

1958 Conestoga Pioneers

Conestoga Returning Lettermen



Front row, left to right: Matt Alston, Walt Pierce, Joe Parella. Back Row: Eddie Byrd, Walt Madison, John Tunnell. Pete Thorell is missing from the picture.

Bill Paolantonio was the Head Coach of the 1958 Conestoga football team, and his assistants were Joe Kane and Joe Ujobai.

The team shared the Ches-Mont League Championship with Downingtown and Pottstown. Each team had five wins, one loss and one tie. The Pioneers tied Coatesville, 6-6, and they lost to Downingtown, 14-6. In non-league action, they won seven games.

End Matt Alston (5-8, 160-pound senior) was named to the First Team. Guard Ron Welpott (5-9, 170-pound senior), center Walt Pierce (5-9, 180-pound senior) and halfback Eddie Byrd (5-7, 167-pound senior) were selected for the Second Eleven. Quarterback Pete Thorell received Honorable Mention.

Late Opening May Hamper Conestoga

Starts Defense Of Ches-Mont Title September 26

Daily Local News
September 17, 1958

A late-opening schedule and lack of team weight pose the major problems as Coach Bill Paolantonio prepares his Conestoga Pioneers for defense of their Ches-Mont League football championship. Seventy candidates answered Paolantonio's call to Camp Conrad Weiser last month but missing were eight boys who played important roles in last year's unbeaten season.

Stars Graduated

Lost to graduation were three All Ches-Mont players: two-time

center selection Tony Yelovich, all league tackle Sel Whitaker, and all league guard Jimmy White. Also missing are backs Harry Siravo and Al Freed, guard Bill Leary and end 'Mex' Barajas, members of the 1957 all league squad.

The Pioneer picture, however, is far from gloomy. Conestoga has been the most consistent team in the seven-year history of the Ches-Mont League. During that period, the Garnet and Gray has won 35 games, lost seven and played three ties while taking or sharing four league championships.

Seven lettermen return to the Conestoga squad, led by Eddie Byrd, shifty junior halfback. Byrd, who stands just 5-7 and weighs 167,

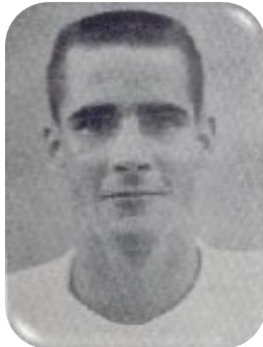
scored eight touchdowns in league play last season. Pete Thorell, senior quarterback, and John Tunnell, 150-pound junior, also return in the backfield.

Solid man on the line is center Walt Pierce, 180-pound senior. Guard Walt Madison (190) and ends Matt Alston and Joe Parella are other returning letter-winners. Madison is a junior while the wingmen are both seniors.

Pierce apparently has the pivot spot nailed down but Alston and Parella are in a four-way scrap with juniors Hack Williams and Bob Pasquarella for the starting end spots.



Eddie Byrd
Junior Halfback



Pete Thorell
Senior Quarterback



John Tunnell
Junior Halfback



Walt Pierce
Senior Center



Walt Madison
Junior Guard



Matt Alston
Senior End



Joe Parella
Senior End



Hack Williams
Junior End



Bob Pasquarella
Junior End

Guards Lack Weight

Paolantonio's point about lack of size shows up at the interior line positions where the four leading candidates for guard, Ron Welpott, Phil James, Frank Lemma and Madison, average 174 pounds. Welpott and James are seniors while Lemma is a junior.

Better size is evident at the tackle spots where sophomore Peter Meoli (170) is vying with seniors Chic McDonnell (200) and Bruce Schutte (180).

In the backfield, Thorell, Byrd and Tunnell are set. But the fourth spot is wide open. Don Henry, John Vause and Ronnie Brown are

rivals for the final backfield slot. Other backfield candidates are Lloyd Stover, Pete Chiccino, Dan Cogan, Marty Sarmento, Sam DeRemigo, Dave Thornton, Dave Bloom, Don Kopp, Bill Beatty, Charlie Jenks, Paul Blain and Tom Bodman



