

The 1962 Conestoga Pioneers



In 1962, Tredyffrin-Easttown School District opened its second high school. Half of the district was assigned to Conestoga High School in Berwyn and the other half was assigned to Great Valley High School in Malvern. Of course with this split, half of the sophomores who were on the undefeated Ches-Mont championship 1960 team and juniors on the equally successful 1961 team went to their respective teams.

In addition to splitting in 1962, the Conestoga athletic program joined the Suburban II League. Great Valley became a member of the Ches-Mont League.

The Pioneers compiled a record of three wins, six losses and one tie. Offense was led by Tom Metz at halfback. He scored 44 points for team's high mark. Walt Holland at halfback was second high scorer with 39 points. Tom Metz was named to the All Main Line Team, the All County Team and the All State Team. The stalwart in the line, Lee Wilson, was named to the All Main Line Team.

In front row, from left are Co-captains Tom Metz and Richard Beatty. Standing is head coach Bill Paolantonio, flanked by assistants Joe Ujobai and Pete Ramsey. D.L.N. Staff Photo



First Row: J. Shain, Doug O'Neill, Floyd Biggers, Jim Hennesey, R. Coffey, M. Wilson. H. Spear, C. Hamilton, Steve Pierce. Lee Wilson, Tom Metz, H. Lenderman, J. Allen. V. Calloway, B. Enders, M. Sayles, J. Tarrant

Second Row: Coach Paolantonio, D. MacClemmy, Jim Frazier, R. Corey, J. Ford, Richard Beatty, Dean Hoakanson, J. Tifft, G. Taylor. Bradley Blodgett, Walt Holland, J. Wyatt, Coach Ujobai, Coach Ramsey

Third Row: Duane Holland, Mgr. F. Wood, Mgr. R. Shubert, T. McDonnell, J. Culver, Lenny Elisio, Ed Durrell, W. Harris. W. Clair, R Sterling, J. Salzer, Mrg A. Smith, D. Cogswell, J. Boland, P. Myers

CONESTOGA OPENS TOMORROW

Pioneers Hard Hit; Paolantonio Rebuilding

Bill Paolantonio, one of the most unassuming and modest coaches in the business, growls angrily when he hears someone refer to the split in the Paoli Area School System weakening his Conestoga High football team.

In fact, it's like asking Pal to take off his hat! "I hear this all the time, and it's entirely wrong. And we're not offering any alibis for anything."

Paolantonio hasn't had the chance to alibi very much. He's got the best record of any coach in the Philadelphia area, a sterling 50-8-3 mark in his seven seasons at Conestoga. Included are five Ches-Mont championships and two second-place finishes.

One of those second place finishes came last year when, the Pioneers came within just 10 seconds as retiring from the Ches-Mont league as champions.

But the 10-second period was just enough for Pottstown's QB to hit his end with a rollout pass to give the Trojans a rousing 12-7 win at Teamer Field for the Ches-Mont title.

Paolantonio has very little left from his fine Conestoga High team of a year ago, but his club gets its first crack at a long awaited revenge tomorrow night when the Pioneers open the campaign at Pottstown.

Chief losses for Conestoga were the passing combination of golden-armed quarterback Steve Welpott to

speed sure-handed end John Beatty, the most deadly aerial duo in the school's history.

The Pioneers also lost a raft of linemen, notably Don Schubert who made second team All Ches-Mont guard. Also missing is speedy halfback Ron Holliday, an outside threat and high scorer a year ago.

Only two authentic lettermen – Walt Holland and Tom Metz – return to the Pioneer ranks. "They'll carry the load for us," says Paolantonio. Both are senior backs, Holland (5-9, 1985) was a touchdown twin of Holliday's last fall. He is a constant threat on the ground.

Starting quarterback will be senior Jim Frazier (5-9, 170) while junior Len Elisio (5-7, 160) a real comer, rounds out the backfield.

Steve Pierce (6-2, 180), a junior and Steve Coffey (5-11, 164) a senior, should be the starting ends.

At the tackle spots are juniors Vernon Calloway (5-11, 192) and Winston Harris (5-9, 170).

Paolantonio has a pair of fine guards in Richard Beatty (5-10, 160) and Jim Corsia (5-11, 176) a junior. Beatty, a senior is co-captain of the club along with Metz.

The center will be junior John Wyatt (5-9, 170). Slated for defensive duty in the backfield are junior Jim Hennessey (5-10, 160)

and sophomore Duane Holland (5-6, 160), Walt's younger brother.

Paolantonio is making no predictions, but he'll know much more about his club after tomorrow's opener.

PLOTTING THE PIONEERS

HEAD COACH: Bill Paolantonio (Elon, N.C.), starting eighth season. Record: 50-8-3 including five Ches-Mont championships and two second place finishes.

