

1956 Conestoga Pioneers

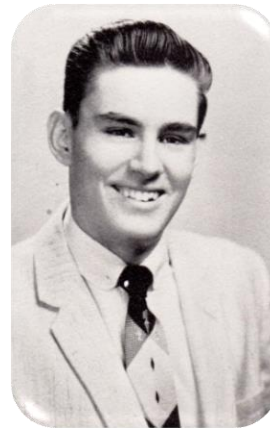
William "Bill" Paolantonio was Head Coach of the 1956 Pioneers. It was his sophomore year in that position. He was assisted by Mr. Cumens and Mr. Fitzgerald. The team finished second in the league behind Pottstown with a record of seven wins, 2 losses and one tie. On November 22nd, they defeated Thanksgiving Day rivals West Chester by a score of 9-0.

Six men were named to the Ches-Mont All-Star Teams. Guard John Dannaker, who was named to the First Team as a junior, was one of three "repeaters." Junior center and linebacker Tony Yelovich was named to the First Team. Fullback Bill Delaware, tackle Gerry Ramsay and end Harvey Cornell were named to the Second Team. And guard Jim White received Honorable Mention.

John Dannaker was mentioned on many All-Star teams. He even received an honorable mention on the Pennsylvania All-State team and the All-American team.



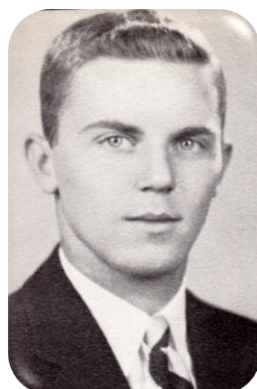
John Dannaker
First Team Guard



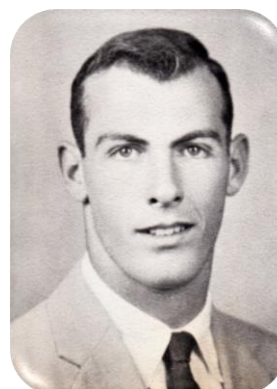
Tony Yelovich
First Team Center



Bill Delaware
Halfback



Gerry Ramsay
Tackle

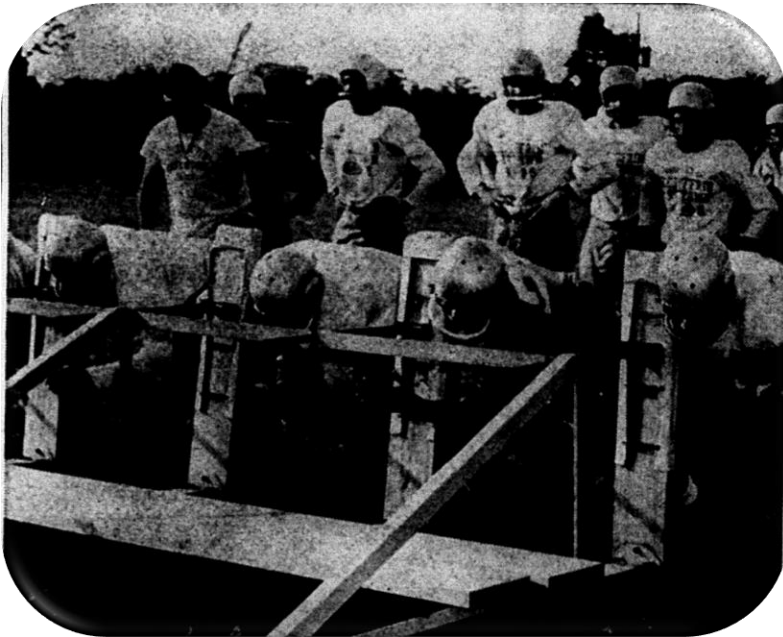


Harvey Cornell
End



Jim White
Guard

Conestoga Pioneers' 1956 Preview



Coach Bill Paolantonio (left rear) puts his spirited Pioneers to task on the Main Line practice field. The 45-man squad opens against Bridgeport on Teamer Field, Berwyn, Friday night.

DLN Photo 9/11/56



HERE'S THE NUCLEUS of full-time regulars from Conestoga's championship season in 1955. Left to right: guard John Dannaker, fullback Bill Delaware, and tackle Gerry Ramsay.

DLN Photo 9/11/56



HERE ARE SOME OF THE CONESTOGA HIGH PLAYERS who will see plenty of action tonight against Bridgeport. The line, left to right, includes Jim Dodson, Sel Whitaker, John Dannaker, Tony Yelovich, Jim White, Gerry Ramsay and Bob Barajas. The backfield: Warner Blare, Jim Byrd, Bailey Stewart and Bill Delaware.

DLN Photo 9/14/56

POS	PLAYER	WT.	HT.
Right End	Harvey Cornell	175	6-4
	Bob		
Right Tackle	Busenberger	190	6-0
Right Guard	John Dannaker	160	5-5
Center	Tony Yelovich	175	5-11
Left Guard	Jim White	165	5-7
Left Tackle	Gerry Ramsay	165	5-7
Left End	Bob Barajas	135	5-6
Quarterback	Bailey Stewart	160	5-8
	Eddie Griffith	140	5-6
Rt Halfback	Warner Blair	160	5-11
Left Halfback	Jim Byrd	145	5-7
Fullback	Bill Delaware	145	5-8
(Line averages 166, backfield 150)			

Conestoga Smothers Bridgeport 51-0 in Lid-Lifter

Fitzgerald, Byrd Score Five of Eight TDs Before 2,500

By **RED HAMER**
Local News Sports' Editor

A couple of young speed merchants, Eddie Byrd and Jim Fitzgerald, triggered an eight-touchdown parade as the Conestoga Pioneers smothered Bridgeport, 51-0, last night at Teamer Field before 2,500 fans. Byrd, a sophomore chunk of twisting power, tallied three TD's on runs of 14, 15 and 16 yards.

