

Great Valley and Conestoga battle to 6-6 tie

By TOM SHERIDAN
Staff Writer *Daily Local News*
September 8, 1991

It would figure that two teams that combined to lose 19 games last season would be offering up *Hosannas* after emerging from a game without yet another loss. But there was very little public rejoicing after Great Valley High School and Conestoga played to a 6-6 dead heat at Teamer Field on Saturday night in the season opener for both schools.

Romig's desperation pass intended for Jason Honig was batted away in the end zone by Pioneer defensive back Matt Teeter on the final play of the game. Romig's opinion was shared by Conestoga's second-year coach Bob Novotni. A man who probably would have thought differently about such an outcome last year when his team stumbled to a 1-10 record.

"Our kids played as hard as they could play. I know Great Valley did too. But when you play that hard you like to see them win," said Novotni.

High caliber, indeed. The problem was that Conestoga's offense was equally high caliber. And when it took the ball it did not give it back to the Patriots any time soon. Its first drive didn't end until

nearly three minutes into the second half when Jason Durrell, on a first-down-and-goal from the four-yard line, was hit by Romig, forcing a fumble that was recovered by defensive tackle Alton Murden.

Each team had the ball twice in the first 23 minutes of the game. Conestoga evened the game on its first possession of the second half. And if you guessed it was a ball-control drive you earned a three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust merit badge.

The Pioneers controlled the ball for 9:27 in their 17-play drive. Fullback Owen Hicks, who missed the end of the last season with tendon damage in his knee, powered over from three yards out and the game was tied after a failed two-point conversion attempt.

Hicks gained 37 yards in 14 carries but spent the majority of his time on offense blocking for Durrell who gained 117 yards in 27 attempts to lead all ball carriers in a ball carriers game.

"They really impressed me," Honig said of Conestoga. "I tell you 20 (Durrell) is a good running back and 44 (Hicks) too. And their line was coming off the ball. They were really coming off the ball. Coach Novotni does a good job out there."

Vikings overpower Conestoga

By STEVE PILONI
Staff Writer *Daily Local News*
September 14, 1991

BERWYN—It didn't take a great football mind to recognize the kind of assets that West Chester East High School displayed in Friday's 40-5 non-league win over Conestoga.

The Vikings, ranked third in the *Daily Local News* Football Poll, simply overpowered Conestoga on both sides of the ball. "We were concerned a little bit about their tailback (Jason Durrell)." Durrell rushed for 52 yards on 17 carries for Conestoga, but the East defense kept him from breaking anything longer than 12 yards.

Despite the lopsided score, there was a point in the game where East could have lost its composure.

Leading only 12-3 in the second quarter, East was the victim of a bizarre situation. On third down from his own 6-yard line, Leith unloaded an apparent 94-yard touchdown pass to Percy Anderson. However, East was called for holding in the end zone which resulted in an automatic safety--- the penalty had to be marked from the spot of the infraction.

Not only did the Vikings lose the touchdown, they gave up two points that made the score 12-5. East went on to outscore Conestoga 20-0 in the second half. Conestoga got on the board when Simon Kricks drilled a 33-yard field goal to make it 12-3.

Owen J. defeats Pioneers

By **TIM HORAN**
Staff Writer *Daily Local News*
September 21, 1991

BUCKTOWN—Israel “Izzy” Soto couldn’t believe the hole he saw when he caught the ball and headed up field. “It was the biggest hole I’ve ever seen,” he said. Soto took full advantage of it, running 90-yards on a kickoff return to lift Owen J. Roberts to a 13-9 non-league win over Conestoga in football on Friday.

The Wildcats’ return team put up a wall that could have challenged the great one in China, and the Izzy shuffle took care of the rest. Soto’s third quarter touchdown run came just seconds after the Pioneers took the lead in the game.

After the Wildcats fumbled on their own 40-yard line, the Pioneers took two plays to put the ball in the end zone. After Conestoga quarterback Stevie Brown hit Myles Reynolds with a 36-yard pass, Owen Hicks ran up the middle for the 4-yard touchdown. After a two-point conversion, Conestoga led 8-6 with 6:07 showing on the clock.

Dave Detweiler intercepted a pass on the Conestoga 34-yard line and ran for 25 yards to set up the Wildcats’ touchdown.

“The kids played their hearts out,” said Conestoga head Coach Bob Novotni. “The turnovers really and kickoff return really hurt us.”

September 28, 1991, Springfield, Conestoga Win, No article available

Conestoga beaten by Ridley

By **SCOTT PAIDA**
Staff Writer *Daily Local News*
October 5, 1991

BERWYN—The last time Conestoga High School’s football team met 1990 Class AAAA state finalist Ridley, the results were less than memorable.

Conestoga suffered a 56-14 defeat at the hands of the Green Raiders last season and was eager to have a better showing when the two teams met for their 1991 Central League clash Friday evening at Conestoga.

The Pioneers did have one defensively, but unfortunately for them, the same could not be said for the other squads. The offense managed just 53 total yards and combined with the special teams in committing costly turnovers that accounted for all of Ridley’s touchdowns in an 18-0 loss.

Conestoga fell to 1-1 in the Central League and 1-3-1 overall, while Ridley improved its league mark to 2-0 while going to 3-1 overall. “Ridley played tough defense (tonight), there’s no question about it,” said Conestoga coach Bob Novotni. “But when you fumble and make mistakes, that hurts. You can’t make mistakes against a good team.”

