

1967 Conestoga Pioneers

Pioneers Enter Action With Best Backfield

*Daily Local News
Football Preview
September 12, 1967*

Conestoga rolls out of Suburban II into the new Suburban Central League this season and should make its presence felt with what veteran coach Bill Paolantonio calls his finest backfield in seven years. "Not since Danny Cogan and Dave Thornton have we had a backfield like this," said Paolantonio, entering his 13th season on the Upper Main Line with a record of 84-41.

"I'll tell you how good our line is at the end of the season," he said. "On paper, it looks good."

The Pioneers come off a 6-4 season in 1966, capped off by a 28-17 win over traditional Thanksgiving Day rival West Chester, with 10 returning veterans. Four of them make up a complete backfield.

Chuck Vogan will direct the Pioneers' Wing T at quarterback. Butch Smith is at left halfback; Mike Byrd is at wingback; and Todd Parrish is at fullback.

Good Speed

Smith, who showed off his 10 flat speed by racing 98 yards with the second half kickoff against West Chester a year ago, is only a junior. So is Parrish who Paolantonio calls "a real strong runner, tough to bring down." Smith and Parrish scored 14 touchdowns between them last year when the Pioneers averaged 16.5 points a game in their 10 games.

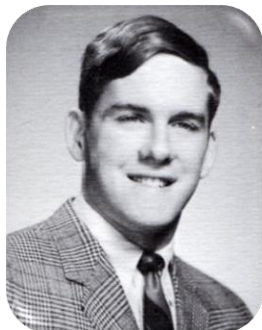
Paolantonio's main concern is keeping Smith, his breakaway runner, healthy, and getting Parrish, a 5-8, 190-pounder in shape. Quarterback Vogan is another six footer wrapped in 180 pounds. He rolls out well, and he has good speed.

Hurt Early

Vogan played in two games last year, and then he injured a knee. He scored the only touchdown in the opening loss to Ridley. He played in the 29-0 romp over Marple Newtown, but he was hurt on the third play of the Harriton game.

Byrd, at 5-6 and 145 pounds, is quick. "He did a heckuva nice job defensively for us last year," said Pal. "We don't run the wing man much, but he did a good job blocking. He scored one touchdown."

Conestoga packs lettermen on both the right and left side of the line. Center was the only open position in the second week of pre-season practice. Tom Upper, a 6-0, 185-pound sophomore, and Dave Bradling, a 6-0, 165-pound senior, were battling for it. "Upper is strong but needs experience," said Paolantonio. "Bradling has experience, but is a little light."



Chuck Vogan
6-1, 180-pounds
Quarterback



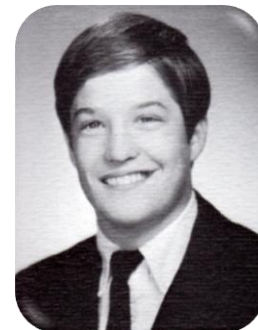
Butch Smith
6-0, 180-pounds
Halfback



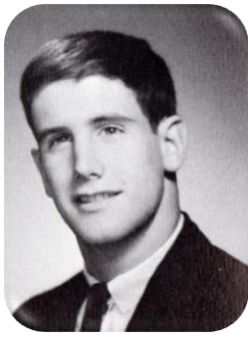
Mike Byrd
5-9, 145-pounds
Halfback



Todd Parrish
5-9, 170-pounds
Fullback



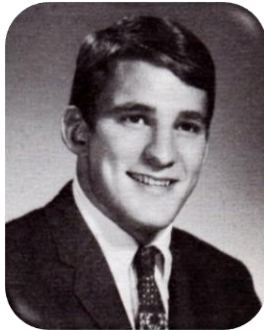
Dave Beadling
6-0, 165-pounds
Center



Stephen Tifft
5-9, 165-pounds
Left End



Bob Hill
6-2, 215-pounds
Left Tackle



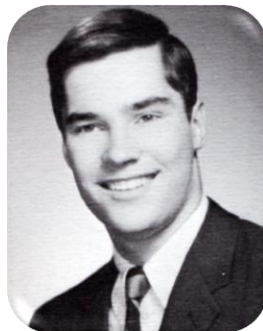
Jeff Young
5-10, 185-pounds
Left Guard



Dave Heaton
5-10, 180-pounds
Right Guard



Scot Morrow
5-11, 185-pounds
Right Tackle



John Bollman
6-1, 175-pounds
Right End

Steve Tifft, 5-9, 165 pound senior, returns at left end. "Despite his size, he is tough as heck," said Paolantonio. "He caught a few passes last year, but his big value is blocking and tackling."