ASSISTANTS: Joe Ujobai (Gettysburg), Pete Ramsay (Hanover, IL)

1961: Won nine, lost one, finished in second place in the Ches-Mont League with 8-1 mark.

LOST: Nineteen lettermen including All Ches-Mont quarterback Steve Welpott, All Ches-Mont end John Beatty and guard Don Schubert.

RETURNING: Two lettermen

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Halfbacks Walt Holland, Tom Metz, Lenny Elisio; Guard Richard Beatty.

BASIC OFFENSE: Winged "T"

FORECAST: A rebuilding year for Paolantonio with the emphasis on juniors and sophomores. Many new faces in the Pioneer lineup, but once they gain experience, Conestoga figures to be as tough as ever. Conestoga will be darkhorse of Suburban II race. Pioneers could finish as high as second, no lower than fifth.

September 14, 1962
Pottstown 7, Conestoga 0
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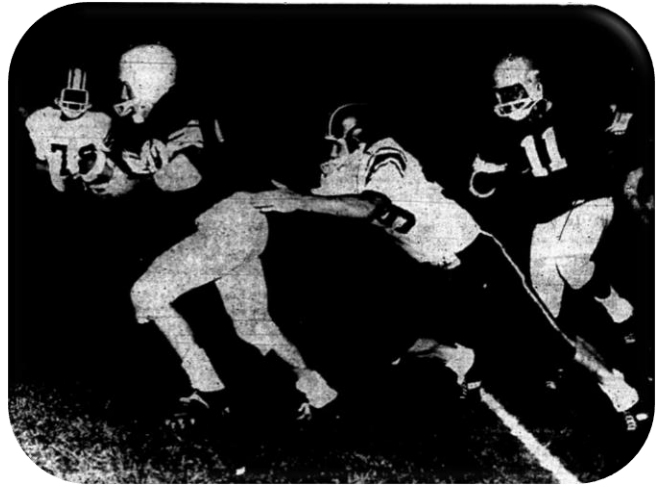


Making the tackle on Pottstown's halfback (#58) is Walt Holland (#11) while tackle Floyd Biggers (#60) is in the background

Conestoga lost, But Tom Metz (#42) Was Outstanding



He intercepts his second pass of the game. . .
Jim Frazier (#8)



And Picks Up Yardage For Pioneers
Duane Holland (#11)

Conestoga Scores Quick to Trip Phoenixville, 13-0

Two TDs In First Six Minutes of First Quarter

By BOB INGERSOLL
(of the Local News Sports Staff)
September 22, 1962

Striking with rapier swiftness, Conestoga latched on to a pair of touchdowns in the opening six minutes of play last night and hung on by tooth and nail to turn back Phoenixville, 13-0, thrilling an overflow, home-town crowd at Teamer Field.

Tom Metz, the Pioneers' double-threat sparkplug, provided the impetus in the opening minute of play. He intercepted an aerial and scampered 30-yards untouched for the opening score. Walt Holland deftly converted for the PAT.

No more than five minutes had elapsed when Walt Holland took a pitchout from quarterback Jim Frazier, barreled through the right side of the Phantom line, cut sharply to the left and raced 32 yards to pay dirt.

A 15-yard penalty on the conversion attempt moved the ball back to the 17 where Holland's kick flew wide of the mark and the scoreboard remained 13-0 for the remaining 42 minutes.

Evens Slate

The victory evened Coach Bill Paolantonio's slate at 1-1 following a 7-0 loss to Pottstown. The Pioneers will now move into Suburban II play where a rugged seven-game schedule awaits them, not meeting a Ches-Mont school until the traditional West Chester High Thanksgiving tussle.

It was the Pioneers' game statistically as well as on the scoreboard, which is not always the case. Rolling up 198 yards overland, Conestoga added another 66 through the airways as a pair of quarterbacks, Jay Reis and Jim Frazier are carrying on the Pioneer tradition of fielding capable ball handlers.

Desperation Heaves

Desperation heaves by the PX QB lead to a trio of interceptions by Metz and one by Reis as the Pioneer secondary sparkled.

The first half belonged solely to the Pioneers as PX could get no closer than Conestoga's 45-yard line. Following the opening pair of explosive scores, a staunch Pioneer defense caused the Phantoms to punt on five occasions in the first half alone, holding them to three first downs and 25 yards rushing.

The Pioneers continued to roll, launching one drive on their own 47 with six minutes remaining in the half and marching all the way to the Phantom one where Walt Holland was stopped on the scoring bid. Key plays in the eight-play drive included one 17-yard aerial from Walt Holland to Metz and a 30-yard pass play from Frazier to Metz, who made

a crowd-pleasing one-handed grab on the dead run and maintained his balance to pick up another 15 yards.