“Hats off to our defense, though. They played a nice game tonight. Last year, Ridley scored 56 points on us, and at least this year, we were able to shut down the total a little bit.” That defense was hard at work at the game’s outset, as the teams battled through a scoreless first quarter.

Conestoga appeared to have a good scoring chance on its first possession of the game, as running back Jason Durrell broke free for a 23-yard gain. But he fumbled after being hit, and Ridley recovered at its own 45. “It (the Durrell fumble) hurt,” said Novotni. “That was the first time we got something going and we got decent field position at that point and then we fumbled the ball.”

The loss hurt, said Novotni, especially after Conestoga had gotten off to a 1-0 league start after beating Springfield last week. But, he says, the defeat will only make his team more determined to come back strong next week.

“We’re going to come back madder than anything next week,” he said. “We’ll come back and play a good football game next Friday night (at home against Strath Haven). “We’re going to get better.”

Pioneers pull out 9-7 victory

By **RUSS DODGE**
 Staff Writer *Daily Local News*
 October 12, 1991

BERWYN—Bob Novotni has memories of three exciting games in the year-and-a-half he's been football coach at Conestoga's High School. The first came last year against Radnor, his only win as a rookie coach.

This year, two last-minute wins have provided him with cherished memories, the latest coming in Friday night's 9-7 Central League thriller against Strath Haven. Conestoga is now 2-1 in the Central League and 2-3-1 overall while Strath Haven is 2-2 in league play, 3-3 for the season.



SIMON KRICKA
 Senior 5-11, 150
 End/ Safety
 Kicker

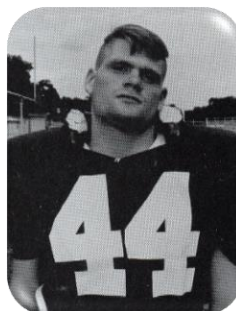
"This was the game when these kids finally learned how to win," said Novotni. Trailing 7-0 with less than two minutes on the clock, the Pioneers vaulted ahead by 9-7 count when the clock struck 0:26.

Heroes and heroics were all in place, with the final hero being senior kicker Simon Kricka, whose 34-yard field goal with 26 seconds remaining provided the final margin. There was enough agony of defeat for most of the game to balance out Conestoga's thrill of victory.

The Pioneers dominated the first half offensively. A potential scoring drive of 67 yards died on the

Panther 5 on the first quarter fumble and a second quarter drive ended on the Strath Haven 40, also courtesy of a fumble.

The half ended 0-0, but the Pioneers were unable to get untracked after taking the second half kickoff. The Pioneers stopped a Panthers drive at their own 16, then traded punts with Strath Haven until the 4:00 mark of the fourth period. The Pioneers then started a 52-yard scoring drive that would almost end in tragedy. Sticking to a running game for most of the contest, the Pioneers, especially Owen Hicks and Jason Durrell, methodically moved down the field in a last-ditch attempt.



OWEN HICKS
 Senior 6-2, 195
 Running Back
 Linebacker

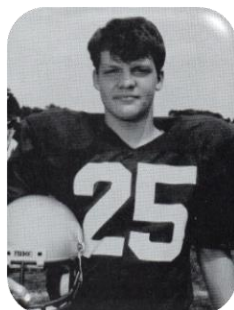
Durrell appeared about to run over from the eight with a little more than two minutes on the clock, but he fumbled as he ambled toward the goal-line, and a host of Panthers scrambled for the loose ball.

But Pioneer Jim Thomaselli fell on the ball at the 8 and three plays later Durrell burst over from the 2. Hicks, who had been devastating up the middle all night, was stopped on the extra point. Kricka then executed a perfect on-side kick with 1:51 on the clock, and later booted a 34-yard field goal with 26 seconds left.

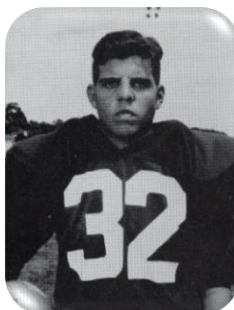
Thomaselli provided the final excitement with a game-ending interception.



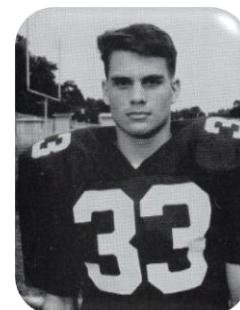
ADAM STARR
 Senior 6-2, 170
 Quarterback
 Safety



BOB CASSIDY
 Senior 6-1, 160
 End
 Safety



DAMIAN RAMONDO
 Senior 5-9, 165
 Running Back
 Linebacker



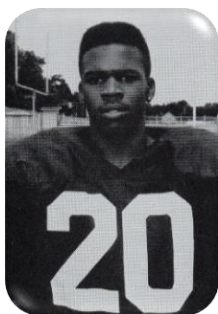
ROSARIO ANTONACCI
 Senior 5-11, 165
 Running Back
 Linebacker

Pioneers win again

By **TOM SHERIDAN**
Staff Writer *Daily Local News*
October 18, 1991

HAVERTOWN—In a week when two baseball teams lifted themselves from the outhouse to the World Series penthouse, the Conestoga High School football team served notice that it, too, is on the elevator going up.