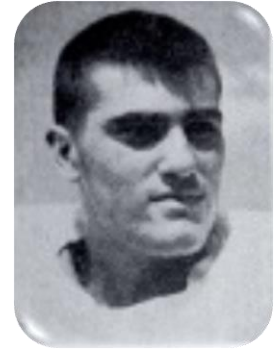
Ron Welpott
Senior Guard



Phil James
Senior Guard



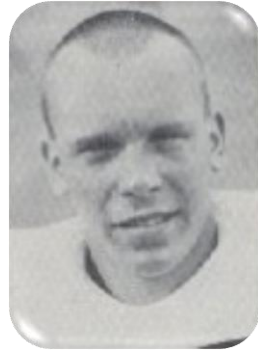
Frank Lemma
Junior Guard



Pete Meoli
Sophomore Tackle



Chic McDonnell
Senior Tackle



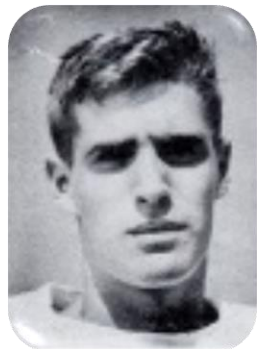
Bruce Schutte
Senior Tackle



Don Henry
Senior Back



John Vause
Junior Back



Lloyd Stover
Sophomore Back



Pete Chiccino
Junior Back



Dan Cogan
Sophomore Back



Marty Sarmento
Senior Back



Sam DeRemigio
Senior Back



Dave Thornton
Sophomore Back



Dave Bloom
Junior Back



Don Kopp
Sophomore
Back

Conestoga Wallops Conshohocken, 39-0

Thorell, Stover Score Twice In Season-Opening Victory

By JOAN TOENNIESSEN
Of The Local News Staff

Conestoga High School, defending co-champions of the Ches-Mont League, served notice last night that it will be tough to dethrone as it humbled Conshohocken, 39-0, on Teamer Field in Berwyn. From the opening kickoff, the Pioneers were in command and only once did the Golden Bears get down to the Conestoga 30.

First Touchdown March

Left end Matt Alston returned a Conshohocken punt from his own 35 to the Conshohocken 44 to start Conestoga's first touchdown march. John Tunnell moved the ball to the 15-yard line with two runs around left end. Pete Thorell made a touchdown run, but the ball was moved back to the 20 on an illegal procedure call.

Conestoga came right back on a pass from Thorell to Alston, who was all by himself in a corner of the end zone. Thorell passed to John Vause for the conversion and Conestoga led, 7-0.

Intercepts Pass

Conshohocken took the kickoff to the 37, but on the third play from scrimmage, John Tunnell intercepted the Golden Bear QB's pass on the 35-yard line and carried to the 10, where he was forced out of bounds. Three plays later, Thorell scored the touchdown and the conversion. Conestoga led 14-0.

In the next series, Tunnell intercepted another pass on the 50-yard line, and he carried it to the 37. Thorell, Eddie Byrd and Vause picked up the yardage that put Thorell in position to skip over his own blockers and around Bear tacklers to pay dirt. Score 20-0

Conshohocken gained one first down in the ensuing series, and then they surrendered the ball on the 49. On the second-down play, Lloyd Stover, in at quarterback, threw a long pass which bounced off several Conestoga and Conshohocken players before Alston snared it and raced

to the five-yard line. Stover scored on a quarterback sneak play. Score 26-0

Punt Blocked

In the second half, Conshohocken's punt was blocked in the end zone by Hack Williams and Walt Pierce. Williams recovered the ball for six points. Score 32-0

Final Touchdown

Conestoga's last touchdown drive began late in the third quarter. Thornton took a Conshohocken punt on the 10 and returned it to the 19. Pete Chiccino raced to the 37-yard line and a first down. Thornton carried the ball to the 45 and again into Conshohocken territory to the 38. Stover carried to the 25 for a first down. Thornton carried to the 15 for another first down. Don Kapp opened the fourth quarter with a dash to the four-yard line. Three plays later, Stover scored on a quarterback sneak from the two. His point after was good, and Conestoga had its first victory of 1958.

Both Thorell and Stover turned in brilliant performances for Coach Bill Paolantonio. Late in the fourth quarter, Stover intercepted a pass at the 30, and with some top-notch broken-field running carried to the Conshohocken 27.

Conestoga Beats Pottstown, 18-6, To Take League Lead

Pioneers Stage Rally for Second Loop Win

Conestoga moved into the driver's seat in the Ches-Mont League football race last night as it turned back Pottstown's Trojans, 18-6, on Franklin Field, Pottstown. Fumbles were a key factor in the final outcome with both teams hitting hard as they went after the "big" one.

The first Conestoga fumble which came on the sixth play following the kickoff set up the Trojans' lone touchdown. The Trojans marched 59 yards on five plays for the score.

Thorell Intercepts Pass

Eddie Byrd took the Pottstown kickoff on the 33, was trapped back on the 25, but broke away from a host of Trojan tacklers and got up to the 40. Penalties and a fumble halted the drive. Conshohocken took over, and a Golden Bear pass in the end zone was broken up by Matt Alston to save the score. Three plays later, Thorell intercepted a pass and raced around several tacklers, down the left sideline to tie the score.

Byrd Scores

Following the kick-off, Pottstown lost the ball on downs at the Conestoga 19. With Don Henry and Byrd carrying the ball, the Pioneers picked up two quick first downs and moved to the Pottstown 46. A pass interference call on a Thorell-to-Madison aerial moved the ball to the 30-yard line. On the third play, Byrd broke around right end for a 22-yard touchdown run. Score 12-6.

The first half ended before Pottstown could complete a drive. Conestoga waited little time in scoring after the start of the second half as it staged a 68-yard touchdown drive following the opening kickoff. Starting at the 32, Conestoga moved down to the Pottstown four-yard line on nine plays. Byrd, John Vause and Henry carried the ball and rolled up three first downs in the march.