Signs of Life

The Phantoms showed signs of life in the second half but fumbles and interceptions killed their threat. On one play, a Phantom running back broke loose, galloping 55 yards to the Conestoga 30 where Metz, the last man between him and daylight, hauled him down. They appeared ready to break the ice when Metz again rose to the occasion, snagging another pass.

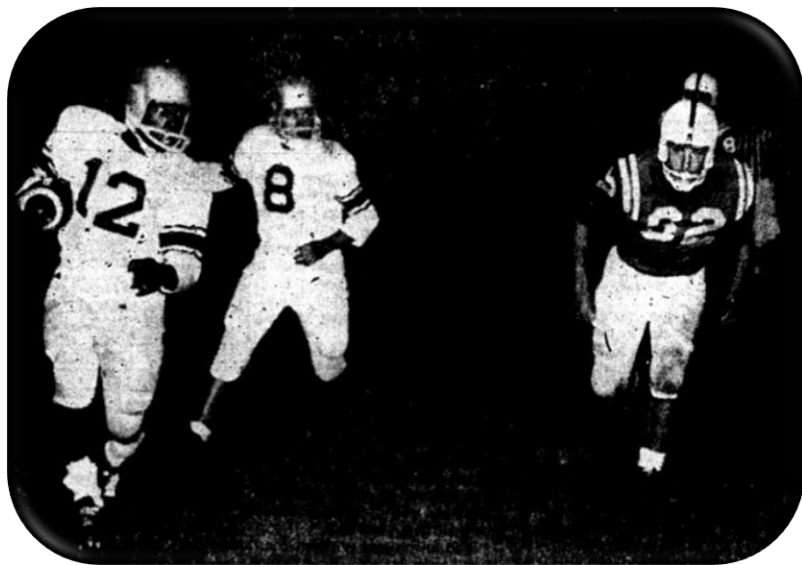
It was the Pioneer's turn at the end of the third quarter and with junior southpaw Jay Reis at the throttle, Conestoga marched from its own 20 to the PX 37 before bogging down. Lenny Elisio picked up 10 through the line, and Reis found Walt Holland with a 19-yard pass play, but the Phantom line caught Reis with a 10-yard loss, stalling the drive.

Final Push

The Phantoms instigated a final push in the last quarter, but their old nemesis, Metz, got into the act again, snagging his third interception of the evening. And the Pioneers appeared touchdown bound in the waning minutes as Reis reeled off 26 yards around left end, and Elisio romped 45 yards to the Phoenixville 20. However, Reis' next pass was intercepted.

"It was hustle and desire that made the difference," said Coach Paolantonio, "but if you had to single out an individual it would be Tom Metz, he played his heart out."

Pioneer Backs Gallop for Big Yardage



PIONEER FULLBACK WALT HOLLAND (#12) skirts end for sizable pickup, taking pitchout from quarterback Jim Frazier (#8).



LENNY ELISIO (#21) straight arms Marty Moore with second effort that characterized Conestoga play throughout the evening.

Third Interception for Tom Metz



. . . As the versatile Pioneer halfback was a constant thorn in the Phantoms' side, scoring one touchdown on a theft and grabbing two more in the second half.

D.L.N. Staff Photo

Beat Conestoga, 7-0 Saturday

Upper Merion Spoils Pioneer League Debut

By **BOB INGERSOLL**
(Local News Sports Editor)

October 1, 1962

The Chinese like to name each passing year after an animal such as the year of the dragon or the year of the ox. If this system applied to Chester County grid circles this season would have to be the year of the dog, the underdog.

Continuing a trend which in recent weeks has become more the rule than the exception, injury-ridden Upper Merion High, possessor of a 2-6 league slate last year, ruined Conestoga's Section II

debut Saturday with a surprising 7-0 verdict.

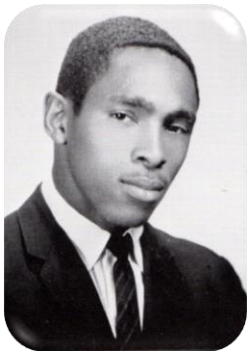
The Spartans scored in the final four minutes of the first half. The Pioneers caught fire moving from their own 30 to the Spartan 35 in six plays. Walt Holland burst off right tackle for one first down, while QB Jay Reis, running a boot-leg around his left end, scampered 20 yards to the Merion 35. However, the Pioneers blew the opportunity with a 13-yard loss and a pair of desperation passes flew incomplete.

The Spartans won the battle of statistics in the first half, 60-36 in rushing and 44-7 through the

airways. The Pioneers were equally impressive in the second but just couldn't get on the score boards.