Conestoga won its third game in the last four outings, overcoming an early deficit to defeat a sound Haverford High team 20-7 in a Central League showdown Friday night. The visiting Pioneers, now 3-3-1 overall and 3-1 in the Central League after suffering through a 1-10 season last year, won the game by throttling the Haverford offense in the second half and limiting the mistakes that have plagued them this season.



JASON DURRELL
Senior 5-10, 165
Running Back
Safety

Senior running back Jason Durrell rebounded from a forgettable first half to score a pair of second-half touchdowns and Conestoga's many name defense sacked Haverford quarterback Chet Laubach five times in the second half. "They've learned how to win," said Conestoga's second-year coach, Bob Novotni. "And that is tremendous. You practice, practice, practice and sometimes you lose sight of that. But these guys have built a solid foundation now. And when they leave high school, and go out in

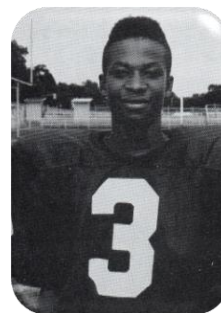
the world, they will be winners there, too."

The Pioneers have been an accident waiting to happen for much of the season, and that was very true in the first half. They fumbled the ball four times and lost three of them. Durrell fumbled twice. But the defense was up for the challenge.

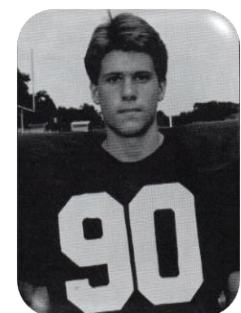
After Durrell's first fumble, it looked like the Fords were ready to put Conestoga two touchdowns down. They moved the ball 19 yards on three running plays, and faced with a second-and-seven at the Conestoga 18, Laubach took a short drop and tried a pass into the left flat.

Defensive end Ryan McGeorge deflected the pass and Jim Thomaselli was there to pick it off and return it 54 yards to the Haverford 30. "It was a planned play," said Thomaselli. "He (McGeorge) is one of my best friends and we have always dreamed about that, him tipping it and me going all the way for the touchdown. But I didn't go all the way. I got tackled."

It obviously took a while for them to wake up because the offense did little with the ball after the interception and placekicker Simon Kricka, who has won two games this year with late fourth-quarter field goals, came up a foot or two short on the 42-yard field goal try. But the defense did its job, and after Conestoga took possession again at the Haverford 46, it wasted little time.



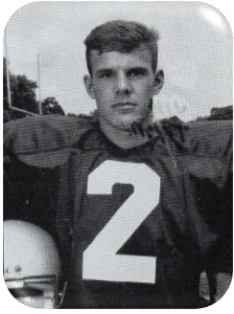
STEVE BROWN
Senior 5-10, 145
Quarterback
Safety



CASE VERNON
Junior 6-0, 175
End
Linebacker

On the first play, quarterback Steve Brown found tight end Case Vernon under coverage on a crossing pattern and led him with a nice pass. Vernon broke two tackles and took the ball all the way to the 5. Hicks scored two plays later and Kricka added the kick to tie the game 7-7.

The second half was all defense and Durrell. The defense held the Haverford offense to 36 yards in total offense on 24 plays from scrimmage. Ten of those 24 plays resulted in lost yardage. Durrell did what you



MATT TEETER
Senior 5-9, 160
Running Back
Safety

have to do to a forgettable first half-he forgot it. “I just blocked it out. Cleared it all out. I just said have fun and enjoy,” he said.

After Matt Teeter busted a 54-yard return of the second-half kickoff, Durrell carried the ball on four of the next five plays. The fifth carry was a seven-yard touchdown run that gave the Pioneers the lead for good.

There were a lot of heroes for the defense. McGeorge, Thomaselli, Hicks were a few, but a lot of people got into the action.

Defensive Battle 0-0

Field goal attempt fails as Conestoga ties

By **CARYL KAUFFMAN**
Staff Writer *Daily Local News*
October 27, 1991

ARDMORE—Conestoga’s Simon Kricka has given the Pioneers a leg up on the competition a couple of times this season. So when the Pioneers gave their kicker a chance to break a 0-0 deadlock with a 31-yard field goal attempt and 10 seconds remaining, a Conestoga win looked like a lock.

But the Pioneers didn’t factor in Jason Christmas, or the fact that Kricka’s reputation is such that teams now prepare for him. “Our coach called a stunt with both our inside nose guards going outside, and I fired up the middle,” said Lower Merion’s Christmas, who came close to blocking Kricka’s kick. “We knew he was a pretty good kicker, but we’d been working on that stunt all week so we had to go for it that time.”

Kricka got the kick off, but the ball deflected off Christmas’s elbow and went about three feet wide to the left. “I knew they got through the line,” Kricka said. “I hit it good, but it was deflected...It would have been good if that guy didn’t get through the line.”

The tie gives Conestoga a 3-3-2 record while Lower Merion is 2-5-1. “Ties never sat well with me,” said Conestoga coach Bob Novotni. Conestoga had a number of good opportunities to take control of the game, especially in the second half when the defense shut down Lower Merion’s offense.

The Pioneers got some good running from Jason Durrell, who had 153 yards on 23 carries. And they managed to move the ball to the Aces’ 21-yard-line, 16-yard-line and 14-yard-line without scoring. “Mistakes are devastating,” said Novotni.

