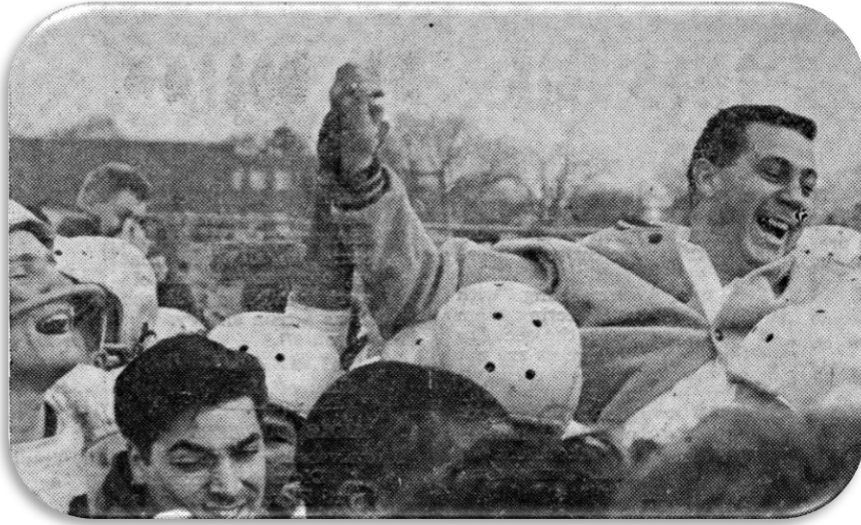


# The 1957 Pioneers



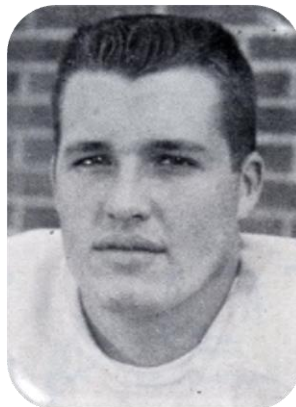
Bill Paolantino was the Head Coach of the 1957 football team. His assistants were Joe Kane and Bob Fitzgerald. They finished the season with eight wins, one loss to Radnor in the last game of the neighborhood series, and one tie with Downingtown. As a result of the tie, Conestoga and Downingtown were Co-champions of the Ches-Mont League. Shown at the right is the victory ride his

men gave him after the West Chester game on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1957

Six men were named to the All Ches-Mont teams. Center Tony Yelovich, Tackle Sel Whitaker and Guard Jimmy White were unanimous choices of the sports' writers for the First Team. Yelovich was named to the First Team in his junior year. End 'Mex' Barajas and halfback Eddie Byrd were named to the Second Team. Guard Bill Leary, quarterback Alan Freed and halfback Harry Siravo received Honorable Mention.