The Pioneers drove to the Merion 40 early in the third quarter, but Frazier's toss was picked off. Conestoga's defense stalled the ensuing drive. Then again Conestoga marched to its own 42 in a determined drive featuring three first downs and runs of 15 and 10 yards by Lenny Elisio. Again, the drive was stalled by an interception.

Walt Holland was heavy-duty man in the second half, carrying the ball 12 times for 16 yards including four carries in succession.



Walt Holland



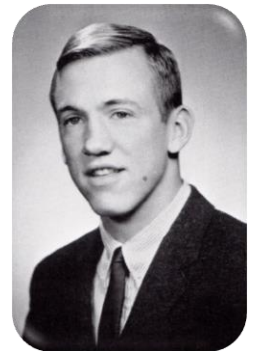
Jay Reis



Lenny Elisio



Tom Metz



Steve Pierce

Rugged Springfield Defeats Conestoga, 25-7

By **BILL HAUCK**
(Of the Local News Staff)

October 8, 1962

Conestoga High lost its second straight Suburban II conference game Saturday before a home crowd on Teamer Field, as Springfield's powerful Cougars rolled over the scrappy Pioneers 25-7.

Springfield only held a 6-0 lead as the first half ended. Taking the second half kick-off, Conestoga rolled up the field from its own 10

to the Springfield 37, but the drive fizzled, and Duane Holland was forced to punt. The ensuing Cougar drive resulted in a touchdown. Fans had no sooner settled, when Tom Metz took the kick-off at his own 10 and carried to the Pioneer 21. Jay Reis, Conestoga QB, called for a pass. He was hustled as he tried to hit Steve Pierce, Conestoga end, and the ball was intercepted. This lead to another Springfield TD.

Conestoga's lone tally came in the fourth period with six minutes

remaining. Tom Metz, Pioneer halfback, picked off a Cougar pass and went 65 yards. Standing on his own 30, Metz intercepted the pass, and he dashed down the right side of the field. Duane Holland kicked the extra point, and the score was 18-7.

The teams exchanged possession following the kick-off. A Pioneer short punt set up the Springfield final score. Their PAT was good to record the 25-7 win.

Conestoga Loses, 40-14

Ridley Rips Pioneers

Daily Local News

October 15, 1962

Conestoga High's long, long season continues. Saturday, at Folsom, powerful Ridley Township High remained undefeated, besting the Pioneers, 40-14.

At the half, Ridley held a 21-0 lead as the Pioneers never got on track. Tom Metz returned the second half kickoff from the 10 to the 42, igniting a drive that lead to Conestoga's first touchdown. Halfback Walt Holland carried six times for 18 yards in the drive, and he went over from the two for the touchdown. Holland also added the PAT.

After the ensuing kickoff, Ridley back Howard Starks dashed 56 yards for his second touchdown to give the Raiders a 28-7 advantage. The next two times the Raiders had their hands on the ball, they scored.

Conestoga ended the day's scoring with a late 62-yard drive in the final period. It took the Pioneers 10 plays to go that distance. Halfback Len Elisio went across from the one. Holland kicked the PAT to make the score 40-14.

Seniors on the 1962 Team



Richard Beatty



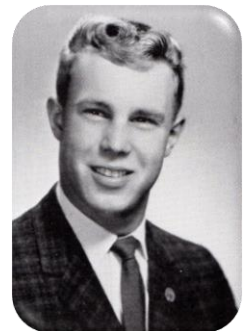
Bradley Blodgett



Richard Coffey



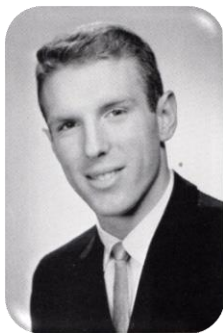
Jim Frazier



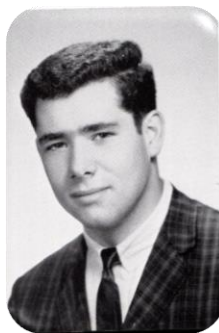
Dean Hokanson



Walt Holland



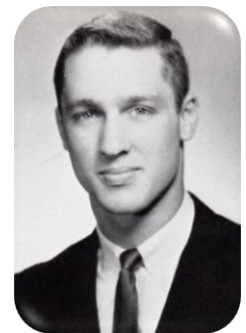
Tom Metz



Doug O'Neill



Frank Sommers



Lee Wilson

Radnor Rides Roughshod Over Pioneers

Winners Rule Long-time Grid Rivalry

By **BILL HAUCK**
(Of the *Local News Staff*)
October 20, 1962

Billed as a toss-up game, Radnor High School routed Conestoga 41-19 last night in the 38th meeting between the two squads, at Teamer Field, Berwyn. In the first half, the Raiders were able to score at will as each time the Pioneers had the ball, their drive fizzled, and Duane Holland was forced to punt.