He saw holding calls and clipping penalties wipe out big gains. And he saw the ball fumbled away at the Lower Merion 13. But all of that could have been wiped out in the final minutes, when Matt Teeter took the snap on a fake punt on fourth-and-13 and ran 38 yards to the Lower Merion 38.

Only Christopher Long, Lower Merion’s quarterback and safety, stood between Teeter and a touchdown.

32-21 Win

Durrell's 284-yard effort paces Conestoga

By **CARYL KAUFFMAN**
Staff Writer *Daily Local News*
November 3, 1991

MEDIA—Conestoga's High School football coach Bob Novotni once before saw a performance like the one by Pioneers' tailback Jason Durrell on Saturday. That was back when Novotni was head coach at Greenville (GA) High and had a kid by the name of Sterling Sharpe playing for him—the same Sharpe who's now with the Green Bay Packers.

But that doesn't make Durrell's 284-yard, four-touchdown performance against Penncrest any less special, particularly since it powered the Pioneers to a 32-21 win and tied them with Upper Darby for second place in the Central League. "That was a heck of an effort today," Novotni said of Durrell.

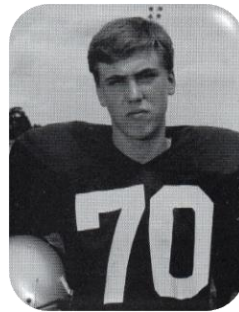
Conestoga is 4-3-2 overall, 4-1-1 in the league. Penncrest is now 7-2 overall, but both losses were to Central League opponents.

Durrell, behind the fabulous blocking of fullback Owen Hicks, scored on runs of 48, 47, 46 and 31 yards. "I just wanted to keep running all day. Every time, just give it to me," said Durrell, who carried 29 times. "I felt great." The play that worked for the big gainers was a sweep that, depending on the coverage, could go inside or outside. Durrell and Hicks, who have played together since the eighth grade, make decisions as the play unfolds.

"We're really tight," Hicks said. "We can almost think together." Hicks did some solid running himself. He scored the Pioneers' first touchdown on a 3-yard run and finished with 52 yards on 11 carries. But it was through his blocking that the 6-foot-2, 195-pound senior distinguished himself.

"This guy's tremendous," Novotni said of Hicks. "He's been like that all year long. Jason knows all his yards are this kid."

The 32 points were the most Conestoga has scored this season and the game was a stark contrast to last week's 0-0 tie with Lower Merion. In retrospect, that tie cost the Pioneers sole possession of second place. "We worked them hard this week," said Novotni. "We came out Monday and talked about skills-wise basics. We've taken 'em as far as we can as coaches, now the next step is up to them.



DAVID OLIVER
Sophomore 6-1, 215
Tackle
Defensive End

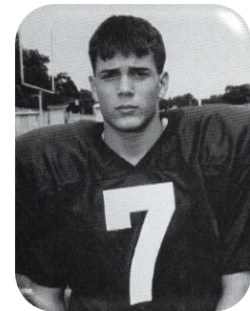
some nifty footwork to stay in bounds.

"We just hadn't clicked yet," said Novotni. "The seniors have got big hearts. They've been like that all year."

The game plan worked and it was all Conestoga, or rather, all Durrell and Hicks, after intermission. In fact, Durrell rushed for 186 of his yards in the second half. "We just hyped up," Durrell said. "Told 'em the game isn't over till the fourth quarter (ends). We just kept it going."



MYLES REYNOLDS
Senior 6-3, 195
End/ Corner



JASON DIFABRIZIO
Senior 5-10, 165
End/ Corner

NOTES: Conestoga's Myles Reynolds injured his hamstring in the game. Jason DiFabrizio had an interception for the Pioneers. Durrell has 912 yards this season. His four touchdowns give him eight on the season.

McGeorge scores defensive TD

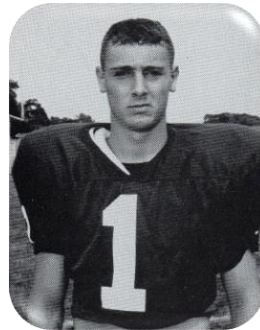
Pioneers defeat Radnor 24-2

By CARYL KAUFFMAN
Staff Writer *Daily Local News*
November 9, 1991

BERWYN—Conestoga High School linebackers Ryan McGeorge and Jim Thomaselli are best friends. So naturally they root for each other to do what defensive players always dream of—score. Thomaselli's chances came earlier this season. Friday night against a winless, woeful Radnor squad, McGeorge got his chance, scoring the winning touchdown in the Pioneers' 24-2 romp.



**RYAN
MCGEORGE**
Senior 6-0, 180
Running Back
Linebacker



**JIM
THOMASELLI**
Senior 6-0, 175
Quarterback
Corner

"We've been working out all summer," said McGeorge, "and all we could dream about was me knocking the ball down and him taking it for a touchdown or vice versa. "It was a great thrill (Friday night). The same thing happened at Haverford—I deflected a pass and he took it back."

McGeorge scored on a 53-yard fumble return after Thomaselli laid a massive hit on Radnor running back Oakley Wright at the Conestoga 47-yard line. "I saw it on the ground and I took the opportunity," McGeorge said. "I just saw green, a big, green yard. It was just a great feeling. As soon as I got it, I wasn't going to let anyone catch me. I just started for (the end zone). I wasn't going to hold anything back."

"Ryan's probably the quickest kid on the team," said Conestoga coach Bob Novotni of junior McGeorge, who sees some action at running back.

