

The 1959 Pioneers were under the direction of William J. "Bill" Paolantonio, Joseph H. Kane, and Joseph S. Ujobai. They amassed a record of nine wins and one loss,

and they were Co-champions of the Ches-Mont League.

John Tunnell and Frank Lemma were named to the All Ches-Mont First Team by the suburban sports writers, and Dick Mannal, Bob Pasquarella and Dave Thornton were named to the Second Team. John was one of three unanimous choices for the first team honors.

The *Main Line Times* All-Star Selections were Frank Lemma as a guard and John Tunnell as a back -

First Team, Dick Mannal as center - Second Team, Dave Thornton as a back - Third Team, and Haskell Williams and Bob Pasquarella as ends - Honorable Mention.

John Tunnell was named to the First Team Philadelphia Area All-Scholastic Team. According to sports writer Jack Ryan, "Tunnell, is the best back in the Bux-Mont League. His touchdowns enabled Conestoga to eke out a tie with Phoenixville for the C-M league title."

Conestoga Sweeps C-M Football Scoring Honors

Conestoga High School ran off with all Ches-Mont League major scoring titles during the recent football season, according to figures compiled by the *Daily Local News*.

In winning their third straight co-championship, the Pioneers set the pace in team scoring and team defense and also boasted an individual scoring co-champion in John Tunnell.

Tunnell, a unanimous selection for the all-league team, tallied 84 points on 14 touchdowns. The 14 TD's equaled the league record set in 1957. Junior fullback Dave Thornton, finished third in scoring with 54 points

on nine touchdowns. Frank Lemma set the new PAT mark at 19, breaking the old standard of 18 established by Conestoga's Bill Shockley in 1955.

Team Scoring

Conestoga finished with a sizeable margin in the team scoring race. The Pioneers tallied 191 points in nine league games, an average of 23.9 per contest. On defense, the Berwyn team limited its opposition to 46 points, an average of 5.8 per outing. Conestoga shut out five league opponents in compiling its fine defensive record. The Pioneers best offensive effort was 41 points against Owen J. Roberts.

Conestoga Boosts Rating With Romp Over Harriton

Conestoga High School strengthened its position as a pre-season contender for Ches-Mont League football honors by routing Harriton of Suburban II, 25-6 Saturday afternoon at Rosemont.

John Tunnell and Dave Thornton, a pair of lightning backs, paced the easy victory but a major share of the credit must go to the smooth-flowing Pioneer line. With left guard Bob Menapace setting the pattern, the Conestoga forwards did a superb job clearing the way.

No less than 23 of Conestoga's 51 running plays were of the end sweep variety with numerous others hitting off tackle. Menapace, as

pulling guard on most of the wide plays, and flanker-back Pete Chiccino did yeoman work on the Harriton ends and outside linebackers.



Bob Menapace

Until they left the game midway through the third period, Tunnell and Thornton had carried the ball on all but five of Conestoga's 30 plays from scrimmage. Chiccino toted once, picking up four yards on the last play of the first half, while

quarterback Pete Schaefer kept the ball three times and threw one pass, a 22-yard aerial to end Bob Pasquarella for the final Pioneer touchdown.

Lloyd "Smokey" Stover intercepted a pass on the home team's 31, and he scampered to touchdown territory. But a clipping penalty set the Pioneers back to the Harriton 19. Conestoga's only pass attempt of the game was a Stover-to-Pasquarella completion which was nullified by a penalty.

Reserves took over for Conestoga as Coach Paolantonio sent in his entire squad into action.

Pioneers Post Shutout

Conestoga Rips Boyertown '11' in C-M Opener

Taking advantage of numerous Boyertown mistakes, Conestoga's football power-house rolled to a 33-0 victory in the Ches-Mont League opener last night at Teamer Field, Berwyn.

The opening kick-off gave an indication of things to come when a Bear fullback fumbled Pete Meoli's boot, and John Tunnell recovered for Conestoga on the visitors' 27-yard line. Two plays later the Pioneers had a touchdown.