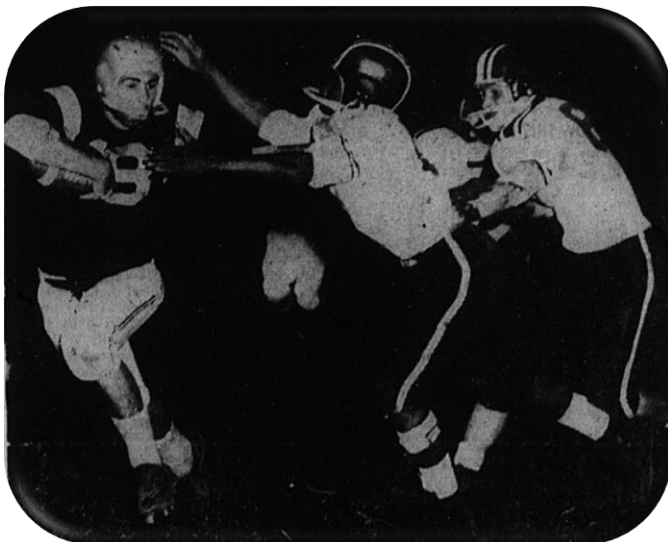
Byrd Scores Again

It was Byrd over right tackle for the touchdown with a little more than eight minutes left in the third quarter. From this point, the teams exchanged the ball 10 times.

Daily Local News

October 4, 1958

Pete Thorell Carries



CONESTOGA QUARTERBACK PETE THORELL tries to push Trojan linebacker out of his path as he picks up yardage in last night's 18-6 win over the Pottstown eleven.

Ed Byrd Scores for Pioneers



JUNIOR HALFBACK ED BYRD eludes two Pottstown tacklers as he starts on a 22-yard touchdown run for Conestoga's

second score in the closing minutes of last night's first half at Pottstown.

Conestoga Routs O. J. Roberts

Third Victory of Season, 36-0

Conestoga High School won its third straight football game by trouncing Owen J. Roberts, 36-0, Saturday afternoon in Bucktown. It was the Pioneers' first non-league game of the season.

Pete Thorell and Don Henry each racked up two touchdowns, and Eddie Byrd and Pete Chiccino scored one apiece as 30 m.p.h. winds roared out of the northwest and down the field. The wind made passing and kicking extremely difficult and practically eliminated all possibility of kicking points after touchdowns.

Conestoga's first touchdown came only a few minutes after the game got underway. Roberts took the kickoff and traveled 41 yards on two passes. But then the Roberts' QB fumbled, and Pioneer guard Phil James came up with the ball on his own 40.



BOMBASTIC EDDIE BYRD (19), Conestoga setback, is seen in one of his patented scampers. Mowing down the opposition is back Don Henry (10).

Byrd Goes 65 Yards

When a couple of running plays and a pass attempt failed, QB Thorell dropped back to punt. Faced with a charging Roberts line, Thorell spotted Byrd a few yards

away. He flipped him a short pass, and Byrd zig-zagged 65 yards to the initial score.

Alston Intercepts

Two plays after Roberts took the ensuing kickoff, Matt Alston intercepted a pass and returned the ball to the Roberts 30. Henry picked up a yard. Byrd carried for a first down. Henry got six yards. And then Thorell scooted around the right side into the end zone for the second TD.

Alston Intercepts Again

Once again, after two plays failed to pick up a first down, the Wildcats' QB went to the air. And once again, Alston intercepted for Conestoga. He returned 20 yards to the Roberts 25. Thorell handed off to Byrd who fought his way to the 12. Henry got to the 10. Byrd carried to the three. Thorell sneaked over for the third Conestoga touchdown.

Three Second-Half Scores

Conestoga marched 70 yards after the second-half kickoff for its fourth touchdown. Don Henry plunged from the two for the score. Again, Roberts couldn't advance, and the Pioneers got the ball on the Roberts 29. John Vause carried four times to get to the three-yard line. Quarterback Pete Schaefer sneaked to the one, and Pete Chiccino busted through the middle for the fifth Conestoga touchdown.

Roberts took the kickoff on its 25. Pioneer Bob Pasquarella threw the Wildcat quarterback for a 15-yard loss. On the next play, Thorell grabbed the ball and ran to the three-yard line. Then he broke up the middle for the final tally.

Earlier in the game, Conestoga center Walt Pierce intercepted a pass, but the Pioneers were unable to convert. And Conestoga guard Walt Madison recovered a fumble; however, Roberts held the line.

Daily Local News

October 12, 1958

Conestoga, Coatesville Play to 6-6 Tie

Pioneers Score In Final Minutes For Deadlock

By **LOWELL TOENNIESSEN**
(*Local News Sports Editor*)

Conestoga and Coatesville ended just about where they started last night as the Ches-Mont League rivals fought to a 6-6 draw on Teamer Field, Berwyn. As a result, Coatesville retains first place and a one-point advantage over the Pioneers in the league standings.

Pioneer quarterback Pete Thorell hit left end Matt Alston with a 25-yard scoring pass to pull Conestoga even with just four minutes, 20 seconds remaining in the game. Coatesville picked up its points late in the second quarter. The contest was hard-fought, and many times the going got a bit rough as both teams felt they had to win.