Tony Yelovich  
First Team Center



Sel Whitaker  
First Team Tackle



Jimmy White  
First Team Guard



Mex Barajas  
End



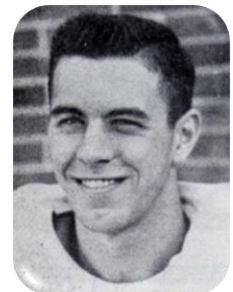
Eddie Byrd  
Halfback



Bill Leary  
Tackle

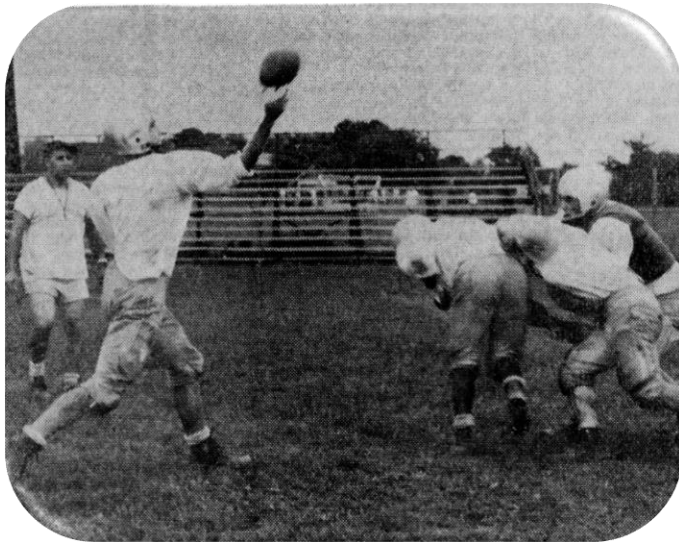


Alan Freed  
Quarterback



Harry Siravo  
Halfback

# Pioneers 'Impressive' In Heavy Pre-season Workouts



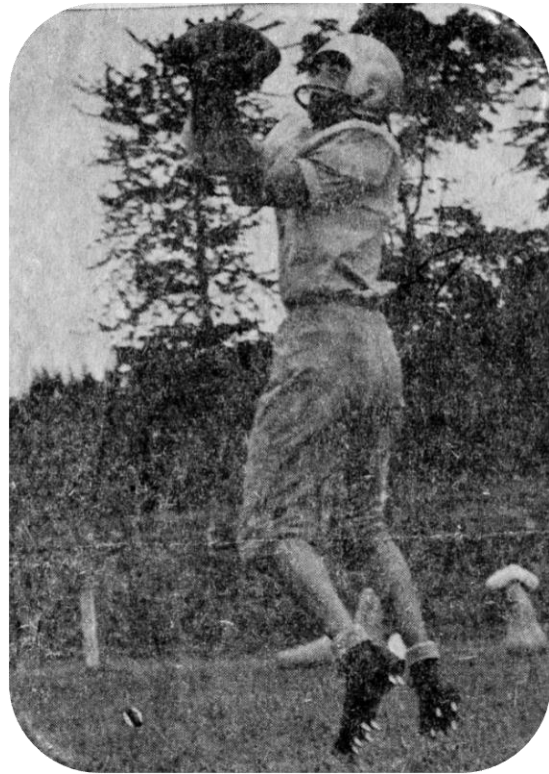
**VARSITY QUARTERBACK ALAN FREED**, with head coach Bill Paolantonio lending an observing eye, gets off a pass to his left end Matt Alston while teammates block out a JV line crasher. Pass connected for 35 yards and a TD.



**JV QUARTERBACK PETE SHAEFFER** get hauled down by varsity lineman Walt Pierce before he can get his pass away.



**SENIOR GUARD BILL LEARY**, ace Conestoga punter, boots a high, long one . . .



. . . And Robert Barajas pulls it in.

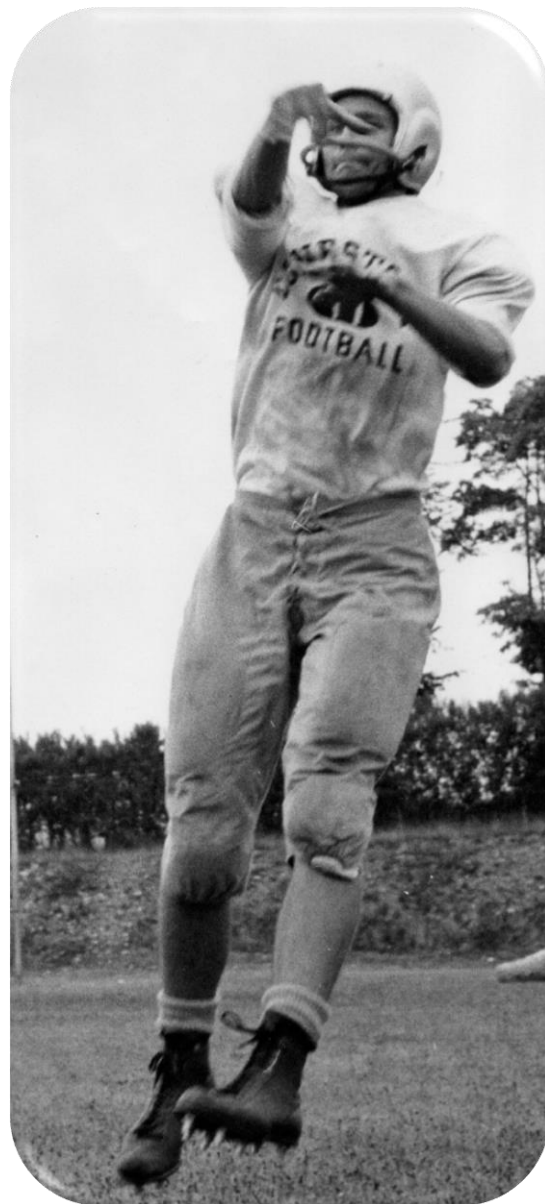


**“NOW, HERE’S WHAT HAPPENS . . .”**

Conestoga High grid coach William Paolantonio explains play to Harry Siravo, senior halfback (left) and senior wingback Jim Lledo. Pioneers are completing intensive pre-season training this week at camp near Wernersville. Photo by Kelley-Hillman