But the big surprise of the evening was the heretofore unheralded running ability of junior Fitzgerald. This lanky youngster literally walked away from the pack in scoring two touchdowns on twin four yard bursts. He racked up 166 yards on the ground, averaging a little better than 15 yards per carry.

Fullback Bill Delaware was kept under wraps by Coach Bill Paolantonio a good portion of the game.

However, the All Ches-Mont back did manage to break loose for a 58-yard TD punt return and booted a pair of placements.

Lineman Scores

Even a lineman hit pay dirt last night as left guard Jimmy White gathered in a short punt and scurried 25

yards like a lithe halfback around the end for a touchdown.

Bridgeport afforded little opposition as Conestoga romped for 346 yards on the ground compared to the Dragons' minus 18. As Coach Paolantonio put it after the game: "They helped us a lot. And believe me we didn't try to run up the score."

Standouts on the Conestoga line were Jim Griffin, Bill Leary, John Dannaker, Gerry Ramsay, Jim White, Harry Cornell, Tony Yelovich, Joe Parella, and Bob Barajas.

Here's How They Scored

Byrd: 16-yard run, 6-0

Fitzgerald: 4-yard squeeze, 12-0

Byrd: 14-yard carry, 18-0

Delaware: PAT, 19-0

Fitzgerald: 4-yard sweep right, 25-0

Byrd: 15-yard run through right guard, 31-0

Delaware: 58-yard punt return, 37-0

White: 25-yard punt return, 43-0

Delaware: PAT, 44-0

Henry: 7-yard run, 50-0

Ramsay: PAT, 51-0

Daily Local News

September 15, 1956



EDDIE BYRD (19), FLASHY SOPHOMORE HALFBACK tears right through two Raiders as he scores Conestoga's lone TD from 15 yards out in the final period last night as the Pioneers tied Coatesville 6-6. In the background is Tony Yelovich (41)



CONESTOGA'S ALERT LEFT GUARD JIMMY WHITE, is shown scoring a touchdown after hauling in a punt and racing 25 yards against Bridgeport last night. Conestoga won, 51-0, at Teamer Field in the opening Ches-Mont League game for both teams.

Conestoga Ties Coatesville, 6-6

Raiders Stopped on 8 Yard Line; Byrd Scores

By RED HAMER

(Local News Sports Editor)

Conestoga High came from behind to tie Coatesville 6-6 in the second half last night and staved off a furious Red Raider drive with an assist from the clock as the game ended on the Pioneer eight-yard line.

All of the legitimate scoring came in the second half. The Raiders marched 70 yards for a touchdown the first time they got the ball in the third period to make the score 6-0.

Dannaker Stars

John Dannaker, Conestoga's All Ches-Mont right guard who played a whale of a ball game, rocked through the middle of the Coatesville line to single-handedly block the conversion attempt.

Pioneers fans are glad they had a little sophomore halfback by the name of Eddie Byrd. Byrd, who may run off with the Ches-Mont scoring crown in his first season of league ball (he scored three TDs

against Bridgeport last week) powered the drive downfield that saved face for the home team.

Early in the fourth period Byrd ran back a Raider punt 10 yards to the Coatesville 45. On the next play he socked, bobbed and weaved his way off left tackle for a first down on the 34. Only one man stood between him and the end zone on this run. And that player tackled him.

Delaware Injured

The Pioneers fumbled on the next play, but quarterback Bailey Stewart recovered on the 33. However, Bill Delaware, on the bottom of the huge pile-up, came up with a badly sprained left ankle, and he had to be carried from the field. Byrd recovered his own fumble on the next play, and he sprinted for a first down at the 20. On a QB sneak, Stewart made it to the 17. Jim Fitzgerald picked up a few yards. On the next play, Eddie Griffith, alternating at quarterback with Stewart, slapped a quick handoff into Byrd's midsection, and he was off to the races. Score 6-6. The PAT attempt was low.

Coatesville began a frantic drive downfield. Conestoga fought furiously trying to stave off the final enemy drive. Harry Cornell racked up hard-driving Raider Melnick on the kick-off. Cornell, a big 6-4 end, left the field momentarily, shaken by the impact of a head-on tackle.

Scoreless First Half Has Thrills

The first half, although scoreless, had its thrills. Early in the game, Coatesville fumbled and Tony Yelovich, who was equally adept at making open field tackles, pounced on the pigskin. The Pioneers got as far as the Raider 22, but penalties set them back. The situation was set up again in identical fashion as Yelovich pounced on another fumble but again penalties backed the Pioneers to the mid-field stripe.

Coach Paolantonio named Dannaker, Cornell and Yelovich as his standouts on the line with Byrd and Delaware outstanding in the backfield.

Daily Local News
September 22, 1956

'Rookie' Quarterback Hurls 55-yard Pass to Win Game

Conestoga's Allen Freed Connects With Cornell in Last 10 Seconds

Pain and Joy, Tokens of Conestoga Victory



CONESTOGA'S QUARTERBACK, Allen Freed, rides upon the shoulders of jubilant teammates after firing 55-yard aerial to end Harvey Cornell to defeat Conshohocken Saturday night 6-0 in the final 10 seconds of play. Quarterback Eddie Griffith (16) is in the foreground.

CONESTOGA'S OUTSTANDING GUARD, John Dannaker is being carried off the field in the fourth period. Player on the left is Bill Walton. Coach Bill Paolantonio survey's Dannaker's apparently sprained ankle.