Bob Hill, a 6-2, 215-pound senior at left tackle, is prime college material. He had a tremendous year, and we're expecting a lot from him this season too," said the coach. "He's very aggressive, and he has a good attitude. He is built solid, and his has good speed. He is also a good student.

Returning Veteran

Jeff Young, 5-10, 185-pound junior and son of former Dartmouth All-American Lou Young, returns to left guard and a linebacking assignment. "Jeff is tough," declared Bill. "He's going to be a heckava football player."

Don Heaton, a 5-10, 180-pounder, is at right guard. He was injured during the early portion of last season, but he mended and saw a lot of action late when Conestoga won its last three games and five of its last six. Heaton will also backup the line.

Scott Morrow, a 5-11, 185 ponder, is at right tackle, "We're looking for a good year from him." Said Pal. The right end is John Bollman, a 6-1, 175-pounder who Pal said "has good hands, he caught a few passes last year." He does the punting. Bollman has been averaging 40 to 45 yards punting under pressure in pre-season drill.

Paolantonio feels he has the nucleus of a good team, but "everybody goes both ways," he said. "This is our big problem. We've got to keep everybody healthy."

Conestoga can get some depth from its younger players. "We've got about five sophomores we shoot in there," said the coach. But what else is available from the original squad of 65 that showed up for pre-season drills, only more practice will tell.

Conestoga, for the first time in about 15 years, did not go away to camp. The new league's principals ordered a practice starting time of August 25 instead of August 18, precluding the usual one week of camp.



Paolantonio
Golden Ujobai Ramsey

“We held our camp at school this year, and I think it worked out fine,” said Paolantonio. “We had the squad here for the entire day, and they were served lunch in the cafeteria.”

Paolantonio said the attitude of the team was the best he has seen at Conestoga in years, and this is one of the reasons for his optimism. “We haven’t had any

injuries yet, either,” he said. “However, we can’t afford any.”

Building up from a 3-7 record in 1963, 4-6 in 1964 and 1965, Conestoga last year compiled its first winning season since the split into Great Valley in 1960.

“The opportunity is open to build on that record,” said Paolantonio, “if the team does the kind of job we expect of it.”

Joe Ujobai, former Gettysburg great, will assist Paolantonio again with the backfield. Harry Golden, former Yale guard, is coaching the offensive line, and Tom Keyser, former West Chester tackle, has taken over for Pete Ramsay as the coach of the defensive line.

Conestoga opens with Penncrest this Saturday morning (September 16). The Pioneers were the only team to beat Penncrest in 1966. The score was 13-7.

The new league is much the same as the old, with the exception of two new teams, Radnor and Lower Merion. Chester and Ridley were dropped. Conestoga’s schedule also includes games with Upper Darby, Harriton, Springfield, Haverford, Marple Newtown, Cheltenham and Turkey Day rival West Chester.

Penncrest Raps Pioneers, 19-6

Daily Local News
September 19, 1967

Conestoga’s Pioneers ran into a rugged Penncrest defense that held them scoreless for three periods and took a 19-6 verdict over the visiting Pioneers yesterday.

Penncrest, defending Section Two League champs along with Haverford thus lead in the new Central League.

Conestoga scored with 9:49 left in the fourth period when Todd Parrish went over from the four-yard line.

Smith, Thorne Score Twice

Conestoga Outruns Upper Darby, 25-20

By **BOB DOUBLE**
(of the *Local News Sports Staff*)
September 23, 1967

Conestoga coach Bill Paolantonio came up with the right mixture of experience and youth in his backfield last night as the Pioneers dealt Upper Darby a 25-20 defeat at Teamer Field in Berwyn.

Veteran Butch Smith picked up where he left off last Thanksgiving for the Pioneers scoring twice while Jeff Thorne, a sophomore, scored two more, filling in for the injured Mike Byrd.

Conestoga need all the scoring power it could muster to offset the sharp passing of the Royals' quarterback.