Senior tackles **SEL WHITAKER** and **BAYARD BAUZENBERGER**  
make like wrestlers



## SCHOLASTIC **COACH**

*Believe it or not*, this happened at Conestoga High School, Berwyn, PA, reports cross-country coach Bill Monohan: “Alan Freed, a lanky junior, was a member of my cross-country team. In a dual meet on **TUESDAY**, he failed to place in the first 30. During a gym class on **WEDNESDAY**, he threw a 50-yard pass in a touch football. Assistant football coach and Phys Ed teacher Bob Fitzgerald reported his find to head coach Bill Paolantonio. On Thursday, Coach ‘Pal’ and myself convinced the young junior that he might do better in football. On **FRIDAY**, he received a suit.

“With 15 seconds to go in a 0-0 game against Conshohocken on **SATURDAY** night, Alan was sent in with instructions to throw a long pass. He die – from the 50 to the waiting arms of end Harvey Cornell. Touchdown!

“P.S. – On **MONDAY**, I almost lost my entire squad. They all wanted to turn in their running togs for football uniforms!”

# Conestoga Unfolds Powerful Football Team

*Daily Local News*, September 20, 1957

Conestoga High's medium-sized (school boy standards) but potentially powerful football juggernaut reports with five lettermen on the line and two more in the backfield. Sel Whitaker, 228-pound tackle and Robert 'Mex' Barajas, a scrappy 140-pound end are the Conestoga game co-captains. They represent the top and bottom weight for the Pioneer starters.

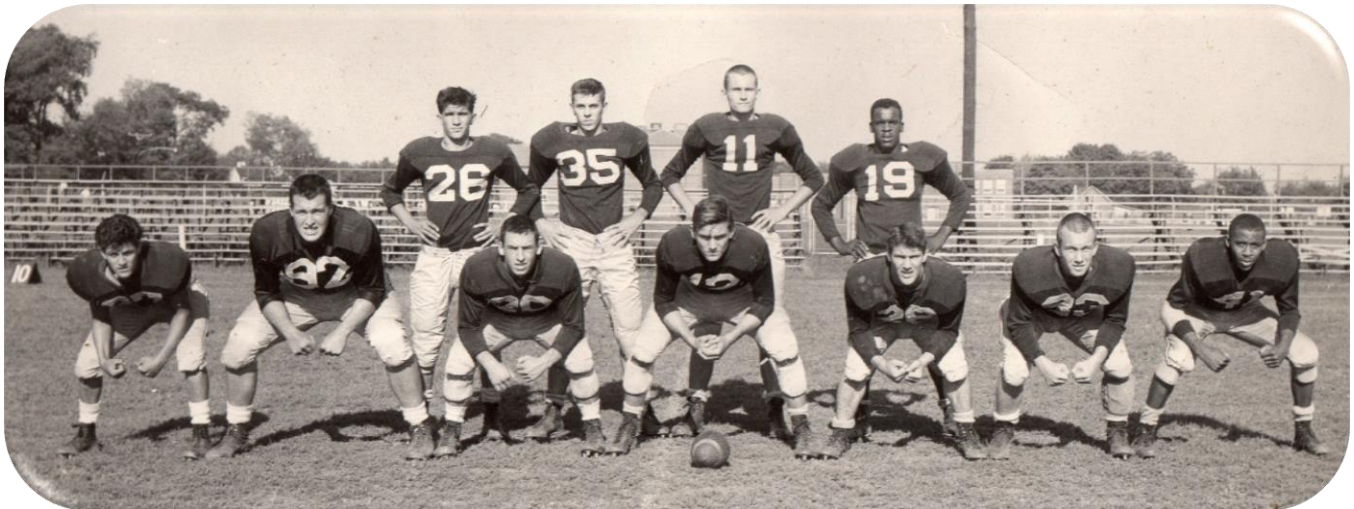
In addition to Barajas and Whitaker, other lettermen on the Pioneer line are Bill Leary at right guard, Jimmy White a left guard and All Ches-Mont

center, Tony Yelovich. Walt Pierce, right tackle, and Matt Alston, left end, also have won starting berths.