They say fact is stranger than fiction but few could believe their eyes when a 'rookie' quarterback named Allen Freed connected on a 55-yard picture perfect pass to Harvey Cornell as Conestoga High defied Frank Merriwell and defeated Conshohocken Saturday night, 6-0. Only 10 seconds remained on the clock as the big left end sailed into pay dirt with the pigskin.

Coach Bill Paolantonio appeared resigned to a 0-0 deadlock when he sent the rookie into pitch. *Freed had come out for football just last Tuesday.* The coach talked him into it after he saw the six-footer chucking some nifty passes during a gym class football session.

Go For Broke

Paolantonio gave Freed instructions to go for broke. And so Freed entered his first ball game with seconds remaining on the clock. He faded back from his 45 to the 40, dodged a pair of would-be-tacklers on the 35, cocked his right arm back and hauled off.

Cornell, game co-captain along with Gerry Ramsay, tore down the far sidelines. Freed's pass was a thing of beauty as it spiraled an arch and floated smack into the out-stretched hands of the big end. Cornell bobbled the ball just a bit and then hung on tight as the Conshy secondary seemed to face out of the picture.

The Conestoga fans went wild with delight. Stewart, missed the conversion but things had been set right. The Pioneers had grabbed off their second Ches-Mont League victory.

Pioneers Injured

Conshy's line was charging throughout the evening, and the backs were grounding out small but steady hunks of yardage against an injury-riddled Conestoga team. Fullback Bill Delaware and end Bob Barajas never saw action as they were injured in the Coatesville game. Later John Dannaker was carried off the field after the fighting guard had re-injured his left ankle. Dannaker had played a whale of a ball game along with center Tony Yelovich, tackle Ramsay, Cornell, guard Bill Leary, and halfback Eddie Byrd.

Both Teams Battle

The two teams battled tooth and nail with neither gaining a distinct scoring advantage until Pioneer halfback Warner Blair picked off a pass on his five yard line and tore up the sidelines to the Conestoga 47. Two plays gained one yard. Then QB Griffith found Jim Dodson wide open and passed for a first down to the Conshy 37. QB Stewart executed a nifty fake and handed off to fullback Bob Fitzgerald who tore through the middle to the 27. Byrd advanced to the 24, Blair to 19, Fitzgerald to the 13. Then three plays lost two yards, and the first half ended.

After the second half kick-off, Conshy marched 54 yards on several running plays to the Conestoga 14. Dannaker stopped the advance with a sack on the 20-yard line which created a fumble. Ramsay recovered the fumble, but Dannaker was injured on that play. According to his coach, "Dannaker, pound for pound is the best lineman in the league."

Daily Local News

October 1, 1956

Conestoga, Radnor in 35th Grid Renewal

Conestoga and Radnor High Schools, neighborhood gridiron rivals since 192, clash in the 35th renewal tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock on the Wayne field.

The good news around the Conestoga camp is that fullback Bill Delaware, who has been undergoing medical treatment for a knee and ankle injury all week, will return to the starting line-up. Delaware did not dress for the Conshohocken game following his injury during the Coatesville scrap. Bob Barajas, Pioneer end, will also return to action. However, his

replacement Jim Dodson, who showed ability in catching passes against Conshy, will again start.

It was also questionable whether Conestoga's outstanding guard John Dannaker would start tomorrow. Paolantonio gave him the green light, saying: "How can you keep that boy out of there."

Asked whether he would use junior wonder Allen Freed at quarterback, Paolantonio replied: "You're darn right. But he needs more experience. We'll stick with Bailey Stewart and Eddie Griffith until we find a spot for him." Freed

chucked the 55-yard pass to end Harvey Cornell that won the ball game against Conshy last weekend in the final 10 seconds of play.

Warner Blair and high-scoring Eddie Byrd will take over the halfback slots once again. Gerry Ramsay will start at one tackle slot while the other position is still open. The coach may go with Sel Whitaker, 220-pounder. Dannaker and Jimmy White are the guards, Tony Yelovich the center, with Cornell and Dodson on the flanks.

Daily Local News
October 5, 1956



CONESTOGA COACH BILL PAOLANTONIO takes a center from Tony Yelovich in instructing Eddie Griffith (26) the best way to prevent a fumble.



CONESTOGA FULLBACK, BILL DELAWARE (40) appears trapped on his 15 her in the second period but he got away to the 29 on Eddie Byrd's block. Byrd is about to take out Radnor's #32. Conestoga won, 13-8.

Conestoga 'Come-from-Behind' Victory, 13-8, As Ramsay Runs 60 With Fumble, Byrd Races 74 on Dannaker Block

By **RED HAMER**

Local News Sports Editor

The Conestoga High School Pioneers of 1956 will go down in grid iron history as the team that never gave up. Tackle Gerry Ramsay turned Bill Delaware's fumble into a 60-yard touchdown run, and Eddie Byrd came back to streak 74 yards for the clincher as the visitors defeated Radnor High, 13-8, yesterday afternoon. It was the Pioneer's third victory.

Lineman Scores

Late in the first period, Bill Delaware got off a good bolt through the middle for 12 yards to the 40. Suddenly he lost the handle on the ball. It bounced in front of him and then bounced off the scurrying players surrounding him. Gerry Ramsay, Pioneer's alert tackle, got a clear shot at the pigskin. He picked it up at full



GERRY RAMSAY

speed five ahead of the pileup. By the time he got underway, he was at least seven yards ahead of the nearest Radnor defender. Ramsay went straight down the middle of the field at full tilt 60 yards for the TD. Ramsay thus became the second Pioneer lineman to score this season. Score 6-0

Radnor threatened as far as the Pioneer 12 in the second period, but Ramsay fixed that threat when he dumped the Radnor QB for a five-yard loss. Conestoga took over on fourth down. Early in the second half, Conestoga found itself in real trouble when a bad pass from center shot between Delaware's legs into the end zone, and the Pioneers were charged with a safety. Score 6-2.