Paolantonio, who claims that he is counting heavily on the sophomores to back up his vets, got good mileage out of them last night. He started sophomore quarterback Bob Chandler who led the Pioneers' powerful ground attack with the poise of a veteran.

Smith scored the first two TDs while Thorne added the final two including the clincher. Smith racked up 110 yards rushing for the night on 19 carries. Thorne carried three times for 65 yards.

The Pioneers got moving at the end of the first period with the help of a roughing the kicker penalty which gave them a first down on the enemy 25. Chandler who threw only three passes came up with a key completion to keep the drive going.

With a fourth and seven situation at the 21, he passed to end John Bollman. A defender got a hand on it but tipped it to the Pioneers' end at the 10. Smith

carried once to the eight before he roared through the middle carrying several defenders with him into the end zone. Todd Parrish added the extra point.

Smith Returns Kickoff

Upper Darby took advantage of a short punt later in the period. In three plays, they scored. Smith made away with the following kickoff just as he did against West Chester on Thanksgiving. After the ball slipped through a teammate's hands, he picked it up and found a good wall of blocking along the right sideline. He bulled his way past two defenders and broke free for the score.

Chandler started the third scoring drive with a five-yard keeper play and made a first down on a fourth and one yard play to keep it moving. Parrish and Smith moved the ball to the Royals' 44. Then Thorne took off on the first of three reverses gaining 11 yards and showing his coaches where the weak spot in the Royals' line was – at the end spots. Three plays after carting the ball to the 33, Thorne took another reverse handoff in the backfield and followed Chandler through some traffic before hitting the end zone.

Sophomore QB Comes Through

After Upper Darby scored to make it 19-13, the 5-6, 140-pound sophomore, Chandler was called on again moments later as the Pioneers neared the goal line. First he went five yards on a keep and a 15-yard penalty moved the ball to the 34. Thorne went in the exact same direction as before around left end for the clinching touchdown.

Radnor Scores Grid Win

Daily Local News
September 30, 1967

Conestoga suffered a 14-6 loss to Radnor yesterday At the Wayne Raider's field.

Haverford School

Raps Conestoga

Daily Local News
October 9, 1967

Haverford School dealt Conestoga's Pioneers their third loss on the season against one victory rapping the Berwynners, 33-20, Saturday morning.

Butch Smith tallied one Pioneer touchdown on a 43-yard scamper. Rich Carter went across the goal line from a yard out, and Mike Byrd tallied on a two-yard run. Carter

added both extra points for the Pioneers.

Haverford 'Fords' Stop

Conestoga, 27-12

Daily Local News
October 14, 1967

Conestoga dropped its third league game last night to powerful Haverford 27-12 under the lights at Berwyn.

Smith, Byrd Help Pioneers Deal End to Aces' Winning Streak

By **BOB DOUBLE**
(of the *Local News Sports Staff*)
October 21, 1967

Conestoga seems to have the knack for knocking off undefeated teams in league play, and the Pioneers did the same trick again last night by upsetting Lower Merion, 19-6, under the lights at Teamer Field in Berwyn.

It was only a year and a week ago that the Pioneers knocked off Penncrest which had come into the game unbeaten and leading the old Suburban II conference. The conference has changed but not the Pioneers.

Smith, Byrd Score

Butch Smith and Mike Byrd helped provide the offensive spark for the Pioneers whose defense held the high scoring Aces to a touchdown.

Smith scored two touchdowns while Byrd scored the clincher. Smith wound up the game's leading rusher with 128 yards in 21 bruising carries. Both picked off interceptions to keep the Aces down late in the game.

Conestoga coach Bill Paolantonio was happy with the first win after three straight losses. "We made simple mistakes in those games," he said, "but we didn't tonight. It has been so long since we won one and anytime you beat an undefeated team you feel that much better."

Paolantonio was pleased with his defense. "We tried to keep them inside because they have good outside speed," he said. He added that the Pioneers were able to take advantage of several weak spots, which cropped up in the Aces' line. "We looked for them and took advantage of them when they were there," he said.

Conestoga went into the locker room at half time after Smith gave them a 6-0 lead on a 59-yard scoring run.

Early in the second half, the Aces managed to turn the corners on the Conestoga ends – running the ball in from the 12-yard line around left end. The point try was off to the right, and it was a tie game.