Al Freed, the tall youngster who flipped a 55-yard TD aerial on the first play of his quarterback career last season against Conshohocken, starts at quarterback.

Jimmy Lledo, who suffered a disabling injury before the season ever got started last year, is at right halfback. Harry Siravo, at letterman, starts at left halfback. Eddie Byrd, who won his letter as a sophomore at halfback and who scored three TDs against the Dragons last season, gets the call at fullback.

## Conestoga's Starting Eleven



Line (left to right): end Bob 'Mex' Barajas, tackle Sel Whitaker, guard Jimmy White, center Tony Yelovich, guard Bill Leary, tackle Walt Pierce, and end Matt Alston. Backfield: Jimmy Lledo, Harry Siravo, Alan Freed and Eddie Byrd

**September 20, 1957 Bridgeport Win 32-0**  
**September 27, 1957 Coatesville Win 26-12**

## Freed, Leary To Captain Pioneers At Conshohocken

Conshohocken High seemingly always plays its best brand of football against the Conestoga Pioneers and Coach Bill

Paolantonio expects no change in trend in tonight's meeting.

Conestoga will be going after its third straight Ches-Mont League triumph after dumping Bridgeport

32-0 and Coatesville 26-12. Quarterback Alan Freed and right guard Bill Leary will co-captain the Pioneers.

## **Byrd, Siravo, Barajas Score**

# Conestoga Rolls Over Conshohocken, 20-7

By PEGGY ROSATO  
*Of the Local News Staff*

Conestoga High School's football team, presented a stone-wall defense and a speedy, agile backfield to the Golden Bears of Conshohocken last night, and the Pioneers came back to Berwyn with a 20-7 victory, their third straight triumph in the Ches-Mont League in as many games.

The Pioneers' first touchdown came soon after the start of the second quarter. Speedy fullback Eddie Byrd hauled in a punt Vince Bonkoski sent from his own 10 yard line to the Conestoga 45. Byrd collected a few blockers and made his way across the field through the whole team of Golden Bears. When Bonkoski eluded the blockers and caught up to Byrd, halfback Pete Thorell erased him

from the play on the 10, and Byrd went on untouched. Jimmy White's PAT was good.

Near the end of the first half, Bill Leary recovered a Conshy fumble that led to Conestoga's second TD. Running plays had advanced the ball from the Conshy 46 to the 28 when Pioneer quarterback Alan Freed pulled the bootleg play that netted him a touchdown in the Coatesville game. Freed was hit hard by a host of Conshy defenders on the three-yard-line. The ball squirted out of his grasp into the end zone where Bob 'Mex' Barajas, Berwyn end, took a running leap and landed on the pigskin.

Harry Siravo shook free of the Golden Bears' grasping hands midway through the third quarter and drove 40 yards for his first

touchdown of the season. Tackle Dom DiAntonio took two would-be defenders out of Siravo's way in one swoop. A perfect placement kick by White put the Pioneers in a 20-0 lead.

Conshohocken kept the ball in Conestoga territory through most of the fourth period, but they could not score on a running play. Finally with less than two minutes to play, they scored for the only Conshohocken TD.

Jim Lledo and Jim White ripped the Bears' offensive attack again and again. Harry "The Horse" Siravo played his most outstanding game so far. Byrd took quick advantage of the holes opened by his blockers and drove a few extra feet when he was hit.

*Daily Local News*  
October 5, 1957

## **Flu-Bitten Pioneers**

# Conestoga Hosts Radnor Tonight

A battle between two undefeated and untied teams takes place at Teamer Field, Berwyn, tonight when Conestoga (3-0) and Radnor (2-0) play in the final and 36<sup>th</sup> game of their gridiron series that dates back to 1921. The Conestoga forces have been hit heavily by flu. Only a last minute decision yesterday afternoon by Conestoga athletic director Robert Keehn enabled the go-ahead in this final classic.

Doubtful starters in tonight's line-up are high-scoring fullback Eddie Byrd who left school yesterday morning with a 99-degree temperature, end Matt Alston who also left school with a 102-degree temperature, and back Jim Mitchell.

Quarterback Alan Freed and All Ches-Mont center Tony Yelovich were out of school yesterday. Both have doctor's certificates enabling them to play.