The win gives Conestoga a 5-3-2 record while Radnor falls to 0-9.

"Early in the game, it looked like Conestoga might be suffering either a letdown after last week's big 32-21 win over Penncrest or just taking Radnor too lightly.

"We were a little nervous there in the beginning with them moving the ball well," said Novotni. "The problem with the wishbone is it always takes the defense time to adjust to it. They're usually just used to ball players coming their way, and you have an easy read. "With the wishbone, it takes time to realize that if they're going to run a dive, they might come out, the option, the quarterback might keep it. After a while (we) adjusted to it and did a nice job."

"During the week, I think a lot of guys didn't say much, but you could tell they were a little cocky," McGeorge said of his teammates' attitudes. "But once (Radnor) came out and started running the ball we weren't going to let down. We just let it all out after that. They did put a scare into us though on the first series."

Then, on fourth-and-four of the first series, Wright fumbled the ball away and the game might as well have ended. Well, late in the game a high snap on a punt gave them first-and-goal at the Conestoga 8-yard line. On first down, they moved to the two, but on three successive tries they couldn't get into the end zone.

On Radnor's second possession of the game, Radnor again turned the ball over, this time when Bob Cassidy picked off a pass by Raiders' quarterback Andy Dewese at Radnor's 30-yard line. Seconds later, on first-and-ten, Conestoga's Jason Durrell dashed 30 yards to make it 13-0. Kicker Simon Kricka, who was 3-for-3 on PAT's, made it 14-0. Durrell, who had 284 yards a week ago, finished with 82 on 10 carries.

In the second quarter, on Conestoga's third possession if you're counting, the Pioneers went 85 yards on nine plays. Jason DiFabrizio scored on 27-yard touchdown pass from Steve Brown.

Upper Darby knocks off Conestoga

By TOM SHERIDAN
Staff Writer *Daily Local News*
November 16, 1991

BERWYN—When it finally ended, there were nothing but memories. But oh, what memories. Conestoga High School lost to Upper Darby 38-31 in a Central League battle at Teamer Field Friday night, but that only begins to tell you about the game.

“The only thing you can give in life is 100 percent,” said Conestoga coach Bob Novotni. “Winning and losing is immaterial. The only thing that matters to God is that you gave 100 percent.” But when people think back on the 1991 season for the Pioneers, this is the game they will remember.

Conestoga fought back from a 17-6 halftime deficit to take an 18-17 lead in the third quarter. It trailed 30-18 with less than seven minutes to play, but again came back and led 31-30 with 2:47 left.

Speaking of tipped balls, on the play before Conestoga outside linebacker Jason DiFabrizio, who had one of the two interceptions off McLaughlin, had tipped a ball the inside linebacker almost intercepted.

In the second quarter, Hicks scored on a 4-yard run to put the Pioneers ahead briefly, but McLaughlin threw for one touchdown and ran for another to put Upper Darby ahead 17-6 at halftime. The Pioneers came to life early in the second half. First, Hick’s converted a fourth-and-two with a short run near midfield. On the next play, Steve Brown hit Cassidy for 29 yards on a great catch play by Cassidy who adjusted to an underthrown ball.

Then Jim Thomaselli went 25 yards on a reverse to make the score 17-12. Thomaselli, a two-way starter, was simply superb all evening. He caught two touchdown passes, ran for another, accounted for 103 yards from scrimmage and made 10 tackles from his outside linebacker post on defense.

Three plays after that touchdown, another two-way starter, Jason Durrell, picked off a McLaughlin pass and took it 44 yards for another Pioneer touchdown. They had scored twice in less than a minute and led 18-17.

It didn’t help matters for the Pioneers that Brown had left the game on the previous series with a knee injury. But Adam Starr, who was a starter last year during Conestoga’s tough 1-10 season, came in and showed he had a little something left.

After Durrell broke a 46-yard run, Starr hit Thomaselli for a 17-yard touchdown pass with 4:10 to play. And following an onside kick that Conestoga recovered, Starr hit Thomaselli again on a fourth-and-8 for 48 yards and a touchdown to give the Pioneers a 31-30 lead with 2:47 to play.

Then fate interceded.

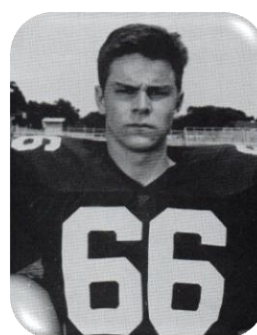
“These kids gave us everything,” said Conestoga defensive coordinator Scott Allison. “They didn’t leave anything on the field. You’ve got to admire them for that. They played with pride for 48 minutes. That’s what we tell them, that’s all you can ask for....But give Matt Curran credit. He is an all-league receiver.”