The teams traded punts, the rest of the third period and into the fourth quarter. But then, the Pioneers started to exploit the weaknesses in the LM defense. QB Chuck Vogan mounted their winning offensive.

Conestoga took a punt at their own 39. Todd Parrish romped for a first down to the 49, and Smith carried three straight times to the 33. Parrish blasted to the 24. Byrd carried two times to the 14 for a first down.

Key Play

The key play of the drive: With a third and eight situation, Vogan hit end John Bollman with a pass at the sideline just inbounds at the two. Two plays later Byrd followed a good fake to Parrish and found enough room to drive a truck through on the right to score. Rich Carter booted the extra point to give the Pioneers a 13-6 lead with 2:34 remaining.

Smith helped verify what several scouts in the press area had noticed (*that he is the fastest back in the league*) several plays later. The 5-11, 195-pound halfback snared a LM pass at the Pioneer 45, and he returned it 55 yards down the right sideline for a score. Conestoga 19, Lower Merion 6.

Byrd helped end the upset grabbing another LM aerial and carry it to the Aces' 37. Smith was carried off the field on the shoulders of the victorious Pioneer fans as they mobbed the players after the final gun.

Conestoga vs. Springfield

Saturday, October 28, 1967

12-12 Tie

No article available

Parrish Helps Pioneers Nip Marple, 21-7

Daily Local News
November 6, 1967

Conestoga's Pioneers, faced with the threat of tying for the second week in a row, erupted for two last period touchdowns in the final two minutes to upend Marple-Newtown, 21-7, Saturday at Newtown Square.

Todd Parrish, Pioneers' fullback and linebacker scored the final two scores one from each position to give Conestoga its third Central League win against three losses and a tie.

Butch Smith put the Pioneers on the boards first in the opening period going over from the one. End John Bollman took a pass from quarterback Chuck Vogan for the extra point.

Parrish scored his first on a one-yard plunge to cap a 40-yard Conestoga scoring march. Vogan hit Smith with the pass for the extra point.

And 56 seconds later Parrish snagged a pass from the Tigers' QB, and he returned it 45-yards for the score. Rich Carter kicked the extra point.

Conestoga Nips Harriton, In Last Period

Daily Local News
November 13, 1967

Conestoga continued its last period scoring antics checking in with 13 points in the final period to knock off Harriton, 26-18, Saturday morning at Teamer Field.

Last week the Pioneers came back with two scores to stop Marple-Newtown in the final period, 21-7.

Chuck Vogan's 20-yard pass to Steve Tifft gave the Pioneers the vital points to score the Central League

win. Butch Smith scored again from the two to cap the scoring.

The Pioneers held a 13-0 lead on two first period touchdowns. Mike Byrd ripped off an 18-yard scoring jaunt while Butch Smith came back to go 14 yards for a score.

The win in their last league game gives Conestoga a 4-3-1 league record. Their last game is hosting West Chester on Thanksgiving.



#32 Butch Smith



#23 Mike Byrd

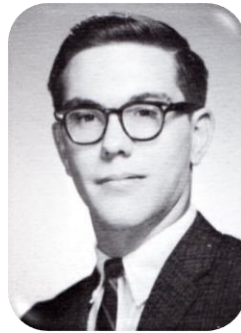
Seniors Appear in Grid Finale



Dave Alexander



Dave Beadling



Robert Bird



John Bollman



Frank Cook

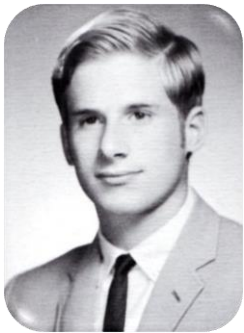


Cliff Duncan

Daily Local News
November 22, 1967

The most ancient of local football Thanksgiving Day classics between West Chester and Conestoga will be the 62nd battle in the series, which got started back in 1903. West Chester has experienced the longest drought in the turkey Bowl games. The last time the Warriors won a game was back in 1956. Only a tie back in 1965 mars the Pioneers' winning streak.

Bowing out for Conestoga at Teamer Field tomorrow will be Chuck Vogan, Charles Shain, John Purtell, Dave Beadling, Carlos Navarro, Cliff Duncan, Bob Hill, Scot Morrow, Steve Tift, John Bollman, Frank Cook and Neil Marquette.



