

# Great Valley's wishbone breaks Conestoga

By PAUL DODD  
(Local News Sports Staff)  
September 10, 1987

**Berwyn**--This wishbone is a tricky offense, both to run and to defend. Teams that run it well can enjoy either great success or suffer incredible failure.

For Great Valley, the former was the case Saturday night at Teamer Field, as the Patriots manhandled Conestoga for a 13-0 victory.

The Patriots ran the ball well, especially early in the game. A 38-yard run by senior halfback Jimmy Ford-Bey put the Patriots on the Pioneers' 17-yard line on the second play of their first possession.

"That long run hurt us," said Conestoga (0-1) coach Bruce Udovich. "Once we got the feel for (the wishbone), we could stop it. They just out *physicaled* us, and they were a little bit too fast for us."

Charlie Crawford's debut as the Pioneer quarterback was a little rocky.

The Pioneers came right back, however, on the strength of workhorse tailback Mike Billela. Conestoga

took the ensuing possession down to the Great Valley 11 before Crawford's second interception.

Tight end Eric Thorne appeared to have a good chance of catching the pass in traffic near the goal line, but GV pulled the ball down after two tips to foil Conestoga's best scoring chance of the night.

Conestoga's defense forced Patriot quarterback John Delaney to make a bad pitch on Great Valley's first drive of the second half, and John Mansfield recovered at the Pioneers' 41.



After a first down, four short carries by Billela and two more incompletions, however, Conestoga had to punt the ball away.

"We were worried about their passing game and Billela," Coach Honig said. "We had to go to a slanting defense to stop him last year (in Great Valley's 20-0 win)."

**MIKE BILLELA**, Sophomore 5-8, 140  
Tailback

September 17, 1987

Victory over West Chester East

No Article Available



**ANDY LOWE**  
Senior 5-9, 156  
Quarterback  
Halfback



**CAMERON CLARK**  
Senior 5-9, 167  
Split End  
Halfback



**CHED STEELE**  
Senior 5-11, 165  
Tight End  
Defensive End



**MARK HEINZ**  
Senior 5-10, 156  
Flanker  
Halfback



**BRUCE BERNARDI**  
Senior 5-9, 170  
Fullback  
Linebacker

# Pioneers thrashed in Central grid opener

By **DENNY DYROFF**

(Local News Writer)

September 24, 1987

**SPRINGFIELD**--After night and day performances in its first two games, Conestoga football team was somewhat of an enigma heading into Saturday mornings Central League opener against Springfield (Delco).

If Saturday's game answered whether Conestoga is a contender or pretender, then it's likely to be a long dreary season for Pioneer fans who saw their team thrashed 38-0.

The Pioneers who were coming off a stunning upset shutout of West Chester East, simply were unable to handle the stronger Cougars.

Conestoga's offense was virtually non-existent in the second half. It received the ball seven times.

"We made a lot of mental mistakes all over the field," said coach Udovich whose team is 1-2 overall.

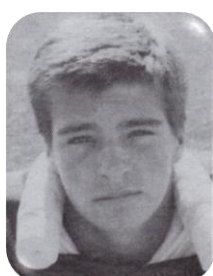
Sometimes when things are going bad, it just gets worse. Then, the kids start second guessing themselves and the mistakes get even bigger.



**STEVE TILY**  
Senior 5-10, 165  
Fullback  
Linebacker



**BRANDON SPEERS**  
Senior 6-0, 195  
Guard  
Linebacker



**STEVE DUKE**  
Senior 6-0, 180  
Guard/Tight End  
Defensive End



**ROB NORTON**  
Senior 6-3, 233  
Offensive Tackle  
Defensive Guard



**ANDY WARNER**  
Senior 6-1, 182  
Offensive Tackle  
Defensive Guard

# Without Gibson, Pioneers fall to Lower Merion

By **DENNY DYROFF**

(Local News Correspondent)

October 11, 1987

Imagine looking in the trunk of your automobile and discovering that your spare tire is flat. Then, when you're on your way to the shop to have it repaired, you get a flat in one of your regular tires.

That's probably the way Conestoga football coach Harry Gicking felt after his team dropped a 28-7 Central League decision to Lower Merion.

Early in the game, the Pioneers lost their top rusher when senior Matt Gibson went down with an ankle injury. Gibson, who started the season at quarterback, was in his second game at running back while sophomore Chris Quinn was the starting QB.