Pete Schaefer picked up three yards on a quarterback sneak, then after a holding penalty set the ball back, he fired to wingback Pete Chiccino racing down the right sideline. Chiccino literally stole the ball from the hands of a Bear safety man and romped into the end zone. Chiccino continued his pilfering act by picking off two Boyertown passes to set a pair of Pioneer tallies.

On the first play following Meoli's kick-off, Chiccino slipped



Pete Chiccino

in from his line-backer spot and grabbed a Boyertown pass. The 150-pound senior returned to the 23. From

there took six plays to reach pay dirt.

Main Line Times

Saturday, September 26, 1959

Pioneers Defeat Roberts 41-0

The Suburban and Wayne Times

October 15, 1959

The Pioneers rolled to their third straight league victory, and fourth of the season, last Friday with 41-0 rout of Owen J. Roberts, under the lights at Teamer Field.

John Tunnell, swift and hard-running senior halfback, paced the easy triumph with three touchdown runs. The Pioneer Ace romped 53, 36 and 18 yards on his TD jaunts, while totaling 147 yards on seven carries for the evening.

End Bob Pasquarella tallied the fourth Conestoga touchdown on a 59-yard pass from quarterback Lloyd "Smokey" Stover, while reserve halfback Dave Bloom cracked over from nine yards out for the fifth and a 39-yard Steve Welpott-to-Gus Rubbo pass accounted for the final TD.

The local team broke into the scoring column midway through the first period when Pete Chiccino intercepted a Roberts' pass and returned four yards to

the Conestoga 38-yard line. Stover gained two yards up the middle, and Dave Thornton made seven more to the 47. Tunnell then hit the left side, slid away from a tackler and out-raced the last Roberts defender.

Dave Thornton was Tunnell's chief ground-gaining assistant, picking up 42 yards on 10 carries for the night, while Bloom made 21 yards in four attempts.

Coach Paolantonio sent in the Conestoga reserves, and they too rolled through the visitors' defenses.



Bob Pasquarella



"Smokey" Stover



Dave Bloom

Tunnell Takes Scoring Lead On Three-Touchdown Effort

With a brilliant display of speed and power, John Tunnell broke loose for touchdown runs of 53, 36 and 18 yards to pace Conestoga to a 41-0 victory over Owen J. Robert and move atop the C-M point derby. Combined with two earlier scores, the swift Senior has five TD's for 30 points, best in the circuit after three games.

Dave Thornton of Conestoga, last week's leader, did not score against Boyertown, but retains a share of third place with three touchdowns and 18 points. Teammate Frank Lemma, a guard, sets the extra-point pace with 10.

Conestoga Downs Coatesville, 14-7, in Big Test

Tunnell Sets Pace With 146 Yards

By "BUTCH" McDEVITT

Local News Staff

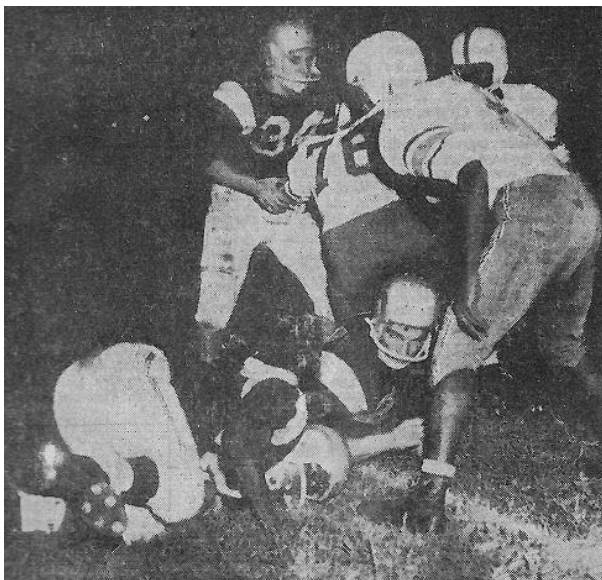
Conestoga High, paced by ground-gaining John Tunnell and Dave Thornton, brushed aside a major obstacle in its path to Ches-Mont glory when it edged Coatesville High, 14-7, before 5,000 fans at Scott Field in the Steel City last night.