Following the kick-off, Radnor scored. Score 6-8.

Conestoga was down 8-6 with a little more than four minutes left in the third period. Delaware ran the kickoff 30 yards to his 45, but fumbled. Radnor recovered.

Defense Excels

The Pioneers then put up a fine defense to force a Radnor punt. First, Sel Whitaker spun the Raider QB for a two-yard loss. A second down pass was incomplete. Halfback Warner Blair broke up another aerial on third down. And Blair returned the Radnor punt to his 23.



JOHN DANNAKER

Sophomore flash Eddie Byrd got three on the first down. Second down, an errant pitchout was recovered for a six-yard loss. On third down, Byrd took a handoff through right guard. He charged ahead through heavy traffic for seven yards and then he cut on a 90-degree angle toward the far sidelines. He picked up steam across the 50-yard stripe. A

slashing block by guard Johnny Dannaker on the 20 made the trip for real. Byrd crossed the goal line standing up and the Pioneers went into the lead with 21 seconds on the third period clock. Stewart booted a perfect placement for the 13-8 pad.

Byrd's fine defensive play in the fourth period helped save the victory. He intercepted two passes and made runbacks of 31 and 35 yards. Yelovich, Ramsay, Dannaker and Jim White were outstanding up front for the Pioneers.

Daily Local News

October 6, 1956

Spring-Ford Halts Conestoga Streak

Up-County Rams Nip Visitors 6-0

Some 4,000 persons who turned little Spring-Ford High School field into a bowl Saturday night watched the undefeated Rams shatter Conestoga's 10-game unbeaten streak on a 57-yard punt return with three minutes left in the ball game.

Great Goal Line Stand

Late in the third period, the Rams took over on the Conestoga 10-yard line when they blocked a

punt. On two carries, they battered their way to the three, then to the one. However, when the Rams highly-touted fullback tried the center of the line, center Tony Yelovich, line-backer Warner Blair and a hard core of four or five more Pioneers repulsed the 'bull-dozer' to take over on the one-foot line, ending a great goal-line stand.

Conestoga never quite got out of the shadows of its own goal posts. All but one play of the entire

fourth period was staged in Conestoga territory.

Line Standouts

Standouts on the Pioneer defense were guard Johnny Dannaker who produced several inside and open field tackles, center Tony Yelovich who blocked a Spring-Ford pun in the third period, Bill Leary, Harvey Cornell, Jimmy White, Gerry Ramsay, Bob Barajas.

Daily Local News

October 14, 1956

Center Yelovich Scores, Delaware Converts in Rally

By RED HAMER

Local News Sports Editor

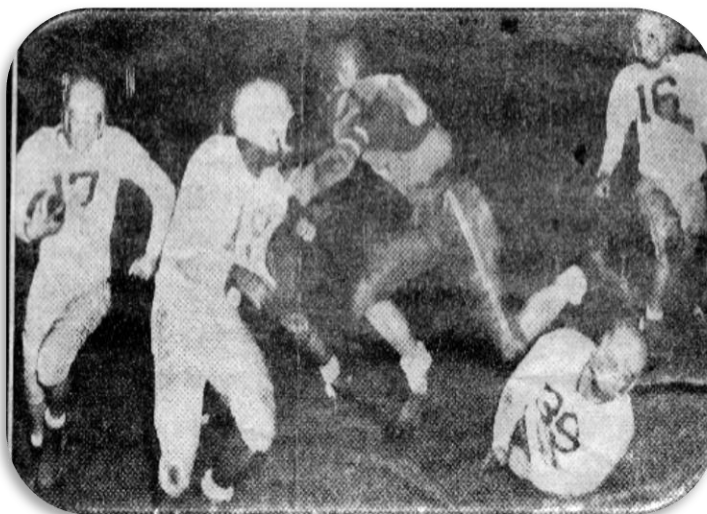
John Dannaker, one of the finest guards to come out of the Ches-Mont in the league's sixth season, blocked a Plymouth-Whitemarsh punt in the third period. Center Tony Yelovich scooped up the pigskin and ran six yards into pay dirt. Bill Delaware kicked an end-over-end extra point as Conestoga High pulled out another football game before 2,000 last night at Teamer Field, 7-6. These three youths played the biggest role in the Pioneers' fourth victory.

Yelovich's touchdown marks the fourth of the season by a Conestoga lineman. Left guard Jimmy White went 25 yards on a punt against Bridgeport. Left tackle Gerry Ramsay whizzed 60 yards to pull the Radnor game out of the fire, 13-8. Left end Harvey Cornell gathered in a 55-yard aerial that beat Conshy 6-0, thus giving the entire offensive left side one touchdown apiece this season.

Second Half Turn-about

P-W ran the Pioneers ragged in the first half and scored a touchdown in the second period. The second half of the game was a successful turn-about for Conestoga.

Dannaker, who contributed nothing to the scoreboard, but most of everything that paved the way to



JIM FITZGERALD (17) IS OFF FOR A GAIN of 10 yards in the final period to the PW 40 behind the interference of Ed Byrd (19) and John Dannaker (39). Dannaker slows up P-W halfback just enough for Fitz to get by.

victory, nailed P-W's top ground-gainer one yard away from the goal line to ruin the visitors' try for the extra point with nearly 10 minutes to go in the second period. Late in the same period, the P-W quarterback kept the ball on the option around his left end and sprinted 53 yards down to the Pioneer 12 where Delaware leveled the fleet back with the terra firma. Here again, great line play by Dannaker plus Dom DiAntonio and Bob Bauzenberger stopped P-W on three downs without a yard, and the clock ran out before a fourth play could be manufactured.