Late in the second quarter, Quinn got knocked out of the game with an arm injury.

"**LOSING BOTH PLAYERS** like that really hurt," said Gicking. "It's very demoralizing and deflating to the team. We lost our best runner and backup quarterback and then our starting quarterback. It's hard to have a team with a third quarterback who can step right in and play."

"I feel bad for Matt (Gibson). He's been a big part of our offense. Also, he's a senior who's really given everything for the team, even his blood."

The Pioneers could have pulled themselves back into the game with a good drive off the second-half kickoff. Instead, on their first play from scrimmage, they fumbled the ball away.

Conestoga, which is now 1-4 on the season, got its lone score late in the game on a bobbled play. Speers fumbled the ball, picked it back up and then pitched to Mike Billela then scooted through the middle for a 29-yard TD.

# Pioneers remain in rut with loss

By **ANDY KOVATCH**  
(Local News Correspondent)

**October 18, 1987**

Looking at the statistics from Friday night's Central League football game between host Strath Haven and Conestoga, one little thing sticks out.

The final score.

Conestoga did just about everything it could have within its power to defeat the Panthers.

They threw the ball well, moved the offense at a steady pace and played an aggressive 48 minutes of football.

But somehow, Conestoga pulled out yet a different trick from the how-not-to-win football games hat.

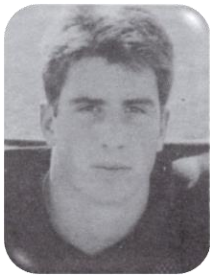
**BUT FOR SOME** reason, it just doesn't seem right that Conestoga lost the football game. After all, the only thing the Pioneers didn't do was put the ball in the end zone.

*Ah, now there's the problem.*

It didn't matter that the Pioneers had more total yards than Strath Haven, nor did it matter that Conestoga finished with a 13-9 first down advantage.

Two Strath Haven touchdowns did matter, however.

"We hung tough. Sometimes in football, the final score doesn't indicate what happened during the game. You just hope when you play that way, the board reflects that. But that's football."



**JOE CORTEZ**  
Senior 6-5, 182  
Tight End  
Defensive End



**ALLAN BROWN**  
Junior 5-2, 122  
Split End  
Safety



**CRAIG DRIVER**  
Junior 6-1, 155  
Split End  
Safety



**DON PURCELL**  
Junior 6-0, 151  
Split End  
Safety



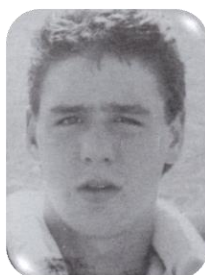
**SCOTT SIMMINGTON**  
Junior 5-7, 160  
Split End  
Halfback



**JODY PORTER**  
Junior 5-6, 135  
Split End  
Halfback



**BRIAN KUCH**  
Junior 5-8, 160  
Fullback  
Linebacker



**ANDREW CHAMPION**  
Junior 6-3, 185  
Tackle  
Linebacker



**DAVID MARTINEAU**  
Junior 6-1, 230  
Tackle  
Defensive Guard



**SCOTT BAKER**  
Junior 6-0, 194  
Guard  
Linebacker

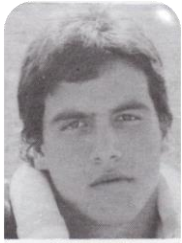
# 21-6 Win

## Conestoga Eases Load with Easy Victory

By **DENNY DYROFF**  
(Local News Correspondent)  
November 1, 1987

If your bags are heavy, it's always nice to have a porter to help carry the load.

Heading into Friday night's game against Radnor, Conestoga's football team was carrying a heavy load on its shoulders - a one-win-in-seven game season.



JIM PORTER

Defensive guard Jim Porter stepped in and helped ease the weight. He recovered two fumbles, one of which led to the Pioneers game winning touchdown. The final score showed the hustling Conestoga boys on top 21-6.

Porter's first recovery came on the first series of the game. After taking the opening kickoff, Radnor picked up 11 yards on its first play.

On its second play, Radnor running back ran for 29 yards and then fumbled the ball away to Porter.

**THE PIONEERS** took over on their own 33 and started to move downfield. The drive stalled on the Radnor 37, and the Pioneers faced a punting situation.