Conestoga's starting lineup will include Joe Parella and 'Mex' Barajas at end, Sel Whitaker and Dom DiAntonio at tackle, Bill Leary and Jim White at guard and Walter Pierce at center.

Jimmy Lledo may go in at quarterback. Harry Siravo will switch from halfback to fullback with Pete Thorell and John Tunnell starting at halfback.

*Daily Local News*  
October 11, 1957

# *Raiders End Pioneers' Victory Streak Before 3,000 in Cold*

By **RED HAMER**

**Local News Sports Editor**

Conestoga High's rock-ribbed line stages six brilliant goal line stands but it finally caved in before a relentless Radnor High running attack and dropped the final game of the 36-game series between the two gridiron foes, 21-0, on Teamer Field, Berwyn.

Some 3,000 fans, chilled by 40-degree temperatures, saw the Pioneers stop Radnor at the one-yard line, the goal line, the one-yard line, the 12-yard line, the one-yard line – all in the first half – and the

one-yard line at the start of the third period. Thereafter, the Pioneer dike began leaking. In fact Conestoga did not have his usual fighting spirit midway through the third period. The outbreak of the flu at Berwyn probably was the reason the Pioneers were not in top physical condition.

Radnor broke the scoreless deadlock with 3:40 minutes left in the third period.

*Daily Local News*

October 12, 1957

## **A Conestoga Goal Line Stand**



**TONY YELOVICH, CONESTOGA'S ALL CHES-MONT LEAGUE CENTER** is shown wrapping arms around A Radnor ball carrier. Alan Freed (11) helped plug the hole at the one yard line where Conestoga stopped Radnor on downs in the first period. Other white-shirted Conestoga players are Sel Whitaker (left), Jim White (20), Bill Leary (28) and Joe Seagers (21).

# QB Al Freed Stars in 19-6 Win As Conestoga Records 4th Victory

Alan Freed was in great pitching form as Conestoga High racked up its fourth victory of the campaign compared to one defeat in socking Plymouth-Whitemarsh High 19-6 on Saturday in the final of a two-year series. Freed ran for two touchdowns on gallops of 16 and two yards and the tall quarterback passed 31 yards to end Matt Alston for the third tally.

Tackle Sel Whitaker and end Bob 'Mex' Barajas were standouts on defense for the Pioneers of Bill Paolantonio. Also outstanding on offense was Harry Siravo's running.

The first Conestoga touchdown was set up when the P-W center chucked the ball over a back's head. It was recovered by Conestoga on the 12 and shortly thereafter, the Pioneers scored with Freed going over from the two. Freed passed 30 yards to Barajas to set up the second score at the 17. From this point, Freed rolled out and turned his end for the remaining distance and the touchdown. Alston was standing in the end zone when he caught Freed's climaxing TD pass.

Conestoga just missed a fourth touchdown in the fourth period when Freed threw seven yards to Barajas, but the latter was just beyond the back of the end zone to nullify the catch.

Freed had his best passing day for Conestoga in his career. He connected on six of 13 passes for 135 yards. Conestoga's defense was at its best. Holding P-W to no first downs in the first half and only three during the second half.

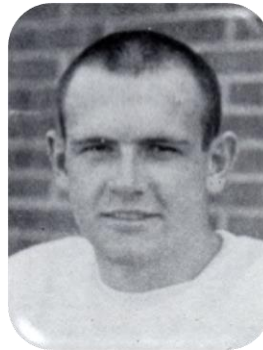
*Daily Local News*  
October 28, 1957



Dom DiAntonio



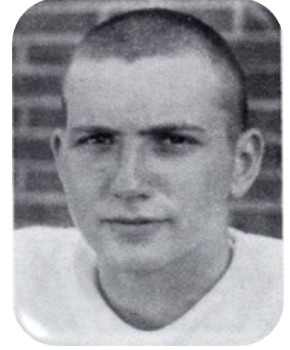
Jimmy Lledo



Jim Mitchell



Joe DiAntonio



Xen Green



# *Siravo's Runs Swamp Pottstown, 25-0*

Conestoga High plowed through heavy rains and a sea of mud, football's greatest equalizers, to swamp Pottstown High, 25-0, on Saturday night before a mere 150 fans (excluding players) to set the scene for a battle of the unbeaten among the Ches-Mont League teams this Friday night against Downingtown. Conestoga splashed to its fourth straight league victory while posting its fifth win.