Fumbling away two early scoring chances, the Pioneers of Coach Bill Paolantonio scored on a sparkling, 41-yard dash by Tunnell with only two minutes left in the half and on a one-yard plunge by

Thornton with a minute to play in the third quarter. Frank Lemma, veteran guard, place-kicked the conversion point after each score.

Notching their second league victory and their third straight on the season, Conestoga out-scored Coatesville, 13-7 in first downs, and they outgained the Raiders 210 yards to 152.

Thornton spearheaded the drive which brought the ball down to the Coatesville four to set up the second touchdown. Pete Chiccino, who operates mainly as a blocking back, smashed to the two. Thornton found a hole over right guard to take it over.



This was the clincher for Conestoga. Photo shows Dave Thornton, lying in foreground, after he tumbled through the right side of the Coatesville line and fell facing toward the playing field but safely in the end zone. The TD, in the third quarter, and an extra-point by Frank Lemma gave the Pioneers a 14-7 victory. No. 34 is Conestoga's Pete Chiccino while Pioneer Bob Pasquarella is on the ground facing Thornton. D.L.N. Photo



Conestoga backfield star John Tunnell demonstrates the elusive style of running which enabled him to gain 146 yards as the Pioneers defeated Coatesville, 14-7, at Scott Field last night. With a twist of the hip he eludes a Raider back and races for additional yardage. D.L.N. Photo

Conestoga Gridders Rout Pottstown 37-0 Behind Running of Tunnell and Thornton

By LOWELL TOENNIESSEN

Local News Sports Editor

It took them a while to get rolling, but Conestoga's Pioneers smashed Pottstown with a vengeance last night, piling up 37 points to none for the visitors in a Ches-Mont League football tussle at Teamer Field, Berwyn.

The victory put Conestoga back on the title track after the Pioneers had absorbed a 26-7 set-back at Phoenixville last week. And it also assured the Garnet and Gray a piece of the league lead for another week.

After being held to a 7-0 half-time edge, the boys from Berwyn exploded for two touchdowns in each of the down-hill periods and also received a gift safety to turn the game into a romp. Meanwhile, the Pioneer defensive unit notched its fourth shutout of the season, allowing Pottstown to penetrate no further than the 24-yard line.

The "T Twins" once again paced the Conestoga attack, scoring two touchdowns apiece and gaining 215 yards between them.

Fullback Dave Thornton tallied on runs of 60 yards and two yards.

Halfback John Tunnell pushed his touchdown total to eight with runs of



Steve Welpott



Bob "Gus" Rubbo

two and 57 yards. The final touchdown came on at 29-yard pass from quarterback Steve Welpott to wingback Gus Rubbo.

Game - October 30, 1959

Pioneers Defeat Whippets, 18-7 Tunnell, Thornton Get Touchdowns

By LOWELL TOENNIESSEN

Local News Sports Editor



John Tunnell



Dave Thornton

Conestoga struck three times from long range to defeat Downingtown, 18-7, last night at Teamer Field, Berwyn, and regain a share of the Ches-Mont League lead.

Dazzling runs by the "T Twins," John Tunnell and Dave Thornton, sparked the Pioneers to their sixth victory in seven league outings, equaling the record of Phoenixville in the tight Ches-Mont race.

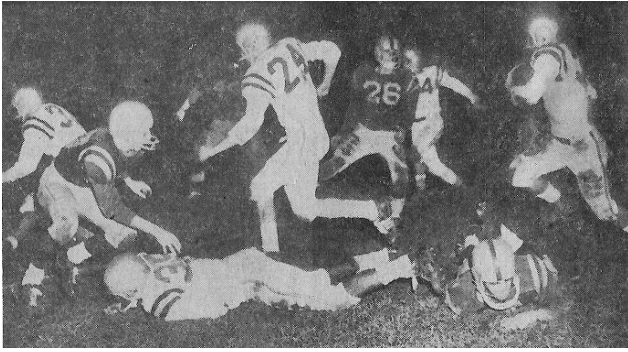
The hard-running Tunnell, 162-pound Senior halfback who combines track speed and surprising power, cut loose with a pair of spectacular touchdown runs to spark the Conestoga offense and boost his personal rating. Big John set Downingtown on its heels by returning the game-opening kick-off 78 yards. Later, after the Whippets had moved to within five points (12-7) in the third quarter, he raced 71 yards around left end for the clinching score.