TIM BRADFORD

Instead, they pulled a fake punt and Tim Bradford sprinted 32 yards for a first-and-goal at the five. Four plays later, Conestoga QB Steve Speers plunged in from the one-yard line for the game's first score.

On Radnor's next possession, the Red Raiders got on the scoreboard.

Their PAT kick attempt was blocked by the Conestoga defensive line and the score remained 7-6.

**FROM THAT** point on, Conestoga's defense tightened up and really put the clamps on the Red Raiders' offense. The Pioneers only allowed Radnor one more first down in the half.

Additionally, Conestoga's defense loffed an interception (by Porter) before the halftime break arrived.

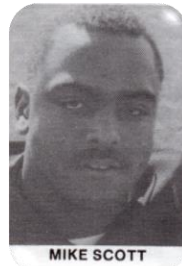
"On my first fumble recovery, I just knocked the ball out of the guy's hands," said Porter, a senior who plays right defensive guard. "On the second one, I went through the line. Their quarterback was about to hand the ball off, so I cut in and took the handoff myself."



SEAN HORTON

Conestoga coach Harry Gicking said, "Jimmy Porter played a *heckuva* game today. He's tough inside. Also, Sean Horton was hitting hard from the secondary."

**"OUR WHOLE** defense played very well. We were getting better field position tonight than we have been all season, although our defense has been playing consistently all season long. Not many teams have driven the ball on us."



MIKE SCOTT

The Pioneers received the kickoff to start the second half, and Ched Steele returned the ball to the Radnor 40. Six plays later, Mike Scott ran for an 18-yard touchdown. Scott finished the game with 114 yards on 24 carries.

"This was my first 100-yard game," said Scott. "Carrying the ball 24 times was more than usual, but I didn't mind at all. Our line was opening good holes for me to run through."

Conestoga's third touchdown was scored late in the fourth quarter. The TD came when sub quarterback Cameron Clark scored on a one-yard sneak.

"The first thing nice about tonight was that we won the game," said Gicking. "The second nice thing was that we scored 21 points. That's the most we've scored all season. Tonight was a key win to keep us going."

### **JIM PORTER**

Junior 5-10, 177  
Offensive Guard  
Defensive Guard

### **TIM BRADFORD**

Senior 5-10, 165  
Fullback  
Linebacker

### **SEAN HORTON**

Senior 5-10, 152  
Split End  
Halfback

### **MIKE SCOTT**

Senior 5-10, 205  
Fullback  
Linebacker

# Tigers 'Barr' Conestoga in season finale

By **TED TORRANCE**  
(Local News Correspondent)

November 27, 1987

Barr completed 16 of 18 attempts for 245 yards and three touchdowns as the Tigers routed the Pioneers 39-14 before a big Thanksgiving Day crowd at Marple Newtown.

The Pioneers fell to 1-8 in league play and finished 2-9 overall. "Marple has a nice club, you have to give them credit," said Gicking.

"We hurt ourselves in the first half, but the kids didn't give up and I think we played better in the second half."

"We're disappointed. You always want to win or at least do well in the last game of the season. It has been a frustrating year."



Taking advantage of a wild snap from center, one of the few Tiger mistakes of the day, the Pioneers moved 27 yards and scored in the final seconds of the third period.

**THE DRIVE** combined the running of quarterback Matt Gibson and Mike Scott with Gibson going over from inches out on the last play of the quarter.

Conestoga, keyed by Scott's 43-yard burst, drove 53 yards for a touchdown with just over three minutes to play.

**SCOTT WAS** the offensive standout for the Pioneers.

Playing in his final high school game, Scott carried the ball 34 times for 186 yards and one touchdown against the Tigers.