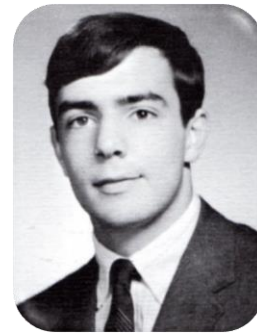
James Everett



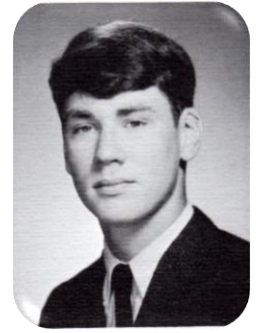
Dave Heaton



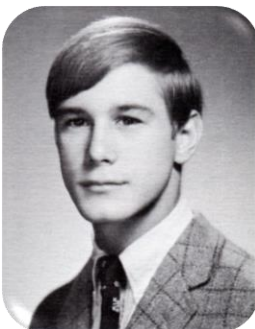
Robert Hill



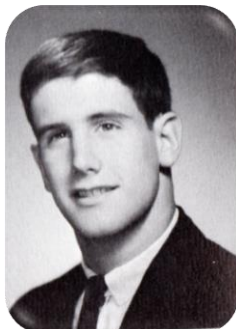
Scot Morrow



John Purtell



Charles Shain



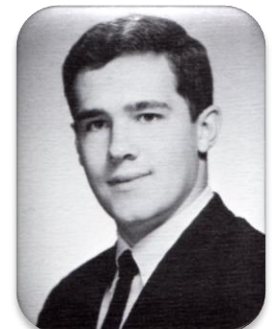
Stephen Tift



Chuck Vogan



Lawrence Welch



Bob Zogby

Warriors Defeat Conestoga, 19-13

By JOHN BRITT
(Local News Sports Editor)
November 24, 1967

West Chester scored two touchdowns in the first half to go up 13-0 at the half. Conestoga was not to be subdued easily. The Pioneers got right back in striking distance as the second half got underway. Todd Parrish ran back the kickoff to the West Chester 19, covering 61 yards in the process.

Smith Scores

Conestoga then got its opportunity to beat the ball into the end zone, and they managed to get past a tough Warrior line with a sweep to the left. Butch Smith took it home on a fourth and four situation.

West Chester 13, Conestoga 7

Then both teams tried unsuccessfully to move the ball. In the fourth period, WC started grinding out a TD drive at their own 45. On a fourth and four on the four-yard line, the Warriors surprised the Pioneers with a TD pass. Following the score, the Warriors kept grinding out the clock whenever they got hold of the ball.

Get Final Score

Conestoga had only 32 seconds remaining on the clock when it got possession of the pigskin, but the Pioneers made the most of it, and they scored in the final seconds. A Chuck Vogan pass got the Pioneers out past midfield. Then the Conestoga QB connected with end Steve Tiff for a 45-yard scoring play that made the score as tight as the game really was.

Final: West Chester 19, Conestoga 13



First Row: John Purtell, Chuck Shain, Scot Morrow, Bob Hill, John Bollman, Dave Heaton, Butch Smith, Chuck Vogan, Mike Byrd, Dave Alexander, Dave Beadling, Cliff Duncan, Frank Cook, Dave Newman, Rich Carter

Second Row: Guy Calloway, Bill Smith, Steve Braun, Jeff Hyde, Todd Parrish, Bill DiDomenico, Jeff Christman, Henry Gulbrandsen, Jeff Young, Robert Bird, McMillian, Allan Ford, Corky Foster, Stephen Nugent

Third Row: Bruce Upper, Scott Dittmore, Martini, Bob Chandler, Huling, James Pettia, Rick Stratton, Bob Berke, Pete Strong, Frank Marcantonio, Dially, Clair

Fourth Row: George Schwartz, Chip Hable, Jon Butcher, Dave Fillippo, Kelly, Mike Kennedy, James Spinelli, Lindsay Paine, Larry Welch, John Shea, James Johnson, Duff Emerson, Bruce Collier, Feinster

Fifth Row: Bob Zogby, Craig Sykes, Peter Welsch, Lund, Tom Wolber

Back Row: Coach Paolantonio, Coach Keyser, Coach Golden, Coach Ujobai