Good at Conestoga**

By DICK BOWMAN

Of the *Local News* Staff

Conestoga High School, a repeater in winning the Ches-Mont football title, though under a different banner, can thank its new coach for maintaining its gridiron standards, and taking over without breaking the stride of former mentor Ernest (Ernie) Meyer. The new chief of the Pioneer strategy board is Head Coach William Paolantonio, former assistant coach under Meyer and a booming success in his own right, having

brought home the flag in his first year at the helm.

Paolantonio, a strapping six-footer thickly set and not far out of the shape that enabled him to garner All-Conference honors at guard for Elon College, North Carolina, explained the challenge involved in trying to fill the cleats of a man like Meyer.

In his fledgling season as head man, Paolantonio was without the services of such former standouts as Charles Chiccino and Fred Gasser, 1954 First Team All Ches-Mont at

halfback and tackle respectively. But he was blessed with such potential firebrands as Bill "Butch" Shockley, Bill Delaware and Emil Capetola. Shockley, the number one fullback in the loop, presently leads the Ches-Mont scorers with 52 points, while halfback Delaware had posted 24 points, and quarterback Capetola is rated one of the ablest field generals in the league.

***Daily Local News***

November 17, 1955

# CONESTOGA TAKES CLASSIC

## *Ches-Mont Champs Erase Warrior Lead with Rally*

By DICK BOWMAN  
Of the *Local News* Staff

It looked like a day for upsets. Even the sun was shining unexpectedly. But for West Chester High, though its gridgers family fought through 67 yards of rugged defenders to lead 7-0, the sun stopped shining with less than a minute to go in the first half, and was never again to light the path to glory land. The visiting Garnet and Whites lost to Conestoga 20-7 before 6,000 screaming, shivering fans who overran sunbathed but windy Teamer Field to witness the Turkey Day classic.

### **Capetola and Mitchell Connect**

After West Chester opened the second quarter with a one-yard TD plunge and a PAT to make the score 7-0, the champs from Berwyn rebounded with a hair-breadth touchdown with 10 second remaining in the half. It was Lou Mitchell's backward twist and diving snag of Emil Capetola's 23-yard toss that gave Conestoga its first TD in the waning seconds of the first half.

It looked like the Warriors were going to get out of the first half unscathed, but Mitchell picked up a punt on the 10 and returned it to the 28. With the sands of time slipping rapidly through his fingers, quarterback Emil Capetola deftly mixed up his plays, springing halfback Bill Delaware loose for gains of 16 and 5 yards. This set-up a passing situation on the 50. Capetola threw from the midfield stripe to Mitchell on the West Chester 40, and the six-foot, 180-pound terminal raced to the 23. Two plays later he gathered in a wobbly, short pass from Capetola and slide across the end zone as he caught it.

### **Shockley Scores Two TD's**

In the second half, a poor punt bounced into the arms of Capetola. Hemmed in by Warrior defenders, he lateralled to Mitchell who scooted from his own 28 to the WC 48. Bill Delaware clicked off 17 yards in the next three carries. Bill Shockley bucked to the WC 20, then to the WC 12. Two plays later, he picked his hole and added the finishing touches.

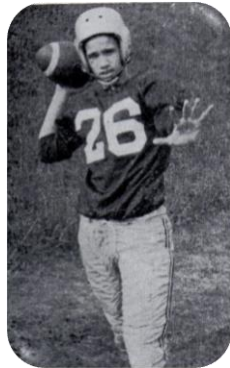
Shockley's interception set up the final Pioneer TD in the fourth period. He returned the stray aerial to the WC 37. The Conestoga lads cashed in eight plays later. Shockley pulled a beautiful delayed buck for 15 yards to roar through a huge hole and score standing up. Shockley converted for two of three PAT's. The pair of TD's and PAT's boosted his Ches-Mont total to 66 points.