With moments left in the half, QB Jim Frazier began to hit Tom Metz with passes. The first carried for eight yards from the Pioneer 30. Two more were knocked down, but the fourth pass found Metz in the open on the Raider 44. Metz went to his left and down the field for the Pioneer's first score. Holland kicked the PAT, and the half ended with the score 28-7.

At the end of the third quarter, Radnor scored again. Metz took the kickoff at the Pioneer 25, and he carried to Radnor's 47. A series of plays ended, but the game ended 41-19.

at the beginning of the fourth quarter moved the ball to the two. Holland then went through center for the TD.

Following an exchange of possessions, Conestoga put together three passes and a 40 yard run by Holland to carry from its own 20 to the Raider three. Holland then went to the two, and on the next play Frazier went around his left side for Conestoga's third touchdown to make the score 35-19. Radnor took the kickoff and marched back to the Pioneer eight and then in for the final Raider TD. Conestoga began another drive moments before the game



Above: Radnor Raider rips off long yardage as Lenny Elisio (#21) and Tom Metz (#42) move in for a shot at the elusive back.

At Left: Lenny Elisio (#21) is hauled down after a short gain.

"Pioneers On Their Way," Say Udovich

Conestoga Explodes With 34-0 Rout of Penncrest

By BILL HAUCK
(Of the Local News Staff)
November 3, 1962

Conestoga High School staged a touchdown parade to delight its fans last night at Teamer Field, Berwyn and overpowered a light but gritty Penncrest eleven as the Pioneers won their first Suburban II league game, 34-0.

Pioneer backs, Walt Holland, Tom Metz, Len Elisio and end Steve Pierce sparkled, as they put on a passing and running show that bewildered the hapless Lions – throughout the four periods.

Walt Udovich, Penncrest coach said after the game, "I don't know how Conestoga lost the games that it did. They certainly have the offensive power. They should be a match for any team in this league. At least they are certainly on their way.

The game opened with Conestoga receiving the ball. Starting from their own 34-yard line, the Pioneers promptly marched 66 yards for the first TD. Aiding the drive was Elisio, who at one point went for 10 yards, then dashed for 26 more to the visitors 24 and a first down. Two plays later with the ball on the 18, Holland went back and threw to Metz, who was waiting in the end zone. Holland's PAT was good, and at 3:31 of the first period, the score read 7-0 in favor of the Pioneers.

Conestoga kicked off to Penncrest, but their drive bogged down at the 48. The Lions punted to the Conestoga 28. Elisio rushed for nine yards. Holland passed to Pierce at the 24. On the next play, Elisio threw to Metz at the Lion five, and the senior halfback went over standing up for his second TD. Holland kicked the point.

The Lions took the kickoff and moved to the Pioneers' 37. But Conestoga held, and the Lion punt went to the Pioneer 27. Holland, whose running potential has been daunted all season, went to work. Elisio first moved the ball for seven yards. The next try found Holland taking the ball, breaking off-tackle and outrunning the secondary to the Lion nine. Three plays later, he rammed over center from one yard out for the score. At the half, Conestoga lead 20-0.

Penncrest received the third quarter kickoff and marched to the Pioneer 11. A penalty and a strong defensive stand gave the Pioneers the ball on their own 17. From this point, they put together an 83-yard drive that ended with Elisio going around the right side for the fourth TD of the game. A pass from Holland to Metz was good for the PAT.

The feature play of the fourth quarter came just as the period opened. With the ball resting on the Pioneer 18, Holland went back and threw out to Pierce at the 50. The lanky end took the ball on the run and went the distance for the final TD. Holland again threw to Metz for the point.

Bill Paolantonio, Pioneer coach, unveiled some good backs in Dick Corey and Ed Durrell, who played most of the second half. However, the Pioneers suffered the loss of quarterback Jim Frazier who was injured on the last play of the first half. His replacement, Harvey Lenierman, who has been at the job for only one week, handled the assignment well during the second and third periods.

Frazier's injury was diagnosed as a shoulder separation. He is lost for the season.

Pioneer Halfback Eludes Flying Tackle



Len Elisio (#21) gets by Penncrest's Charlie Green and ripped off huge gain in Conestoga's 34-0 win over Penncrest last night at Teamer Field.

Lenny loose again . . .