The performance raised Tunnell's league-leading individual scoring total to 60 points on 10 touchdowns and boosted his rating as a prime candidate for all-league honors.

Somewhat overshadowed by the brilliance of his teammate's efforts, Thornton also enjoyed a good evening, dashing 63 yards through the big Whippet line for Conestoga's second touchdown.

Overall, Conestoga gained 223 yards, all but eight via rushing. Tunnell picked up 101; Thornton 96 yards and Dan Cogan picked up 16 yards on three carries.

Game - November 9, 1959



Dan Cogan (right), Conestoga line-backer, races up field after intercepting a Downingtown pass during the second period of last night's Ches-Mont League game at Berwyn. Cogan picked off a toss by the Whippet quarterback at his own 25-yard line and returned to the 37. Leading the interference are Tom Madison (39, extreme left) and Bob Pasquarella (24) while John Tunnell (35, on ground) has just thrown a block. D.L.N. Photo



John Tunnell (35, right), Conestoga halfback, rips off a short gain around left end during the final period of last night's football game with Downingtown. Earlier in the contest, Tunnell raced 71 yards on a similar play for the clinching touchdown in the Pioneers' 18-7 victory. The hard-running senior also scored on a 78-yard return of the opening kick-off. D.L.N. Photo

Pioneers Trip Spring-Ford In Bruising 14-6 Contest

Conestoga High School's gridders made it very clear last Saturday afternoon that they intend to retain a least a share of the Ches-Mont football crown as they defeated the title hopeful Spring-Ford, 14-6, at Royersford.

Conestoga, with a league record of seven wins and one loss, remains tied with Phoenixville for the league lead. Both clubs have one game remaining, Conestoga against West Chester and Phoenixville against Conshohocken on Thanks giving Day.

Saturday's game, played in balmy, rain-threatening weather, saw the Pioneers come from behind in the last minute of the first half to take a 7-6 lead which they never lost. The boys of Bill Paolantonio added the second touchdown in the series of downs following the second half kickoff.

John Tunnell again was the workhorse for the Pioneers scoring both touchdowns and picking up 60

yards in 16 carries to lead all ground-gainers. Frank Lemma, Conestoga's point after touchdown kicking specialist broke a Ches-Mont and Conestoga PAT scoring



Frank Lemma

record as he

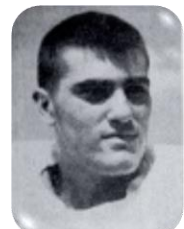
kicked two extra points for his 18th and 19th of the season. The previous mark of 18 was set by Bill Shockley of the same Pioneers in 1955. Conestoga couldn't move against the big Spring-Ford line, and with less than six minutes remaining in the half, the Rams scored the first six of the game. Fighting mad, the Pioneer defensive line held the Rams to no gain after their offense failed to move the ball on two series. Quarterback Pete Schaefer tossed a fair pass to Tunnell who surprised

the Ram team by running to the left and punching it in for the score – giving the Pioneers a one-point edge at the half.

Conestoga came out at half fired up, took the kickoff and drove 84 yards for a touchdown, moving almost at will for the first time during the afternoon. The touchdown was called back for an illegal motion penalty against the Pioneers. Not to be discouraged, Pete Meoli recovered a fumble at the 16 to set up the final touchdown.



Pete Schaefer



Pete Meoli

Main Line Times
Game – November 14, 1959

Pioneers Beat Warriors, 18-0 To Share Ches-Mont Title

Tunnell Ties Mark With Pair of TE's In Rough Contest

By LOWELL TOENNIESSEN

Local News Sports Editor

Even a stranger making his first visit to Berwyn's Teamer Field would have had no difficulty surmising

that it was the Big One yesterday morning as Conestoga banged out an 18-0 victory over West Chester in a rock-'em, sock-'em gridiron battle.

Finer football probably has been played in the 54 meetings since West Chester and Berwyn launched their fierce rivalry in 1903, but it is questionable if the blocking and tackling was ever any harder or the spirit any higher than during yesterday's encounter. The victory gave Conestoga a share of the Ches-Mont League championship for a third consecutive year.