**MATT GIBSON**, Senior 6-0, 198  
Co-Captain, Quarterback



**TODD BEATTY**  
Junior 6-3, 187  
Center  
Defensive Guard



**BRAD PHINNEY**  
Junior 6-5 230  
Tackle  
Defensive Guard



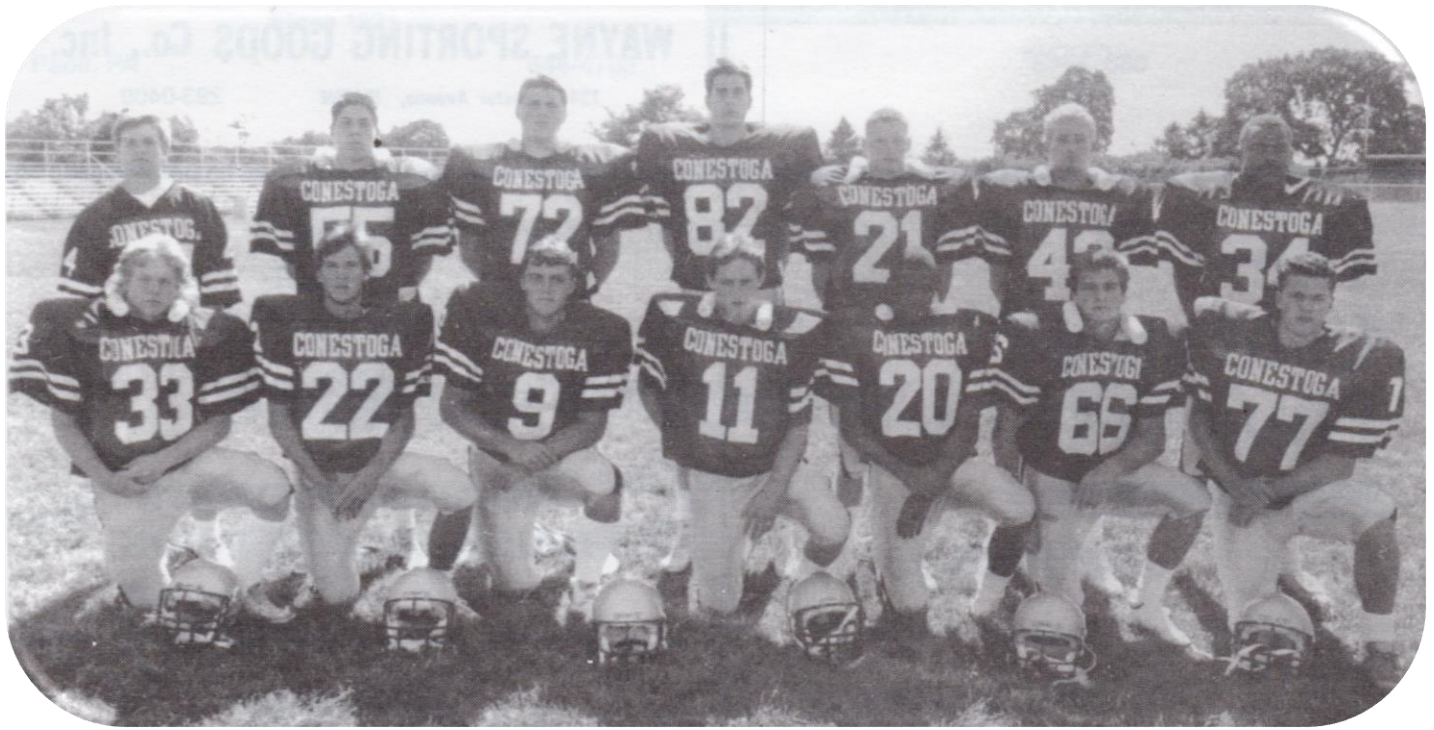
**PETE BERGEN**  
Junior 6-1, 176  
Tight End  
Linebacker