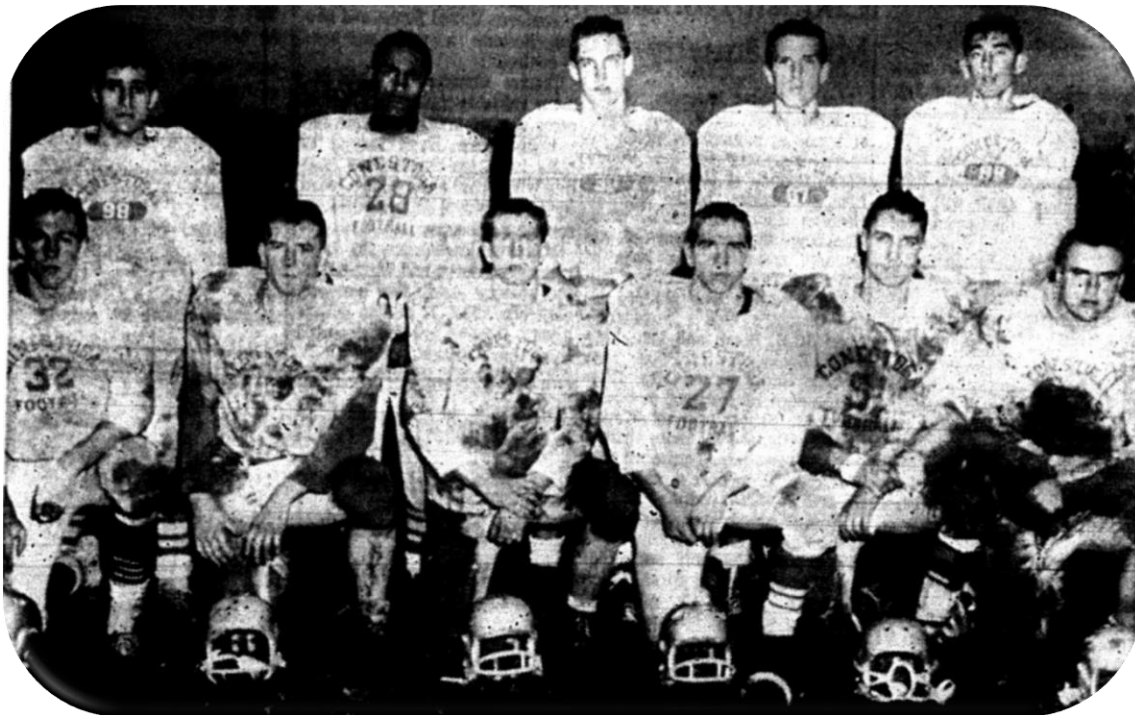
Above: Elisio darts for six yards.

Right: Conestoga's Tom Metz grabs the second of two touchdown passes, a 24-yard aerial from Elisio in the first period.

D.L.N. Staff Photo

Good Hands





CONESTOGA FIRST STRINGERS will tangle with West Chester tomorrow at Farrell Stadium. Back row from left are Lenny Elisio, Walt Holland, Jim Frazier, Tom Metz and Dick Coffey. Kneeling from left are Steve Pierce, Wiston Harris, Don McClenny, John Wyatt, Lee Wilson and Frank Sommer

D.L.N. Staff Photo

AT WEST CHESTER STATE FIELD

Warriors Meet Pioneers In Long-Standing Rivalry

By **BOB INGERSOLL**
(Of the Local News Sports Staff)
November 21, 1962

Tomorrow will be a day of gridiron face saving as West Chester and Conestoga lock horns on the West Chester State College field in one of the county's oldest rivalries. Both clubs will be bound and determined to wrap up a discouraging season on a winning note.

Coach Bill Paolantonio's Pioneers, weakened when Conestoga High split, found the sledding rough in the strong Section Two of the Suburban Conference Loop. Conestoga fans were set back on their heels following a decade in which the Pioneers ruled the Ches-Mont circuit, winning five league championships and taking a runner-up berth to Pottstown in their final Ches-Mont season last year.

"Conestoga will be shooting for us," said WC Coach Al Bruno. "They want this one badly. The winner can take home a measure of prestige."

Tom Metz is a double-threat halfback with the ability to run and pass on the option. He has been a mainstay of the Pioneer defensive secondary, leading the club in interceptions. The WC coaching staff was impressed with the running ability of junior Lenny Elisio, a speedster especially dangerous on the wide sweep.

The Pioneers may alternate Jim Frazier and Jay Reis at quarterback a spot weakened by the graduation of All Ches-Mont signal caller Steve Welpott. With 185-pound Walt Holland carrying the freight from the fullback slot and Steve Pierce and Howard Speer, a pair of six-footers at ends to take up the slack, the Pioneers should have balance.

Although short on beef in the forward wall, the Pioneers will have plenty of grit, as tackles Wiston Harris and Vern Calloway and guards Dean Hokenson and Dick Beatty will line up on center John Wyatt.