Pottstown put up a stiff fight in the first half of a battle which featured some brilliant long distance running by Conestoga halfback Harry Siravo who scored two touchdowns. Conestoga could score but one official touchdown in the first half. Near the end of the first period, Siravo galloped 67 yards into pay dirt, but the play was called back when officials detected clipping on the Pottstown 38. Siravo, nevertheless, got credit for a 33-yard run.

Conestoga finally scored midway through the second period when the Pottstown punter got an over-the-head center and a flock of muddy Conestoga players pounced on the pigskin at the Pottstown 13. Nine plays later, quarterback Alan Freed plunged two yards for the touchdown. Pottstown got to Conestoga's 16 in the first period, but the Pioneers' line held. Score 6-0

After running back the opening kickoff 29 yards in the third period, QB Freed engineered Conestoga to its second touchdown pronto. Fullback Eddie Byrd ran the ball on nine of the ten plays and bolted 12 yards through right tackle for the payoff. On the TD play,

Byrd was hit four times but Pottstown tacklers could not get a firm footing and the bull-necked fullback kept right on going. Jim White kicked the extra point. Score 13-0

A Pottstown fumble set up Conestoga's next touchdown just inside the third period. A Trojan halfback fumbled a pass from center after being hit by 230-pound tackle Sel Whitaker and 180-pound center Tony Yelovich, both of whom played standout defensive ball. The ball was recovered by Conestoga on the Pottstown six-yard line, and on the next play halfback Siravo turned his right end for the touchdown. Score 19-0

With about a minute to go in the game, Siravo broke through right tackle and flashed 73 yards for a touchdown. This play came after Conestoga drove from its 29 to midfield only to be set back to the 27 on a personal foul. Score 25-0

In addition to Siravo's touchdown recall there were two other Conestoga scores nullified by penalties. One was a 31-yard run by Jim Mitchell which was killed by backfield in motion. The other was a two-yard plunge by Freed, nullified by off sides, but he duplicated the feat three plays later.

Siravo was the game's outstanding runner, piling up 141 net yards. Byrd was the Pioneers' workhorse carrying the ball 21 times for a net gain of seven yards.

*Daily Local News*

November 5, 1957

## **Title At Stake As Whippets, Pioneers Collide Tonight**

### ***Both Elevens Unbeaten in League Air vs. Ground Battle Likely***

There will be no room for alibis after tonight's battle of unbeaten Ches-Mont League football teams. Downingtown and Conestoga are both in the best of shape.

This game should develop into as good a battle as any in the offing this season. It will most likely be a show of Downingtown's passing game against Conestoga's running attack – Harry Siravo and Eddie Byrd carrying the mail three-fourths of the time. Conestoga throws an

experienced line into battle but it will be out-weighted 18-pounds per man. Both teams have displayed their traditionally high mental spirit.

Byrd and Siravo's running value can be measured in statistics. These halfbacks have picked up 1,003 of their team's 1,337 rushing yards.

*Daily Local News*

November 8, 1957

# Downingtown Holds Conestoga To 0-0 Tie

**4,000 Witness Punting Duel,  
Tight Line Play in Rain;  
Pioneers Out-Gain Whippets**

By RED HAMER

(Local News Sports Editor)

"Have fish. Will travel." Chances are Conestoga High coach Bill Paolantonio and Downingtown mentor Ray DiSerafino would have used such a human fish if they had one last night. But they didn't and their teams, unbeaten in the Ches-Mont League, came up with nothing but zeros at mud-slick Teamer Field, Berwyn.

A capacity crowd of nearly 4,000, throwing cheers from one side of the field to the other throughout the dramatic defensive duel, saw the two opposing quarterbacks boom punts that have rarely been witnessed in recent county scholastic football

## **Freed Kick Carries 73**

Downingtown quarterback White booted a punt 67 yards in the early moments of play. Conestoga's Alan Freed got one off that travelled 73 yards from the line of scrimmage to the Downingtown one-yard line. Each punter kicked a half-dozen times. White averaged 41.5 yards a boot while Freed's average came out to 44.5

The line play of both clubs was superb. It was hardly a night for passing because of the intermittent heavy showers. Besides Conestoga rushed Downingtown's vaunted passer White so effectively that he hardly felt like throwing the ball. He launched only four and completed one for 15 yards. And so the contest developed into one of rushing and punting.