Conestoga did produce a threat in the first half when Delaware, trapped in punt formation, ran around a charging P-W line to their 45 – a 17-yard scamper. Conestoga produced another first down, but the drive ended with an interception. P-W couldn't produce a first down in the next series. And when their punter went back, hungry Dannaker charged in to force a wobbly job out of bound on

the 30. The Pioneers' opportunity ended on the 26.

Conestoga came out for second half play a fired-up ball team and completely reversed the first half script by out-rushing P-W 108 yards to 38 and romping to a half-dozen first downs to the visitors' two.

Here's How They Did It

With 1:32 left in the third period, the Pioneers had scored the winning points, and this is how they did it.

Conestoga drove from its 40 to P-W's 12-yard line. Delaware picked up 30 of the 48 yards in the drive with Eddie Byrd, Dannaker and Pete Thorell turning in some nifty blocking. When P-W took over, it hit a stone wall as Yelovich and others buttoned up the hatches around the center of the line.

It was at this point that the P-W punter went back to his six-yard line at the west end of the field. Charging Conestoga linemen broke through the P-W dike with Dannaker throwing his 155-pound frame in the path of the potential

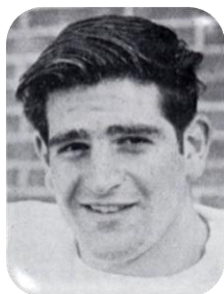
upward flight of the ball. The pigskin came off the senior's body with a thud and bounded crazily towards the home sidelines.

Yelovich and a couple of the Pioneer players raced for the ball with the 6-foot center scooping it up and romping into the end zone standing up. Delaware's placement could have gone for a 25-yard field goal. It was high and whistled directly over the center of the cross-bar.

Conestoga had a second opportunity to score in the second half. Byrd carried twice for a first down to the 11. Delaware got six on two carries. Byrd was stopped for no gain. Then Delaware scooted off left guard to the two. But the measurement showed two feet lacking for a first down, and P-W took over.

In addition to the Conestoga players mentioned above, linemen Bill Leary, White, Ramsay and Cornell turned in in creditable performances.

Daily Local News
October 20, 1956



Dom D'Antonio



Bob Bauzenberger



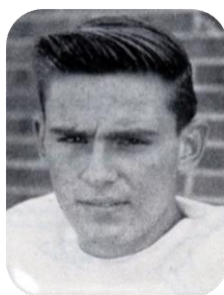
Bill Delaware



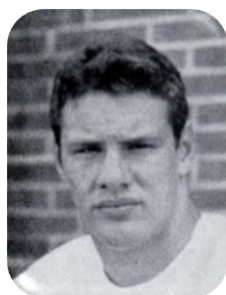
Eddie Byrd



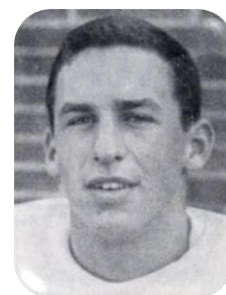
Pete Thorell



Tony Yelovich



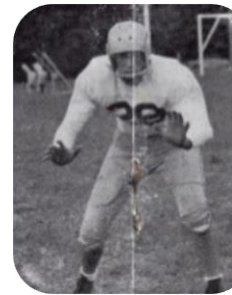
Bill Leary



Jimmy White



Gerry Ramsay



Harvey Cornell

Conestoga Rocks Trojans, 13-0

Defense, Delaware Star

Conestoga High turned a full week of grinding scrimmage into its biggest victory last night as fullback Bill Delaware scored all the points and his teammates played great supporting roles to produce a 13-0 nod over, hitherto unbeaten Ches-Mont champ hopeful Pottstown.

The backfield "Butcher" blasted home for 129 yards aground for his finest offensive performance of the campaign. Delaware put on a dazzling display of open-field running with 1:19 left on the first period clock. Punching over left tackle, he broke into the clear, dodged and weaved past stabbing hands, and behind a magnificent block by Harry Siravo arrived in pay dirt standing up for a 71-yard run.

Delaware kicked the extra point as a good rainy night crowd cheered the jogging under-dogs back up the Trojans' Franklin Field

Bob Barajas, an alert 5-6 end, recovered a fumble by Pottstown's quarterback on the Trojan 15 late in the second period. Four plays later Conestoga scored with

2:45 remaining. Halfback Eddie Byrd picked up five yards, and Delaware smashed off right guard for the rest.

The Trojans found the going rough through the Pioneer line which was out-weighted 13 pounds per man. In fact, Pottstown was stopped colder than at any time this season, gaining only 35 yards on the ground.

The Trojans threatened twice in the fourth period. But Pottstown could dent the Conestoga line no further than the 14, and the Pioneers took over. Shortly thereafter Eddie Griffith stopped another mild threat by intercepting a P-town pass on the 20. Conestoga was forced to punt, and the Trojans took over on the 49. All Ches-Mont guard John Dannaker smashed the Trojans' top-ground-gainer back to the 46. Then Harvey Cornell wracked up the quarterback by at the 26. The Trojans got off an excellent punt. And the game continued in this see-saw fashion.