Conestoga Ground Game Kills Clock, Warriors

Metz Goes 82 With Punt as Pioneers Turn Back West Chester Eleven, 12-6

Daily Local News

November 23, 1963

Tom Metz is brilliant in the classroom, brilliant on the football field and the 5-10, 170-pound back runs as if he has brains in his fee. At least it appeared that way to the 6,000 hardy fans who saw Conestoga beat West Chester, 12-6, yesterday in the mud and wind of Farrell Stadium.

As a pass receiver and defender, the transplanted Texan is blessed with the most beautiful moves in Chester County. And yesterday he showed West Chester some heady footwork in the first period. Metz, the Conestoga senior co-captain, took a Darwin Holdsworth punt on his own 13 and waded through the Farrell Stadium mud and the frustrated West Chester defenses 82 yards for the Pioneers' first touchdown.

He followed his blocking nicely, romping down the right side to the 45, then cutting to the middle behind two blockers at the mid-field stripe. Nobody laid a hand on him. And he was a standout, especially on defense, the remainder of the afternoon.

Metz also came up with a key play of the 37-yard drive leading to the winning Conestoga touchdown in the third quarter. On this occasion, the sure-handed halfback leaped high in the air in a pogo-stick-like effort to grab a Jim Frazier pass that resulted in a nine-yard gain for the Pioneers to the West Chester 17. Two plays later, Conestoga scored.

After the game, the modest Metz was praising everyone but himself in Conestoga's happy locker room. "The blocking was excellent on that punt return," he credited. A sure-fire college prospect, Metz is considering Rice University. "I'm originally from Texas. We just moved up from there six years ago," he explained.

The win salvaged the season for Conestoga and their coach Bill Paolantonio. Paolantonio was bubbling over with enthusiasm after the game. "A great way to wrap up the season," he said.

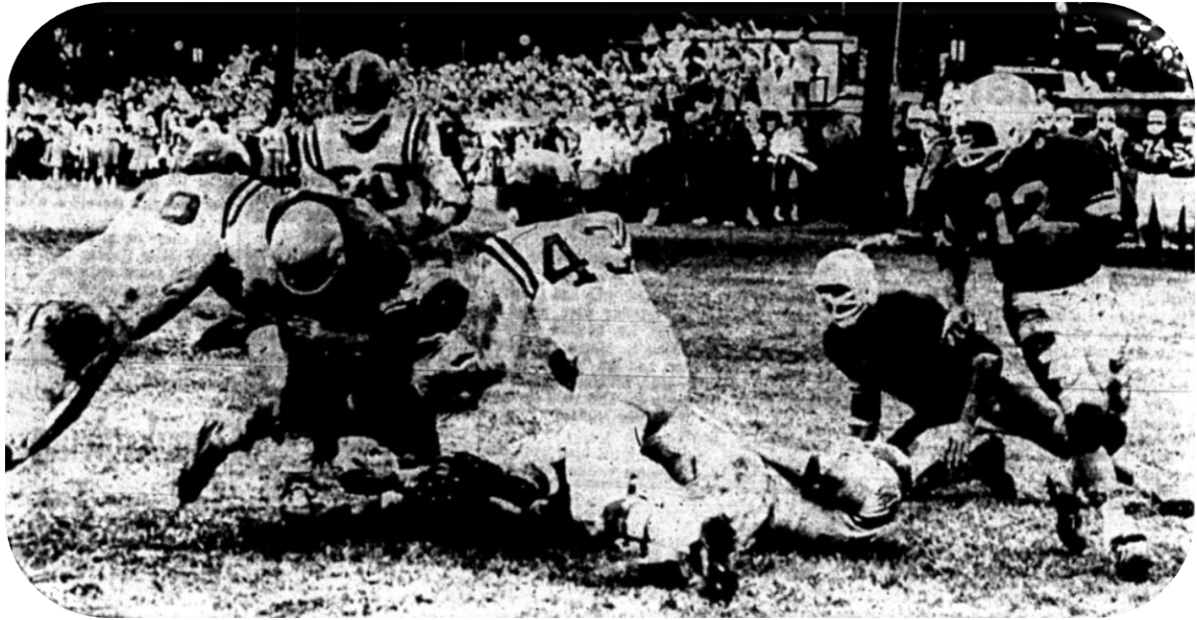
West Chester had the edge in the first half, but Conestoga clearly dominated play after halftime. The Pioneers moved the ball well. "We were pulling a guard, and it certainly helped our running attack," said assistant coach Joe Ujobai. "That's something we haven't been able to do all season because the other clubs were usually red-dogging us."

The consistent hard running of halfback Len Elisio and fullback Walt Holland featured the Pioneers' attack in the second half. A WC fumble, recovered by Conrad Hamilton, set up Conestoga's second touchdown, which proved to be the winning TD. Frazier passes to Metz and Elisio moved Conestoga to the West Chester one from where Elisio cracked over for the touchdown with 54 seconds left in the third quarter.