MATT VOLPI
Senior 5-7, 150
Running Back
Linebacker



RICH AMBROSE
Senior 5-10, 185
Guard
Linebacker



ERIC VAN NAERSEN
Senior 5-8, 175
Linebacker

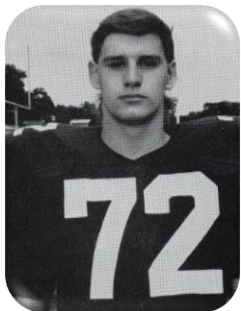
Pioneers' 19-6 Win Completes Turnaround

By **TOM SHERIDAN**
Staff Writer *Daily Local News*
November 29, 1991

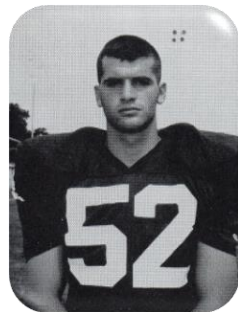
Cold and happy, Conestoga High School football coach Bob Novotni stood at midfield of Marple Newtown's Harry R. Harvey Field in his shorts. Short pants at a Thanksgiving Day football game in Pennsylvania? Evidently Novotni got in the habit of wearing shorts when he was a coach down in Glennville, Ga.

Different climates, same habits. Novotni was a little more successful in changing the habits of his players, though. With its 19-6 season-ending victory over Marple Newtown in a Central League game Thursday, Conestoga completed a remarkable turnaround.

Last year, in Novotni's first season at Conestoga, the Pioneers suffered through a 1-10 season. It was the worst record in school history. This year things were different, even if the coach's wardrobe wasn't. "I'll tell you what," said Conestoga linebacker-fullback Owen Hicks, who doused Novotni with a cooler of ice water shortly after the game ended, "a lot of it was because of the captains, the seniors, and team leaders. If somebody had their head down, we got on them and got their head up. It started at camp. It was all team, no individuals. That was the problem last year, too many individuals."



MIKE BARMORE
Junior 6-1, 215
Tackle



GREG BYRNES
Senior 6-2, 205
Guard

After a 1-3-1 start, the Pioneers lost just once in their last seven games and finished with a 6-4-2 overall record in the Central League. They also beat the Tigers for the first time since 1985. Marple Newtown finished 4-8 and 2-7.

Right down to the last play of the game, which ended with 35 seconds to play when a melee erupted along the Marple Newtown sideline, Conestoga kept playing hard.

"It meant a lot to our seniors," Novotni said. "A winning record, our most wins since 1978. Third place in the Central League, the highest finish since 1978. This meant everything."

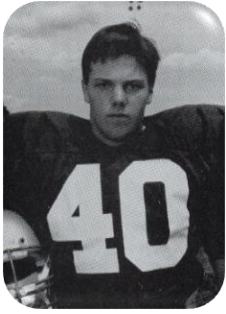
Actually, Conestoga also won six games in 1980, 1981 and 1983 but Novotni's point is well taken. His team had a lot to play for. And the Pioneers won as they have won over the second half of the season: with a stampeding defense and plenty of Jason Durrell. The 5-foot-10, 165-pound senior rushed for 234 yards on 24 carries and had touchdown runs of 50 and 74 yards. That performance allowed Durrell to break the school's single season rushing mark on 1,221 yards held by Brian Holland who played in the 70's.

Durrell finished with 1,305 yards and 12 touchdowns. One touchdown came on an interception return. This was the second time that Durrell eclipsed the 200-yard barrier. He rushed for 284 yards and four touchdowns four weeks ago against Penncrest.



DAVE BENEDECK
Sophomore 5-9, 165
Center

Make no mistake, Durrell knew he was going for a record. He didn't sidestep that issue. "I knew. If I kept running hard, and didn't stop for nothing, I'd get it." He said. This of course, was by no means a solitary effort. Hicks threw some crushing blocks for Durrell Thursday, as he had all year. And the offensive line of Mike Barmore, Greg Byrnes, Dave Benedick, Nick Gerabach and Wiley Yinger cleared their share of holes too. "We worked hard for it, I guess it paid off," said Durrell.



NICK GERSBACH

Senior 6-1, 215

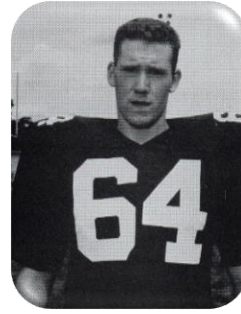
End

But defense has been this team's calling card, and it closed out its season with one final, resounding message. Marple Newtown, which had won two of its three previous games, was held to 22 yards on 21 plays in the first half and finished with just 86 yards in total offense.

"They were tough all day," said Novotni. "They really kept us in it in the first

half. They've been tough all year long." Despite outgaining the Tigers 192-22 in the first half, the Pioneers led just 6-0. Durrell scored untouched on his 50-yard run on the game's first possession, but three turnovers stopped the Pioneers.

Late in the third quarter, Durrell broke off his 74-yard run against an eight-man line to make the score 12-0. Novotni ordered an onside kick on the ensuing kickoff and it was recovered by Bob Cassidy. Adam



WILEY YINGER

Senior 6-2, 215

Tackle

Starr relieved Steve Brown at quarterback and threw a 33-yard pass to Jim Thomaselli to set up Matt Teeter's 5-yard run on the last play from scrimmage in the third quarter. Simon Kricka's extra point made the score 19-0.

Although the defense was without Myles Reynolds and Ryan McGeorge, who had been sidelined by injuries, it was its stunting best. Teeter,

Cassidy and Durrell were outstanding on pass defense, as the Tigers completed just 6 of 19 passes, and Oliver Knewstub recorded one sack while Greg Byrnes and David Oliver shared another.

"Our defense is A-and-A," said Hicks. "Alignment and assignment. Everybody does their jobs. And if everybody does their job they won't get any yardage."

That can really leave an offense feeling it's been left out in the cold.