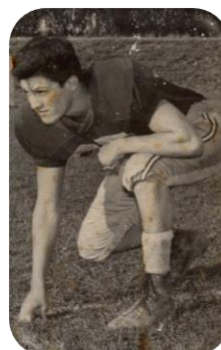
Daily Local News October 27, 1956



Bill Delaware



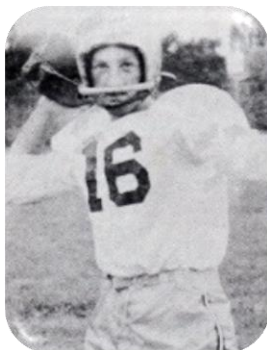
Harry Siravo



Mex Barajas



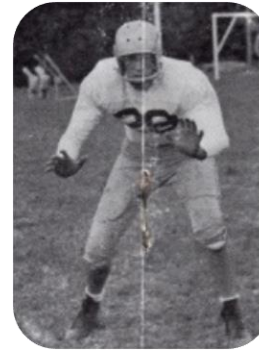
Eddie Byrd



Ed Griffin



John Dannaker



Harvey Cornell

Delaware Runs 18 for Lone TD

Big Whippet Line Provides Safety

Bill Delaware and Company found the Downingtown line pretty heady and hefty Saturday afternoon but managed to scare up enough spark for a 7-2 Conestoga victory before 2,500 fans at Downingtown.

Delaware ran the ball 26 times for 112 yards – an 18-yard sweep good for a score in the second period – did all the punting and kicking off and tossed the Pioneers' only two passes.

However, Delaware contributed the Downingtown points when he was nailed in his own end zone by a host of Whippet tacklers. The Pioneers now need two more Ches-Mont victories for their fourth Ches-Mont League championship in the circuit's six years.

Downingtown piled up an 11-6 edge in first downs and a slight margin in rushing Saturday, but a couple of intercepted passes by that boy Delaware and some rough tackles turned in by center Tony Yelovich, Eddie Griffith, Bill Leary, Warner Blair, Bob Barajas,

John Dannaker and Gerry Ramsay helped stem the tide.

Downingtown got a typical drive started shortly after the start of the game, and they advanced to the Conestoga 44. Then Delaware intercepted a pass on his 26 and scooted 30 yards to the Downingtown 46. Three cracks by Delaware netted a first down on the Downingtown 35. The attack stalled. The next play, the key one, saw Delaware punt to Downingtown's Butcher on the end zone door-mat. Butcher dropped the ball, but Downingtown recovered on its one-foot line. On third down, Downingtown punted from the end zone to the 28 where Warner Blair bobbled the ball momentarily and recovered.

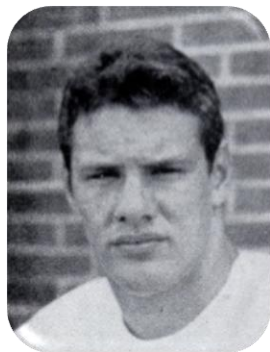
Delaware blasted off tackle and through the middle, and Conestoga had a first down in four plays on the 18. Again the fleet-footed fullback carried, this time around right end, and fled into the end zone for the touchdown. With Bailey Stewart holding the ball, Delaware kicked the extra point to make it 7-0.

At the start of the third period Downingtown barreled on down to the Conestoga 27. The Conestoga defense then began to assert itself. Griffith hit Tweed for a yard loss on the 28. Yelovich broke inside the end and threw Butcher for a two-yard loss. Dannaker and then Ramsay rattled QB McClure. And the Whippets punted.

Delaware and Jim Fitzgerald started things rolling again, but the Pioneers punched no further than the 33. Bill Leary, Tony Yelovich, John Dannaker and the Pioneer line battened up the hatches, and Conestoga took over and kept out of trouble the rest of the way.

In the last two minutes of the play Conestoga's 220-pound tackle, Sel Whitaker, was injured and taken off the field. Whitaker fell while pursuing Downingtown's Tweed, and a player fell on top of his lower back. Whitaker was taken to Bryn Mawr Hospital. Early diagnosis revealed either a vertebrae fracture or sprain.

Daily Local News
November 5, 1956



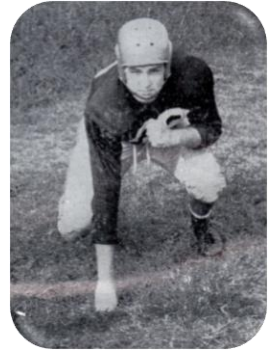
Bill Leary



Warner Blair



Bailey Stewart



Sel Whitaker

Conestoga Rips Phoenixville, 34-7

Delaware, Byrd, Blair Lead 335-Yard Rushing Attack, Barajas Shines

By RED HAMER

Local News Sports Editor

Conestoga High's grid machine ripped from behind a 7-6 deficit and rubbed out a fighting Phoenixville Eleven, 34-7, before 1,700 shivering Ches-Mont League fans last night at Teamer Field. The Pioneers, using a combination single wing and T attack, pounded out their fifth league victory in sub-freezing temperatures. A victory over West Chester on Thanksgiving Day will clinch a second straight championship for sophomore coach Bill Paolantonio and the fourth in the league's six years for the Pioneers.

Phoenixville made a battle out of the game in the first half, but the running of Bill Delaware, Eddie Byrd and Warner Blair eventually caught the Phantoms and captivated the fandom. Delaware led the scoring assault with two touchdowns on runs of 10 and 26 yards. He kicked four straight extra points. Moreover, the senior fullback accounted for 149 of the Pioneers' 335 ground yardage.

Blair galloped 71 yards on a weak-side reverse around left end in the second period to put Conestoga back into the lead after Phoenixville had gone ahead early in the quarter. Only four minutes passed on the third period clock when Byrd rampaged 25 yards for his second to bolster the 13-7 halftime spread. Conestoga scored in every period, with Byrd churning 35 for the initial tally of the ball game.

Phoenixville halfbacks matched the Pioneers' blazing speed, but Conestoga's blocking and tackling made the real difference. Harvey Cornell, Gerry Ramsay and Jim White opened up big holes in the right side of the Phoenixville line to pave the way for the first score of the game.