Conestoga rolled up nearly four times the yardage from scrimmage that the visitors could manage, but

the Pioneers were never really able to control the ball. Bill Paolantonio's defending co-champions rolled up 203 net yards rushing and 74 more passing for a total gain of 277 yards. Coatesville got 50 yards on the ground and 26 in the air. Fumbles probably kept the Pioneers from scoring their fourth win of the year as they lost the ball four times.

Thorell was the big ground-gainer for Conestoga with 78 yards on 13 carries. But senior Ronnie Brown and sophomore Dave Thornton did the heavy work in the Pioneer's touchdown drive. Each carried three times in the nine-play, 70-yard march. Thornton ended with 30 yards on six carries while Brown had 24 yards on 10 tries. Able Joe was the Raider's big warrior but the charging Conestoga line held him to 55 yards in 18 carries, far below his usual performance.

Pioneers' Scoring Drive

The Pioneers finally managed a fumble-less drive as they moved to the tying points in nine plays. Thorell hit Byrd in the left flat, and the all-league speedster rolled to a first down on the Coatesville 46. Brown picked up six through the left side, and Thornton went over right tackle for nine and a first down on the 31. Brown carried for two, and Thornton slipped up the middle to the 18. Brown then got six but a holding penalty set the ball back to the 31. Thorell threw incomplete. Thornton circled right end to the 25. With third down and 17 to go, Thorell rolled out to the right, stopped and found Alston all alone down the left sideline. Alston caught the perfect toss on the three and dove over for the touchdown.

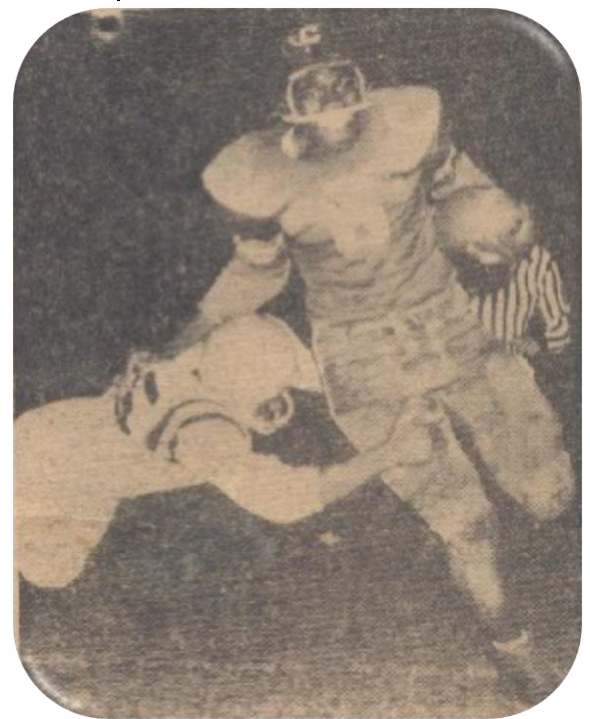
Both teams went to the air in the final minutes in hopes of pulling out a victory.

Daily Local News

October 18, 1958



CONESTOGA HALFBACK DON HENRY (left) rips off a gain around right end in last night's 6-6 tie with Coatesville on Teamer Field, Berwyn.



JOHN TUNNELL is about to make a tackle on Billy Joe, Coatesville's pile-driving fullback.

Pioneers Take C-M Lead With 20-0 Win Over Rams

The Pioneers of Conestoga High School stepped into first place in the Ches-Mont League last night as they defeated Spring-Ford, 20-0, at Teamer Field, Berwyn, while Pottstown defeated the former league-leaders of Coatesville, 20-13, in Pottstown. Touchdown runs of 65 yards on a fumble recovery by guard Walt Madison, 44 yards by John Vause, and 66 yards by sophomore halfback Dave Thornton featured the Conestoga scoring. Marty Sarmiento kicked two extra points.

The Pioneers' first score came midway through the opening period. Walt Madison came up with a Spring-Ford bobble in the middle of a pile-up and galloped 65 yard to pay dirt. Sarmiento's kick was good.

72-yard Touchdown Drive

The teams exchanged a couple of punts before Conestoga started a 72-yard touchdown drive with an 11-yard gain by Thornton and a keeper-play good for eight yards by quarterback Pete Thorell.

Thornton carried to the Rams' 20, but a Conestoga penalty put the ball back on the Spring-Ford 44. On the next play, Vause fought his way around right end and ran 44 yards for a touchdown. Thornton blocked the last Ram defender on the 10. Sarmiento's kick was good, but nullified by a penalty.

Alston Intercepts

Spring-Ford threatened when the Rams' punter returner made his way to the Conestoga 10. Then Matt Alston intercepted a pass and ran the ball to the 34. Thorell handed off to Thornton, and the 155-pound sophomore went 66 yards for the final touchdown. Sarmiento's placement was perfect.

Conestoga threatened again at the beginning of the last period after Madison recovered a Ram fumble. The Pioneers rolled up two first downs, but a fumble gave Spring-Ford the ball.