Defensive Line



Defensive Backs



Linebackers

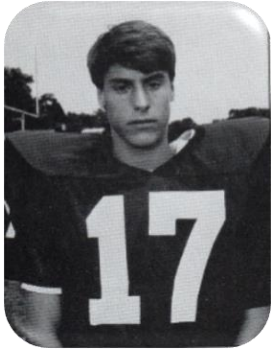


Captains



- #44 Owen Hicks
- #40 Nick Gersbach
- #52 Greg Byrnes
- #64 Wiley Yinger

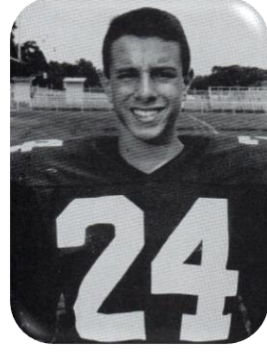
Juniors



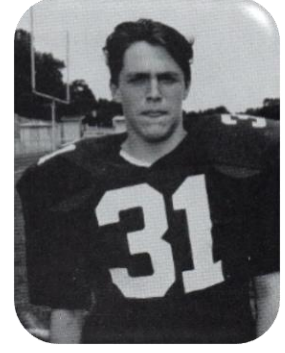
Shawn Jenkins



Darren Durrell



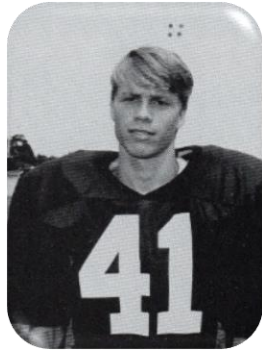
Louis Brandolini



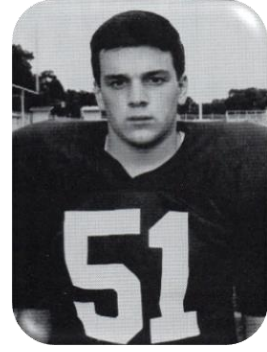
Scott Clewell



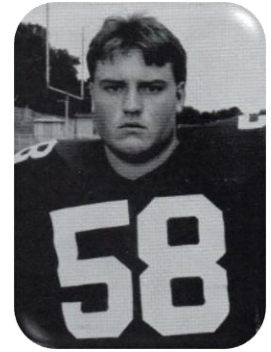
Nate Knowles



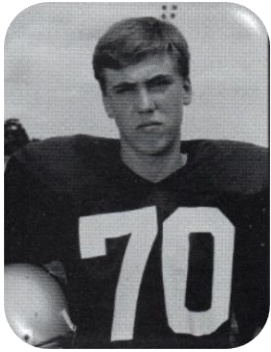
Aaron Van Horn



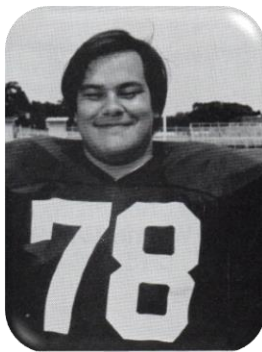
Pete Osgood



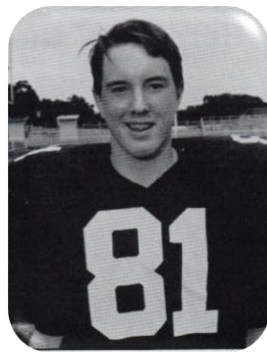
Chris Candiz



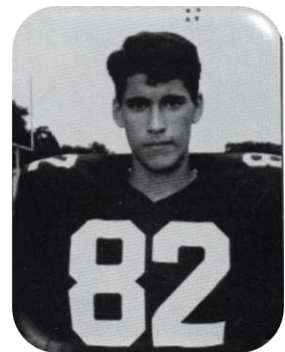
Dave Oliver



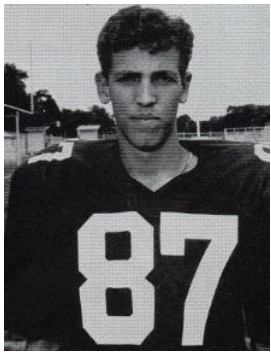
Oliver Knewstub



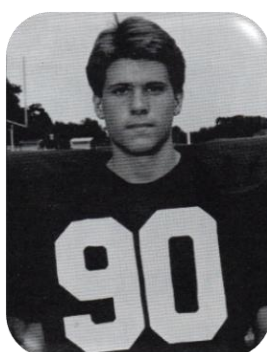
Jesse Chute



Josh Guzman

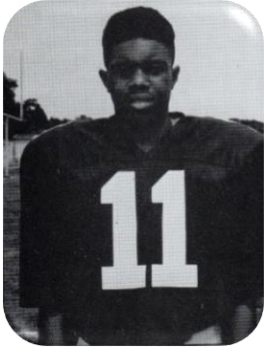


Paul Piombino

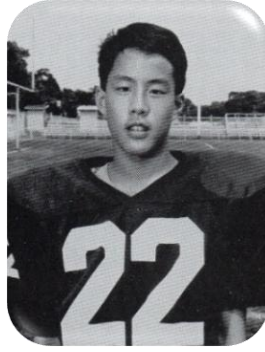


Case Vernon

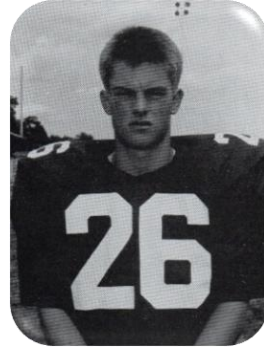
Sophomores



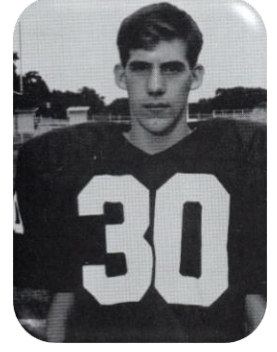
Nate Floyd



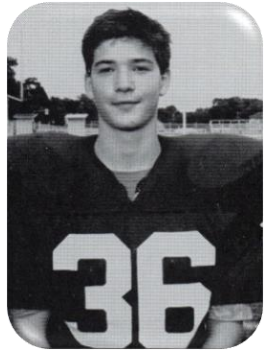
Gary Kiang



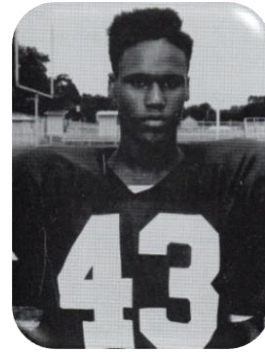
Pete Kubat



Andrew McGeorge



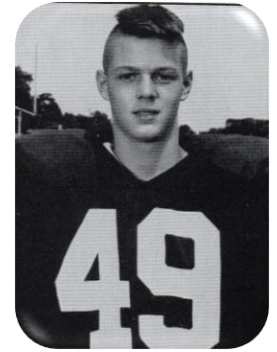
Paul Burg