**JOHN DONOVAN**  
Junior 5-11, 160  
Split End  
Halfback



**RYAN HOLLOHAN**  
Junior 5-3, 143  
Split End  
Halfback



**Conestoga Seniors**



**Co-Captain #9 MATT GIBSON**

3-year starter

First Team All Suburban and All Area

Second Team All Central at Safety as a Junior

**Head Football COACH HARRY GICKING**

**Co-Captain #72 ROB NORTON**

3-year starter

Named Honorable Mention All Suburban and All  
Central as a Junior



**Coaching Staff**

Bill Marion

John Vogan

Harry Gicking

Scott Allison

Sam Young

## 1987 CONESTOGA PIONEERS

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.
1	ALLAN BROWN	SE/S	5'02"	122	11
4	DARREL ALSTON	FL/HB	5'08"	134	10
5	CRAIG DRIVER	SE/S	6'01"	155	11
7	MATT BAKER	QB/DE	6'06"	184	10
9	*MATT GIBSON	QB/S	6'00"	198	12
10	ANDY LOWE	QB/HB	5'09"	156	12
11	CAMERON CLARK	SE/HB	5'09"	167	12
12	DON PURCELL	SE/S	6'00"	151	11
14	CHRIS QUINN	QB/HB	5'10"	155	10
15	STEVE SPEERS	QB-FL/DE	6'00"	173	10
20	SEAN HORTON	SE/HB	5'10"	152	12
21	CHED STEELE	TE/DE	5'11"	165	12
22	MARK HEINZ	FL/HB	5'10"	156	12
23	SCOTT SIMMINGTON	SE/HB	5'07"	160	11
24	MIKE BILLELA	TB/HB	5'08"	140	10
26	JOHN MANSFIELD	SE/HB	5'09"	140	10
30	MATT WHITE	SE/S	5'09"	132	10
31	MAXI BARAJAS	FL/HB	5'08"	141	10
32	NEIL MAHONEY	TB/ILB	5'08"	161	10
33	BRUCE BERNARDI	FB/OLB	5'09"	170	12
34	MIKE SCOTT	FB/OLB	5'10"	205	12
35	ERIC HATTON	FB/HB	5'07"	140	10
36	JODY PORTER	SE/HB	5'06"	135	11
40	NIGEL COLES	TB/HB	5'06"	152	10
42	STEVE TILY	TB/DE	5'11"	160	12
44	TIM BRADFORD	FB/ILB	5'10"	165	12
45	BRIAN KUCH	FB/ILB	5'08"	160	11
47	KEITH LAYMAN	FB/ILB	5'08"	155	10
49	DARYL STRICKLING	SE/HB	5'11"	130	10
51	CRAIG JAROS	T/DG	6'02"	185	10
52	ANDY RALSTON	G/OLB	5'11"	160	10
55	BRANDON SPEERS	G/ILB	6'00"	195	12
56	TONY DEHAVEN	G/DG	5'09"	173	10
58	JIMMER CHILDS	OG/DG	5'11"	161	10
60	JACK VOSSENBERG	C/DG	5'11"	210	10
61	RYAN NAGLE	G/OLB	5'07"	145	10
64	FRITZ LLOYD	G/OLB	6'00"	175	10
66/81	STEVE DUKE	G/DE/TE	6'00"	180	12
68	JIM PORTER	G/DG	5'10"	177	11
70	ANDREW CHAMPION	T/OLB	6'03"	185	11
71	DAVID MARTINEAU	T/DG	6'01"	230	11
72	*ROB NORTON	T/DG	6'03"	233	12
74	SCOTT BAKER	G/OLB	6'00"	194	11
75	TODD BEATTY	C/DG	6'03"	187	11
76	BRAD PHINNEY	T/DG	6'05"	230	11
77	ANDY WARNER	T/DG	6'01"	182	12
78	BILL SWANEY	C/OLB	5'11"	157	11
79	CHRIS SHELTON	T/DG	6'03"	210	10
80	PETE BERGEN	TE/OLB	6'01"	176	11
82	JOE CORTEZ	TE/DE	6'05"	182	12
86	GREG ZELLEFRON	TE/DE	6'01"	171	10
88	GEOFF PENSKE	SE/S	5'09"	137	10
89	CHAD BURTNETT	TE/DE	5'09"	155	10
96	JOHN DONOVAN	SE/HB	5'11"	160	11
99	RYAN HOLDHAN	SE/HB	5'03"	143	11

\*Co-Captains

## 1987 CONESTOGA PIONEERS

Head Coach: Harry Gicking

Assistant Coaches: Scott Allison, Bill Marion, John Vogan,  
Sam Young

Trainers: Mike Corcoran, Ron Goetsch, Allyson Pritchard

Student Managers: Paul Eaton, Jerome Smallwood

Colors: Gasnet and Gray



Matt Gibson and Rob Norton were co-captains of the 1987 Conestoga Pioneers. The team only registered two wins this season: the West Chester East game and the Radnor game. Coach Harry Gicking stated, "Our whole defense played very well. They played consistently all season long. Not many teams have driven the ball on us."

First string defensive players were Craig Driver, Brandon Speers, Tony DeHaven, Matt Gibson, Cameron Clark, Steve Tily, Mike Scott, Jim Porter, Rob Norton, Scott Baker and Ched Steele.

Injuries plagued the team on the offensive side. Offensive leaders were Matt Gibson, Mike Scott, Mike Billela, Tim Bradford and Ched Steele.