Thornton Leading Ground Gainer

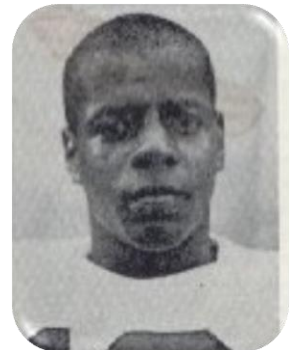
Leading ground-gainer for Conestoga was Thornton, who accounted for 91 of the 190 yards racked up by the Pioneers. John Vause rolled for 68 yards.



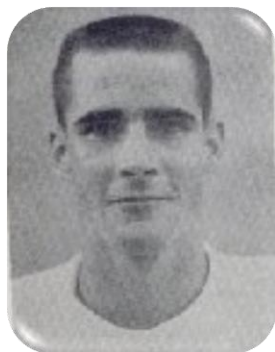
Walt Madison



John Vause



Dave Thornton



Pete Thorell



Matt Alston



Marty Sarmiento

Downingtown Beats Conestoga To Jumble League Standings

The Downingtown Whippets did what they had to do Saturday. Facing virtual elimination from the Ches-Mont League race, the Blue and Gold accomplished what they had not been able to do since 1951 and what no C-M team had done in two years when they defeated league-leading and previously unbeaten Conestoga, 14-6, on the Whippet Field. The defeat not only cost Conestoga first place in the league standings, but also broke a Pioneer unbeaten streak of 12 games against Ches-Mont foes.

Conestoga crossed the Downingtown 40-yard line only twice, both times in the second quarter. Pete Thorell's fine

punting and several long kick returns by end Matt Alston kept Conestoga in the game. The Pioneer quarterback punted seven times for an average of 34.4 yards per kick. Alston returned four Downingtown boots for a total of 136 yards.

Conestoga's Score

Alston put Conestoga in scoring position on the last play of the quarter when, on an exchange of punts, he returned the kick 64 yards down the right sideline to the Whippet 16. Thornton got four yards. Eddie Byrd, returning to action after a week off because of an injury, made one yard. Fullback Pete Chiccino carried for four

yards. QB Thorell picked up a first down with a sneak to the one-yard line. Then after two tries, Thorell went over for score.

Final Threat

Conestoga made its last serious scoring threat late in the second period when, following a series of punts, it drove to the Downingtown four before losing possession on downs. Alston again started the march by bringing a punt back 22 yards to the Whippet 35.

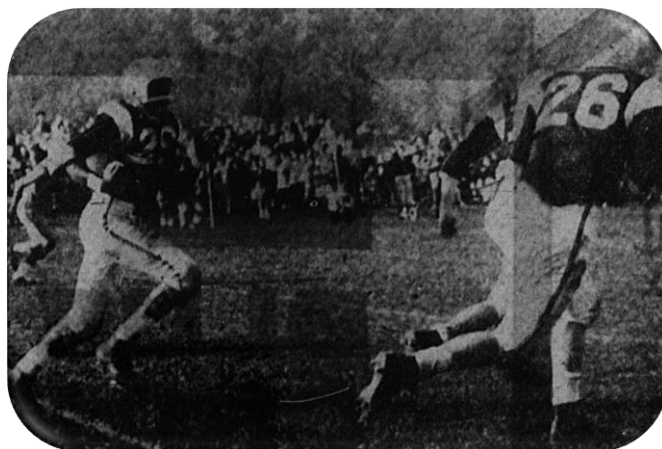
The second half was primarily a defensive battle and kicking duel between the rival quarterbacks.

Daily Local News

November 3, 1958



PETE THORELL (on ground at right), Conestoga's quarterback, is stopped at the one-yard line. He scored on a sneak two plays later.



MATT ALSTON (29) BREAKS INTO THE CLEAR on one of his several fine kick returns Saturday at Downingtown. Blocker at right is Ron Welpott (26).

Henry scores three, Byrd scores two

Conestoga Scores Over Ridley Park

Don Henry scored three touchdowns, and Eddie Byrd scored two to lead Conestoga High School to a 32-19 victory over Ridley Park at Teamer Field, Berwyn, on Saturday afternoon. Conestoga's first touchdown came at the end of a 62-yard drive in which halfbacks Henry and Byrd shared the ball-carrying. Henry ran around right end for the last eight yards and the score. Marty Sarmiento's placement kick was good for the extra point.

Four plays later, Ridley Park fumbled a pass from center, and Conestoga guard Ronnie Welpott recovered on the visitors' 13-yard line. Eddie Byrd carried to the one-yard line on three plays, and Henry plunged over for the second Pioneer touchdown.

The Parkers could not move the ball after the kickoff, and an attempted punt was partially blocked by Conestoga guard Phil

James. Conestoga center Walt Pierce caught the ball and was downed on the Parkers' 42. Byrd, Henry, John Vause and quarterback Pete Thorell took the ball to the eight, then Byrd dashed over for the six points.

With a 19-0 lead, Conestoga relaxed a little, and Ridley Park scored on the first play after the kickoff. Four plays after the ensuing kickoff, Conestoga fumbled, and Ridley Park scored a second time. Score 19-13 at the half.