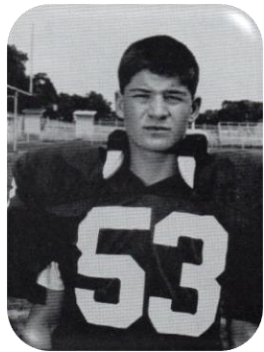
Chester Weeks



David Smith



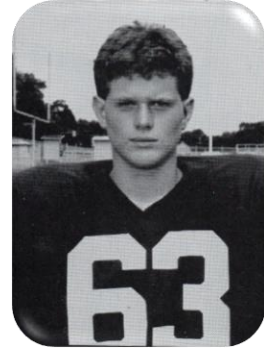
Drew Falcone



Dave Benedick



Brenton Effgen

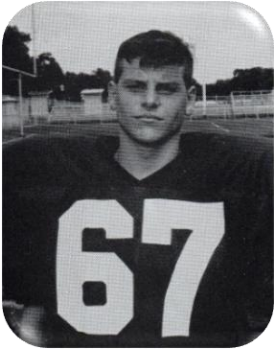


Matthew Norris

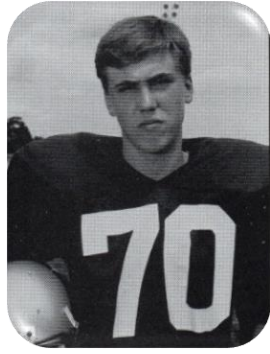


Doug Layman

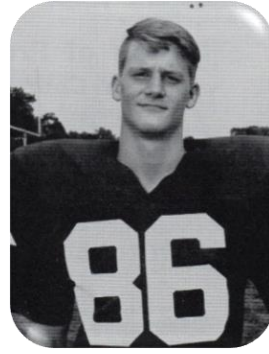
Sophomores



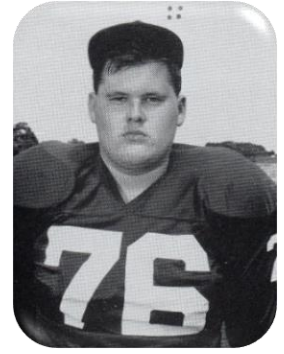
Jim Simmington



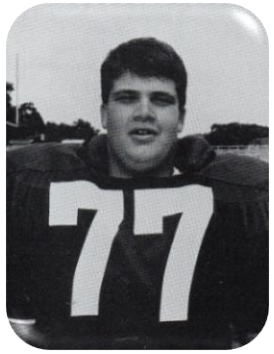
David Oliver



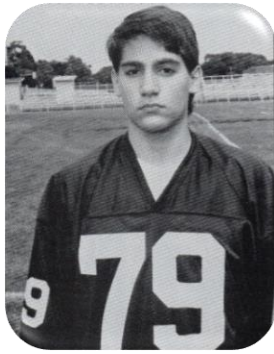
Tom Burns



Vincent Miller



Heath Harris



Mike Minervini

Following a 1-10 season in 1990, second year Head Coach Bob Novotni lead the 1991 Conestoga Football team to a 6-4-2 season with wins against Springfield, Strath Haven, Haverford, Penncrest, Radnor and Marple Newtown. The Marple victory was the first time since 1985 that the Pioneers defeated the Tigers. Captains were Owen Hicks, Nick Gersbach, Greg Byrnes, Wiley Yinger. Novotni praised his offensive line: Mike BArmore, Greg Byrnes, Dave Benedick, Neil Gerabach and Wiley Yinger. Place kicker Simon Kricka was instrumental in several victories. Other standouts were Matt Teeter, Jason Durrell, Myles Reynolds, Stevie Brown, Owen Hicks, Jim Thomaselli, Case Vernon, Dave Oliver, Jason DeFabrizio, and Ryan McGeorge.