*Daily Local News*

November 25, 1955



Don Christenson



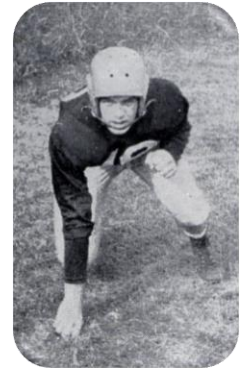
Jim Lledo



George Ford



Lawrence Henry



William Bixler

# CONESTOGA DOMINATES ALL-STAR SELECTIONS

## *Two Backs, Four Lineman Chosen on All Ches-Mont Team*

By DICK BOWMAN  
Of the *Local News* Staff

Named from the Conestoga championship team to the C-M All-Star Teams were end Lou Mitchell, center John Hamilton, guards Pat Rosato and John Dannaker, and back Bill "Butch" Shockley and Billy Delaware.

Conestoga, because of its crushing 6-0 league mark, highlighted by a flock of decisive wins, controlled the mid-line of the mythical squad. Guards Rosato and Dannaker, are both short, stocky wedges of concrete. Dannaker, a "watch charm guard" at 5-foot 5-inches, 155-pounds was cited for his aggressive play throughout the season, while Rosato, only 5-foot 7-inches in height but strapping 190 pounds under his pads, also contributed greatly to the *Pioneers* winning ways. Hamilton was a top flight lineman who played both ways.

Fullback "Butch" Shockley, Ches-Mont point-leader with 66 was the number one pick among the backs, closely followed by lean and fast

teammate Bill Delaware. Mitchell, headliner at the end, was outstanding on offense and defense throughout the race.

John Chilla of Downingtown got the nod for First Team quarterback over his chief contender, Emil Capetola. Emil received Second Team honors. Tackle Herb Wiley received Honorable Mention.

*Daily Local News*

December 1, 1955

## All-Ches Mont Choices Display Conestoga Championship Loot



**THE EIGHT CONESTOGA HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS** who won places on the sportswriter's All-ChesMont League teams this fall appear to be well equipped with trophies as they line-up to receive certificates attesting their selection on the all-star eleven from Daily Local News sports editor, "Butch" McDevitt at the annual football banquet in Berwyn, Wednesday. "Butch" is shown handing a certificate to Bil "Butch" Shockley the Conestoga fullback who also won honors as the ChesMont League's outstanding player. Others in the group, left to right, are Emil Capetola, Pat Rosato, John Hamilton, Bell Delaware, Herb Wiley, John Dannaker and Lou Mitchell.



# Shockley Honored During Conestoga Sports Banquet

By HUGH V. MCDEVITT  
*Local News Sports Editor*



**WILLIAM "BUTCH" SHOCKLEY**, left, flashes a happy grin as he receives a congratulatory handshake from Captain John Mower on being acclaimed winner of the annual Society of the Purple Heart award as the outstanding football player of 1955 in the Ches-Mont League. Conestoga Head Coach, William Paolantonio, in the center, smiles his approval. The presentation was made at the Conestoga sports banquet last evening. Shockley holds the trophy which is his permanent possession, while Captain Mower, representing the Chester County chapter of the Society of the Purple Heart, holds the league trophy on which the Conestoga fullback's name will be inscribed and which will remain in the Conestoga trophy case until at least next fall.

## **Kept Secret**

Winner of the annual award to the league's most-valuable player, sponsored by the Chester County Chapter of the Society of the Purple Heart, was kept a secret up until the moment that Captain John Mower called Shockley forward to receive it.

"Butch," high scorer of the Ches-Mont League, honored as the team's outstanding back and rated as an All-Ches-Mont star became the fourth player of the Berwyn school to win the coveted trophy since it was presented in 1949.