Byrd Returns Kickoff 95 Yards

Eddie Byrd took the second-half kickoff on his own five and race 95 yards down the east side of the field, but the play was nullified because of a Conestoga off-sides penalty. The teams exchanged punts. Then Thorell passed to end Matt Alston on the Parkers' 19. Byrd hauled the ball to the eight, and then he dove into the end zone.

Again, the play was called back because of a penalty, but two plays later Byrd scored from the seven. Sarmiento's kick was perfect. Score 26-13.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, Ridley Park scored. Conestoga took the kickoff on its own 39. Thorell passed to Alston for 13 yards and again for nine yards to put the ball on the Parkers' 40. Thorell got nine yards on a keeper play; Vause picked up four; and Thorell went up the center to the 21 and a first down. Byrd carried to the 16, and Don Henry drove through the middle to Conestoga's fifth touchdown. Score 32-19.

Hack Williams recovered a Ridley Park fumble for Conestoga on his own 46, but time ran out before the Pioneers could get another drive underway.

Daily Local News

November 10, 1958



Marty Sarmiento
Senior Back



Ron Welpott
Senior Guard



Phil James
Senior Guard



Walt Pierce
Senior Center



Hack Williams
Junior End

Thorell, Byrd Score Twice; Alston, Schaeffer Score Once;
Sarmiento Two PATs in 38-0 Victory

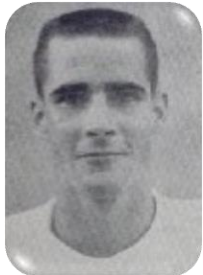
Pioneers Whip Phantoms To Tie For League Lead

By Peggy Rosato

(Of the Local News Staff)

Conestoga moved into a tie with Pottstown for first place in the Ches-Mont League and a step closer to a potential tie for the championship last night by defeating Phoenixville, 38-0, at Teamer Field, Berwyn.

For the 4,500 who watched, it was an evening when Conestoga could do nothing wrong, and the visitors seemingly could do little right. Six of the seven times Conestoga had possession of the ball in the first half, the Pioneers scored.



Pete Thorell



Don Henry

Conestoga kicked off to the visitors, but the Phantoms were forced to punt. The Pioneers took the ball on the Phantom 45, moved it to the 35. Speedy Don Henry, one of the smallest players on the team, broke loose, and he was never stopped until he reached the three. Quarterback Pete Thorell went through the middle to a touchdown with only one and a half minutes gone on the clock. Marty Sarmiento's kick was perfect, and Conestoga led, 7-0

Welpott Recovers

Phoenixville battled from its own 39 to the Pioneer 44 and appeared to be staging an effective attack until the first few seconds of the second period when a host of tacklers sacked the Phantom QB. He lost the ball, and guard Ronnie Welpott recovered for Conestoga on the Phoenixville 47. Thorell aimed a pass at Matt Alston, who grabbed it over his shoulder on the 10, and he scored Conestoga's second touchdown.

The Phantoms punted four plays later, and Eddie Byrd got the



Eddie Byrd



Joe Parella

ball to his own 38 before he was finally stopped. Henry and Byrd moved to the Phoenix 39. On the next play, Conestoga linemen opened a hole in the middle of the line large enough for their band to march through, and Byrd scampered to another TD. Score 19-0.

Parella Forces Fumble

Two plays later, the Phoenix QB was spilled again behind the line of scrimmage by Joe Parella. The big end made him fumble, and Chic McDonnell came up with the ball on the Phoenixville 12. On the

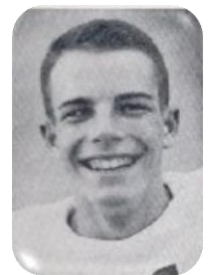
very next play, Byrd ran around left end and scored again. The Pioneers had a 25-0 lead.

PX Defense Fooled

Forced to punt again on the next series, the Phantoms forfeited the ball on their own 33. John Vause racked up two first downs. With time running out in the first half, Thorell lofted an aerial to Alston, and the high-stepping end was tackled on the 11. Only four seconds remained in the period when Thorell dropped back as though to pass, pulling the Phoenixville defense to the right. He turned and headed in the other



Matt Alston



Pete Schaeffer

directions, skirting left end, and he beat his tackler to the end zone. The Pioneers had a 31-0 lead at halftime.

QB Schaeffer Scores

Early in the third period, John Tunnell broke through the middle and carried to the Phantom 13. Dave Thornton, a sophomore, carried to the one, and then he scored. The TD was nullified because of a penalty. Quarterback Pete Schaefer scored on a keeper

play, and Sarmento kicked the PAT to make the score 38-0.

Daily Local News, 11/15/58

Warriors, Pioneers Meet For 53rd Time

Conestoga Needs Victory to Share Ches-Mont Crown

West Chester and Conestoga, a pair of ancient football rivals, will go at it for the 53rd time tomorrow morning in the season-finale for both teams. Action will start at 10 a.m. on Wayne Field, West Chester State College.