Bill Delaware lugged the pigskin on six of nine carries as the Pioneer literally raced 60 yards for the touchdown with 4:50 elapsed. The key play in the drive came on a fourth down gamble in which Delaware got three to the 39 for a first down.

Two plays later sophomore Byrd blasted off right guard, stopped, and then shot forward with a surprising burst of speed for the touchdown from the 35-yard line. Bailey Stewart and Delaware threw the important blocks. Following the next kickoff, Phoenixville marched to the Conestoga 41, stalled and punted. Conestoga stalled and punted. Phoenixville's surge fell apart on a fumble, which they recovered, but then they had to punt. Conestoga fumbled the punt, and Phoenixville recovered. The next play the Phantom QB burst through for the tying touchdown, and with the conversion took a 7-6 lead.

Conestoga took the kickoff and went into the lead a minute and one half later. Delaware ripped off 19 yards. Blair got four, then on the next play the 6-foot senior halfback took a handoff from Stewart and tore for the weak side. He cut outside of Cornell's block and streaked 71 yards down the sidelines for a touchdown. Delaware's PAT was good. Score 13-7.

Near the end of the half Blair, who turned in some key TD-salvaging tackles, recovered a Phantom fumble on his 48. In four plays Conestoga raced to the Phoenixville 18 where the half ended.

The second half produced outstanding line play by Conestoga's 5'6" end Bob Barajas, tackle Bill Leary, center Tony Yelovich, and Cornell and follow-up tackles by John Dannaker, All Ches-Mont guard.

To start things off in the third period, Delaware pounced on an on-sides kickoff. Byrd and Delaware blasted to the 25 for a first down. Two draw plays failed, and then Byrd tore over right guard, cut to the left and pumped his way into the end zone. Score 20-7

Delaware capped off downfield charges of 50 and 26 yards with touchdowns late in the third period and midway through the fourth period. Barajas threw the key block as Delaware churned 10 yards off right guard for his third period score. Bill's placement made the tally 27-7.

Early in the fourth period, Phoenixville penetrated into Conestoga territory, but good defensive work especially a Leary interception on one series and a Barajas sack on another set up the final TD. Delaware pounded outside right tackle and then veered suddenly to the left as Cornell, White and Fitzgerald shoved the tacklers out of the way on the flank. Delaware, heading inside at the 15, shifted and faked his way past three or four more Purple jerseys and romped into the end zone. He kicked the extra point. Score 34-7.

Daily Local News
November 10, 1956

Some 5,000 Fans To Watch 51st Ches-Mont Clash

Two of the finest schoolboy football teams in Chester County – Conestoga and West Chester – explode from the starting gate tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock on High School Field in this, the 51st annual clash of these cowboys and Indians. Their quarry: a turkey. The turkey, in this case, is the Ches-Mont League championship.

West Chester will have a weight advantage on the line of 15 pounds per man, 176 to 161. The undefeated and once-tied Pioneers pose the stingiest defense in the loop, yielding a mere 2.5 points a game. Coach Paolantonio, going after his second straight league title, will field the same line-up which started hostilities against Phoenixville.

The Pioneer wall includes only three seniors – end Harvey Cornell, tackle Gerry Ramsay and guard and game co-captain John Dannaker. Cornell, at 6-4, will be the tallest lad on the field. His blocking on end sweeps has

been superb and his catch of a 50-yard pass against Conshy won the ball game 6-0. Ramsay is a dependable performer game in and game out while 155-pound Dannaker has been called by his coach – “pound for pound the best lineman in the league.”

The other flanker is 130-pound Bob Barajas who played a whale of a defensive game against Phoenixville the last time out. Barajas is a junior and so are guard Jim White, center Tony Yelovich and tackle Dom DiAntonio. White, who also tips the scales at 155 is a 48-minute battler. Yelovich is one of the finest offensive centers and defensive linebacker in the league. DiAntonio will share the right tackle slot with Baynard Bauzenberger. Both are 180 pounds and aggressive. Look for tackle Bill Leary, guard Jim Griffin and end Jim Dodson to shoot into the lineup throughout the morning.

Bailey Stewart gets the nod at quarterback for Conestoga with Eddie Griffith to swing in often. These two seniors are used mostly for setting up plays. Sophomore Eddie Byrd has given the Pioneers a much-needed offensive lift at halfback. He's made a habit of shaking off high tackles, and he has piled up heavy yardage.

Halfback Warner Blair and fullback Bill Delaware are both seniors. Blair has been used mostly as a blocking back. Against Phoenixville, however, he showed his prowess in running the ball. He got off for a 71-yard dash on a reverse for a touchdown around the weak side. Blair finished up the night by rushing for nearly 100 yards.

In Delaware, the Pioneers have their best offensive weapon. The short but solidly-built fullback has rushed for more than 100 yards in Conestoga's last three games. He has carried the ball more than 20 times in each of those contests. Earlier in the season, Bill was hampered by a knee and ankle injury, but since recovering he has come alive to spark his Upper Main Line team back into first place in the C-M standings. Delaware also kicks the extra points and does the punting. He will throw an occasional pass. Delaware has been named the other co-captain for tomorrow's classic.



CONESTOGA HIGH'S STARTING ARRAY – Front line left to right: Harvey Cornell, Gerry Ramsay, John Dannaker, Tony Yelovich, Jim White, Dom DiAntonio and Bob Barajas. Backfield: Warner Blair, Eddie Byrd, Bailey Stewart and Bill Delaware *Daily Local News*, November 23, 1956

Iron-Clad Defense Marks Frigid Finale

Fumbles and Penalties Dethrone Defending Champions

By RED HAMER

Local News Sports Editor

West Chester High turned its defensive power into a point-maker yesterday morning to dethrone the defending champion Conestoga High eleven 9-0 before 7,500 bowl-huddled fans at the High School Field. This was the largest crowd to attend a schoolboy county seat football game since 1942. The Warriors capitalized on an early first period fumble, ran for a touchdown and then contained the visitors deep in their territory the rest of the game.