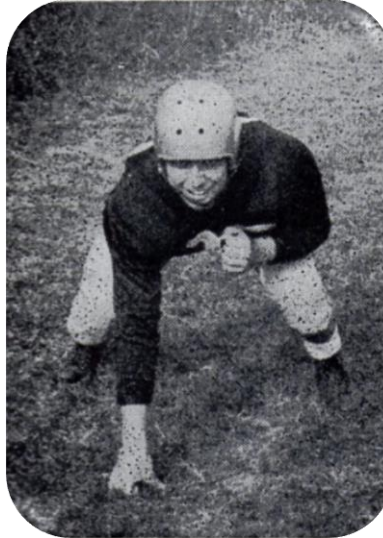
Previous winners from the school were Frank Della Penna in 1951, Robert Lee in 1952 and Charles Chiccino last fall. Other winners were Jack Helm, Downingtown in 1949; Herbert Scott, West Chester in 1950; and Pat Paciarelli, Bridgeport in 1953. All of the recipients to date have been backfield stars. The award is made on the basis of votes by the coaches of the Ches-Mont League.

# Pat Rosato Cited by *Bulletin* As Lineman on “Dream Eleven”

Hard work, sincerity, and an earnest desire to play good football paid off last week for one of the Conestoga High School’s linemen, Pat Rosato, the 190-pound block of granite was selected on the *Bulletin*’s first team at a guard position.

This honor was the reward of a young man who has given his best to football for the past three years. As a sophomore Pat reported as a chubby youngster who had little of the qualities of becoming a star. He wasn’t fast, he wasn’t tough and he possessed a genial disposition that made it impossible for him to get mad. In the toughest scrimmages, and the roughest playing and verbal lashings, Pat would always come up smiling.

Rosato showed improvement in his junior year but was still not good enough for a starting assignment. The sophomore



**IN THREE GAMES**, Conestoga has scored 94 points. In the same games, the opposition has scored only once, but not through the line. In the first two game each team made only one first down. The Pioneer line has done a good job, and of the stalwarts in the line has been the rugged Pat Rosato. (Reprinted from the CHS football program.)

softness turned to muscle, he learned more football but he still retained his pleasant disposition, on the field and off. It was remarked: “If only Pat would get mean and nasty, he would be great.”

As a senior this young man proved he could be great and still not get mean or nasty. Pat became touch and strong and could move his weight around in the line as good as the best. Pat had more weight. He had brains and was always alert, both mentally and physically. His hard tackles caused fumbles that saved games and won games. He captured fumbles that helped to do the same.

Young Pat Rosato won his honors by hard work. As a member of the “dream” eleven, the school and the community are proud of this young man.



Rosato, Cumens, Paolantonio

## **WILLIAM PAOLANTONIO**

Head Coach

1955

Assistant Coach 1953-1954

## **JAMES ROSATO**

Assistant Coach

1955

Junior High Assistant Coach

1951-1954

## **ROBERT CUMENS**

Assistant Coach

1955



# 1955 Conestoga Pioneers



No	Player	Position	No	Player	Position
12	Bailey Stewart	Back	10	Art Legar	End
15	Bill Delaware	Back	17	J. Thornton	End
16	Ed Griffith	Back	23	Lou Mitchell	End
22	Paul Eaton	Back	27	Mex Barajas	End
25	Lawrence Henry	Back	29	Jim Dodson	End
26	Jim Lledo	Back	34	George Ford	End
31	Bill Shockley	Back	11	John Boschi	Guard
32	Bill Murphy	Back	13	Jim White	Guard
33	Emil Capetola	Back	19	Bill Bixler	Guard
24	John Hamilton	Center	30	Pat Rosato	Guard
28	Bob Walton	Center	38	Joe Malpeli	Guard
36	Don Christensen	Center	18	Herb Wiley	Tackle
37	Tony Yelovich	Center	20	Jim Beltz	Tackle
86	Jim Fitzgerald	Center	21	John Kraljevich	Tackle
			35	Vince DiPaul	Tackle
			39	Sel Whitaker	Tackle