The Pioneers have tallied 127 points in six league games for an average of 21.2 per contest. They have been held to less than three touchdowns only in losing to Downingtown and tying Coatesville. Four times this season, the Pioneers have run up more than 30 points. Both teams have proven they can score, and a wide-open game would seem in prospect. Nevertheless, defense may be the key.

Tops On Defense

Stingiest club in the league, Conestoga has blanked four opponents, while allowing on 4.3 points per game. It is this last fact that gives rise to the idea "defense may prove decisive in tomorrow's fray."

Quarterback Pete Thorell, with 38 points to his credit, is the top Conestoga scorer. Halfbacks Eddie Byrd and Don Henry provide most of the Pioneer punch. Byrd, who packs 167 pounds on his 5-foot-7 frame, has a lot of power off tackle. An all league selection last year as a sophomore, he is just returning to top form after being slowed most of the season by a leg injury.

Henry on Relay Team

Don Henry is actually a regular on both offense and defense. A member of the league's champion mile relay team last spring, he has fine speed and, like Byrd, runs well off tackle. Completing Conestoga's backfield are juniors John Tunnell and John Vause, sophomore Dave Thornton and senior Ron Brown, another member of Conestoga's relay team.

Center Walt Pierce and guard Ron Welpott are the big men on the Pioneer line. Pierce, a 180-pound senior, was an all-league choice in 1957 while Welpott, a transfer from Oklahoma, has fit well into Coach Paolantonio's forward array.

Senior Phil James is the likely starter at the other guard slot with classmates "Chick" McDonnell, a 200-pounder, and Bruce Schutte at tackle.

Conestoga Brain Trust



CONESTOGA COACH BILL PAOLANTONIO discusses the situation of the moment with his star quarterback, Pete Thorell, during a recent Pioneer game. The pair will map the offensive strategy for the Berwyn Eleven during Tomorrow's traditional battle with West Chester.

Matt Alston and Hack Williams are the offensive ends. Joe Parella takes over one flank on defense. Alston, an excellent broken-field runner, also handles most of the kickoff and punt returns.

Daily Local News
November 26, 1958



READY TO GO TOMORROW IN CONESTOGA'S ATTEMPT FOR A SECOND STRAIGHT WIN over West Chester, and with it a share of the league championship, are (left to right): line Joe Parella, Pete Meoli, Ron Welpott, "Chic" McDonnell, Frank Lemma, Bruce Schutte and Matt Alston; backs – Pete Chiccino, John Vause, Pete Thorell and Don Henry. Several of the Pioneer regulars, including center Walt Pierce and halfback Eddie Byrd, were missing when the picture was taken. D.L.N. Photo

Pioneers Defeat Warriors, 28-6, With Second-Half Rally

Byrd Leads Drives to Touchdowns

**By Lowell Toenniessen
(Local News Sports Editor)**

Conestoga's Pioneers found a weak spot in the West Chester defense and ran it to a second straight Ches-Mont League co-championship, 28-6, yesterday morning on Wayne Field. A crowd of 6,500 watched the visiting Pioneers spot West Chester an early touchdown, then roll up a pair of scores in each of the last two periods for the important victory. Conestoga, Downingtown and Pottstown share the 1958 C-M championship with identical 5-1-1 league records.

Byrd Stars

Eddie Byrd, all-league halfback as a sophomore in 1957, turned in his finest game of the season. The hard-running, 167-pounder ripped the right side of West Chester's defensive line to shreds as Conestoga scored almost at will. Bill Paolantonio's Berwyn crew got possession five time after intermission and drove to pay dirt on all but the last when the Warriors held on their own 21. Byrd rolled up 170 yards on 23 carries from scrimmage, and average of 7.4 yards per carry.

Assisting Byrd with the legal mayhem were backs Don Henry, John Vause and Dave Thornton and a host of sharp-blocking forwards. Henry,

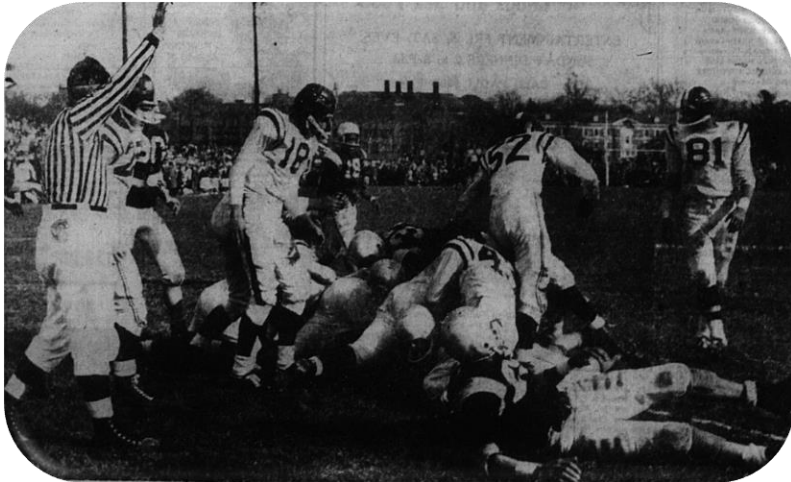
a speedy 135-pound senior, one of 13 playing their final game at Conestoga, gained 50 yards on 13 carries. Vause, a junior and like Henry a member of Conestoga's crack mile relay team, made 48 yards on just four attempts while sophomore Thornton got 48 yards in six tries.