Bill Delaware carried the ball 25 times for a net gain of 67 yards. Staunch defensive play was turned in

by Tony Yelovich, Johnny Dannaker and Bill Leary. Eddie Byrd, Eddie Griffith and Warner Blair took turns banging out yardages, but penalties and fumbles always seems to stop the Pioneers in their tracks.

Conestoga and West Chester with twin 5-1-1 league records finished in a second place tie. Pottstown 6-1-0, came from behind to grab the championship by clobbering Downingtown 39-0 on Thanksgiving Day. The Pioneers not only had a four-game winning streak snapped but they failed to win the title for the first time in three years. Their over-all record is 7-2-1.

Daily Local News

November 23, 1956

SPORTS WRITERS' CHES-MONT ALL-STARS

Dannaker Repeats, Yelovich Best Center

Three of this year's All-Star team were named to the First Team as juniors. They are West Chester's Ray McGuirk, Coatesville's Mike Melnick and Conestoga's Johnny Dannaker. Dannaker, a 155-pounder, made a habit of playing the major portion of every ball game in the enemy's secondary.

Conestoga junior Tony Yelovich was rated the best center in the league on the strength of his consistent rock-ribbed defensive play.

Competition was keen for the three backfield positions. Conestoga's Bill Delaware, who gained 585 yards rushing and

scored 44 points, was named to the Second Team. Also named to the Second Team were tackle Gerry Ramsay and end Harvey Cornell. Guard Jim White received Honorable Mention.

Daily Local News

November 28, 1956



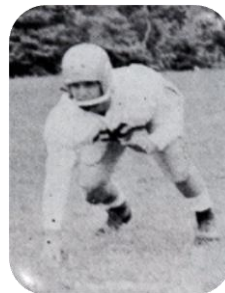
John Dannaker



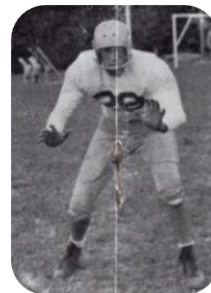
Tony Yelovich



Bill Delaware



Gerry Ramsay



Harvey Cornell



Jim White

1956 Conestoga Pioneers

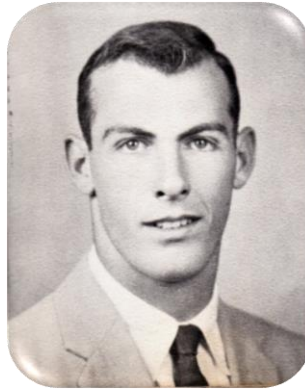


White	Red	Player	White	Red	Player
13	13	Jim White	38	38	Gerry Ramsay
14	14	Chip Stewart	39	39	Paul Mayo
15	15	Jim Fitzgerald	40	40	Bill Delaware
16	16	Ed Griffith	45	45	Sel Whitaker
17	17	Lawrence Henry	82	82	Bob Turner
18	18	Pete Thorell	84	84	Joe D'Antonio
19	19	Ed Byrd	85	85	Don Henry
20	20	Tony Yelovich	86	86	D. James
21	89	Dave Fairchild	87	32	B. Lewis
22	22	Bailey Stewart	90	83	Ken Evans
24	24	Bob Walton	91	81	W. Marison
26	26	W. Blair			Charles McDonnell
27	27	Mex Barajas			Jim Mitchell
28	28	Bill Leary			S. Vause
29	29	Harvey Cornell			Robert Covatta
30	30	H. Thomas			Harry Siravo
31	31	Dom Diantonio			Bill Nutter
		Bayard			
33	33	Bauzenberger			Norm Siner
34	34	Jim Dodson			Anthony Antonelli
35	35	John Dannaker			J. Baur
36	36	Joe Parella			R. Jacobs
37	37	Jim Griffin			

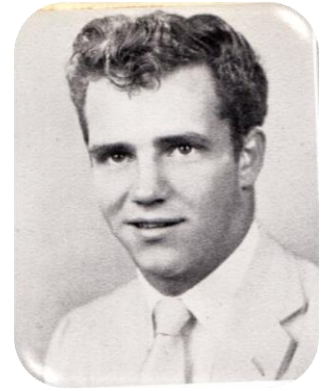
Team of 1956 Seniors



Warner Blair



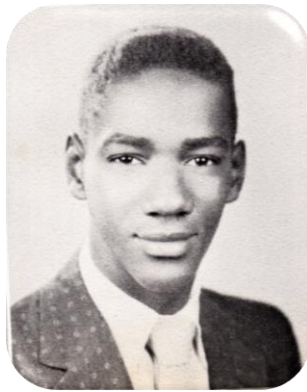
Harvey Cornell



John Dannaker



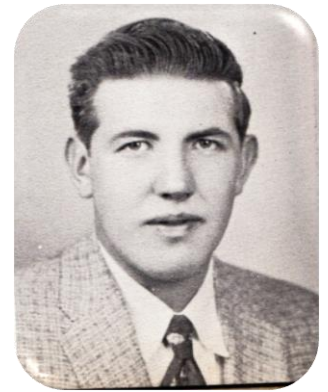
Bill Delaware



James Dodson



Robert Gatlos



James Griffin



Edward Griffith



John Hamilton



John Kraljevich



Jim Pyle



Gerald Ramsay



Bailey Stewart



Robert Walton