The hard-earned triumph boosted Conestoga's league record to 8-1, 9-1 overall, good for one-half of the C-M title. It also drew Conestoga even in this oldest of Chester County rivalries, Berwyn and West Chester each having won 25 times, with four games ending in ties. The championship is the sixth football title for Conestoga in the nine years of Ches-Mont League history.

Twelve seniors completed their high school football service in the game including John Tunnell, Frank Lemma, Pete Schaefer, Pete Chiccino, Dave Bloom, John Frazier, Tom Madison, Dick Mannal, Bob Pasquarella, Jim Renzi, Ben Smith and Hack Williams.

In his final appearance, Schaefer completed four of nine passes good for 97 yards. Pasquarella was on the receiving end of a 43-yard aerial and another two-yard aerial. Dan Cogan pulled in a 29-yard pass and a 25-yard heave for the other two.

Much of the Pioneer success in this contest, and in all the others for that matter, can be attributed to the fine work both offensively and defensively, of the line. Time and again the left and right sides opened gaping holes for Tunnell, Thornton and Cogan to bulldoze through on the way to yardage and scores. And in Thursday's game, halfback Thornton was running his share of interferences for Tunnell who became the team's top ground

gainer with a better than six yards per carry season mark.



Coach "Pal" gets lift after his team's victory.

Game – November 26, 1959
Thanksgiving Day



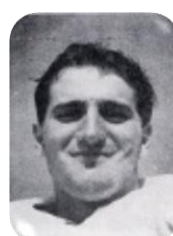
John Frazier



Tom Madison



Dick Mannal



Jim Renzi



Ben Smith



"Hack" Williams



Conestoga High School Team of 1959

No	Name	Pos	Yr.				
10	Steve Welpott	QB	10	45	Lee Broomall	T	11
11	Pete Schaefer	QB	12	48	Frank Kegel	T	11
12	Dave Thornton	B	11	51	John Beatty	E	10
13	Douglas White	G	11	A	Mark Knipe	E	11
14	Dave Bloom	B	12	C	Dick Farrington	T	11
17	Lloyd Stover	QB	11	D	Ralph Pizzi	T	10
18	Ben Smith	E	12	E	Walt Weaver	G	10
19	Bob Mannal	G	11	F	Marc Gruss	T	10
20	Dave Pollock	QB	10	G	Vince Scamell	G	10
21	Bob Menapace	G	11	H	Brad Pierce	C	10
23	Bob Stover	C	10	J	Walt Lutz	C	10
24	Bob Pasquarella	E	12	K	Norm Childs	T	11
25	Frank Lemma	G	12	L	Tom Bodman	B	11
26	Dexter Hagy	B	10	N	William Stainback	E	11
27	Rich Mannal	C	12	O	Harold Vaughn	G	11
28	John Frazier	E	12	P	Ed McBride	G	10
29	Bob Rubbo	B	11	Q	William Shain	T	10
30	Frank Wiley	T	11	R	Boyd Rimel	B	10
31	Don Schubert	G	10	S	George Waite	G	10
32	Don Kopp	G	11	T	Ron Holiday	B	10
33	Haskel Williams	E	12	U	Cortland Burton	B	10
34	Pete Chiccino	B	12	V	Jim Gross	C	11
35	John Tunnell	B	12	W	Jim Hodgson	B	11
37	Dan Cogan	B	11	X	Charles Schindler	T	10
38	Pete Meoli	T	11	Y	Don Ammerman	E	10
39	Tom Madison	T	12	Z	Jack Graham	T	10
40	Bruce Buckley	E	10	1	Ted Malick	Mgr	
41	Harlan Fisher	C	11	2	Walt Madison	Mgr	
85	Stan Garnett	E	11	4	Ken Goshorn	Mgr	
42	Len DiMidio	G	10	6	Francis Berry	Mgr	
43	Bob Estill	G	11	7	Joseph Ujobai	Coach	
44	Jim Renti	T	12	8	Joseph Kane	Coach	
				9	William Paolantonio	Coach	