Quarterback Pete Thorell scored the first two Pioneer touchdown on sneaks. Vause got the third on a 25-yard sweep of left end with Thornton following suit from nine yards out for the final TD.

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Touchdown Conestoga



QUARTERBACK PETE THORELL, on the bottom, scored the first Pioneer touchdown on a keeper play after Conestoga marched 64 yards following the second half kickoff. Pioneer players are Joe Parella (30), Ed Byrd (19) and Walt Madison (39).

Byrd Turns On Speed



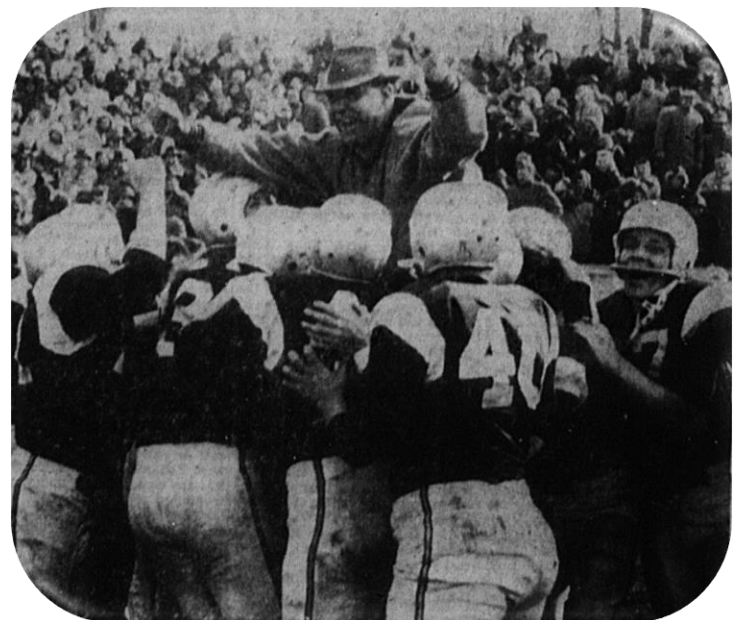
EDDIE BYRD, CONESTOGA'S STAR HALFBACK, turns on the speed to skirt left end for 26 yards and the start of the Pioneers' third touchdown drive.

Away He Goes



CONESTOGA LEFT HALFBACK DON HENRY starts on a 17-yard dash for a Pioneer first down in West Chester territory as teammate John Vause (13) moves over to lend blocking assistance.

Up He Goes



CONESTOGA HEAD COACH BILL PAOLANTONIO is carried triumphantly off the field by a group of players after Conestoga beat West Chester, 28-6, to retain a piece of the Ches-Mont League Championship.

1958 Conestoga Football Team



No.	Player	Class	Position	No.	Player	Class	Position
10	Don Henry	12	Back	B	Ben Smith	11	End
14	Sam DeRemigio	12	Back	F	Stanley Garnett	10	End
16	Ron Brown	12	Back	H	Al Pusey	10	End
18	Pete Thorell	12	Back	O	Mark Knipe	10	End
20	Marty Sarmiento	12	Back	26	Ron Welpott	12	Guard
11	Pete Schaefer	11	Back	28	Phil James	12	Guard
13	John Vause	11	Back	25	Frank Lemma	11	Guard
19	Ed Byrd	11	Back	27	Dick Mannal	11	Guard
31	Dave Bloom	11	Back	39	Walt Madison	11	Guard
34	Pete Chiccino	11	Back	21	Bob Menapace	10	Guard
35	John Tunnell	11	Back	D	Harold Vaughn	10	Guard
12	Dave Thornton	10	Back	G	Bob Mannal	10	Guard
17	Lloyed Stover	10	Back	R	Lee Broomal	10	Guard
23	Dan Cogan	10	Back	36	Chic McDonnell	12	Tackle
32	Don Kopp	10	Back	37	Bruce Schutte	12	Tackle
C	Paul Blain	10	Back	M	Ken Evans	12	Tackle
J	Jim Gross	10	Back	E	Clare Morris	11	Tackle
N	Charlie Jenks	10	Back	24	Frank Wiley	10	Tackle
S	Tom Bodman	10	Back	38	Pete Meoli	10	Tackle
42	Walt Pierce	12	Center	44	Bob Griffith	10	Tackle
L	Tom Bruhn	11	Center	Q	Steve Hayman	10	Tackle
22	Don Jefferis	12	End	T	Bob Evans		Mgr
29	Matt Alston	12	End	U	Elvin Malick		Mgr
30	Joe Parella	12	End	V	Ken Goshorn		Mgr
15	Bob Pasquarella	11	End	W	Coach Paolantonio		
33	Hack Williams	11	End	X	Coach Kane		
40	Bill Beatty	11	End	Y	Coach Ujobai		

Not pictured: Harlan Fisher, Bill Nutter, Joseph Townsend, Dick Fitzgerald - Mgr