Following the ensuing kickoff, West Chester took over on its own 36 and drove to the Conestoga 13. Failing to convert on a fourth down, the Warriors turned the ball over to Conestoga. With a concentrated ground attack, the Pioneers marched to the Warrior 11 on a 16-play drive. While they failed to score, they turned the ball over with little time for the Warriors to come back.

The Warriors only score came early in the second quarter on a pass play that covered 64 yards. QB Wayne Boggs connected with Nelson Chambers. Chambers grabbed the ball and broke away from everyone in sight – except Pioneer Dick Corey, who nailed him from behind on the one. Two plays later, they slanted off tackle for the TD.

Chalk Up Another Gain for Conestoga High



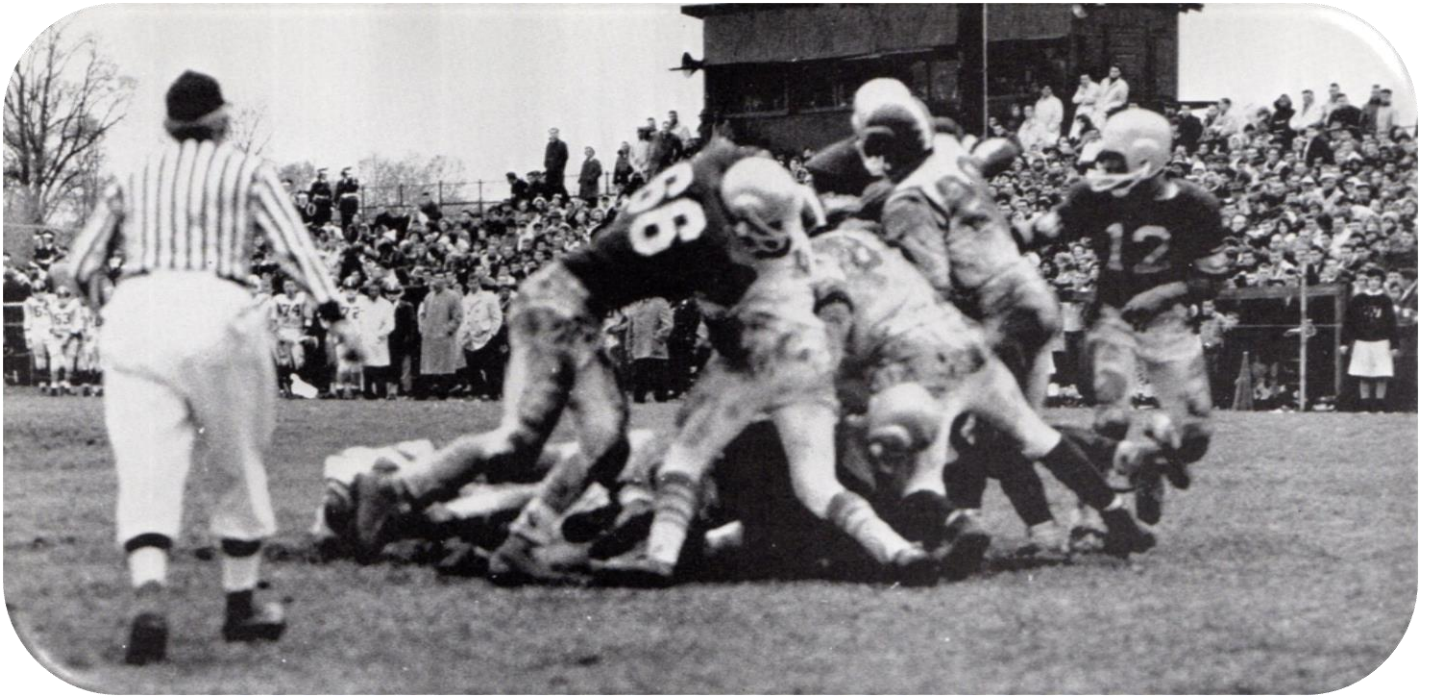
Halfback Len Elisio Gains Four Yards On Off-Tackle Slant for Pioneers
Walt Holland (#12) on right

Gang Tackling Stops Conestoga Star Tom Metz



But Pioneer halfback gained nine yards on pass play.

Photo Gallery



Coach Ramsey



COACHES Bill Paolantonio, Peter Ramsey and Joe Ujobai are seated. Managers Rick Wood, Roy Shubret and Abbott Smith are standing.



Award winners: Dean Hokanson,
Lee Wilson, Tom Metz

Tom Metz



**All Suburban First Team, All Chester County First Team,
All Main Line Second Team, All State Honorable Mention**