## **Fumble Sets Up Drive**

While the punters were having their night, the first break developed near the end of the first period when a Downingtown handoff in the backfield squirted air-ward and was grounded by Conestoga's 6-5, 230-pound tackle Sel Whitaker on the Whippet 39. An off-sides penalty put the ball on the 34. Harry Siravo, the outstanding runner on the field with a net gain of 71 yards, ripped to the 30. His running chum, Eddie Byrd, sliced to the 21 for a first down. After Siravo managed to buck to the 18, Downingtown held and took over.

Towards the middle of the second period Conestoga went knocking again by putting the ball in play at the Whippet 45 after Byrd ran a punt back. Byrd carried once, and Siravo twice to the Downingtown 35 and then face with a fourth down and one to go situation, Freed bulled through the center on a keeper to the Whippet 26 for a first down.

Freed, Byrd and Siravo each carried once. With the ball now resting on the Whippet 19 and with three yards to go for a first down, Siravo tried right guard, slipped while charging through the hole, and missed a first down by 18 inches.

Downingtown mounted an attack, but Jimmy Lledo knocked down a White pass, and the Whippets punted. Conestoga advanced the ball to its 27, and from this point Freed laid into his 73-yard boot. Conestoga guard Jimmy White downed the ball on the Downingtown one-yard line. Conestoga held, and Downingtown punted to the 38-yard line.

## **Most Serious Threat**

It was from this spot that Conestoga constructed the most serious threat of the ball game. Siravo dashed seven and then two yards to the 29. Byrd found daylight through right guard to the 21 for a first down. Then faced with a fourth down on the 15, Siravo fled through right guard to the 11 for another first down. Siravo carried to the nine but when Freed made two more on the next play, Conestoga was charged with a personal foul and the ball went back to the 24.

Freed ran the bootleg to the 14, and Siravo churned through the middle to the nine. Faced with a fourth and seven, Siravo was sent through right tackle, but he was racked up at the eight to kill the threat.

When the Whippets took over, Lledo saved the day again when he knocked down another pass in the end zone. 'Mex' Barajas and Tony Yelovich hit QB White on the next play for a one yard loss, and Conestoga held.

Defensive stars for Conestoga in this first tie in the 32-game series were guards Jimmy White and Bill Leary, tackles Sel Whitaker and Walt Pierce, center Tony Yelovich, end 'Mex' Barajas and linebacker Jimmy Lledo.

**Daily Local News**

November 9, 1957

# Conestoga Stays in Running For Ches-Mont League Title

**Wallop Phoenixville 31-6;  
Jim White, Sel Whitaker Outstanding on Line**

By RED HAMER

*Local News Sports Editor*

Conestoga High's powerful football team dispelled mental letdown fears on the part of head coach Bill Paolantonio and ground out a 31-6 Ches-Mont League victory over Phoenixville at Washington Field, Phoenixville, Saturday before 3,000 fans.

The Pioneers looked very impressive in rolling to their fifth circuit triumph by scoring in all four periods and wiping the Phantoms out of a mathematical chance of tying for the title. Conestoga, meanwhile, stayed very much in the running.

Conestoga piled up 352 net yards on the running of halfback Eddie Byrd and halfback Harry Siravo and fullback Jimmy Lledo (who streaked 77 yards for one score) and the passing of quarterback Alan Freed

## **White, Whitaker Excel**

But the blocking and tackling of watch-charm guard Jimmy White and 6-5, 230-pound tackle Sel Whitaker stole the show. These two rugged competitors boosted their chances for All Ches-Mont honors and figured heavily in holding the Phantoms to a minus 28 yards on the ground.

Conestoga's five touchdowns were scored by as many players. Siravo plunged one-yard for the first score. Byrd turned an end-run eight yards for another, Freed tallied on a one-yard keeper, Lledo raced 77 yards and end Mex Barajas climaxed things by catching a 20-yard pass thrown by Freed.

In the first period the Pioneers rolled 57 yards in 12 plays with Byrd personally picking up 35 of those yards all on the ground. Siravo plowed four yards to the 10 for a first down, and Byrd went through right guard to the six. Siravo then knifed to the one-foot line and on third down shot through the middle for the opening score.

## **Byrd Races 60**

Three minutes and 20 seconds later Conestoga scored again. After a punt rolled dead at the Pioneer 20, Byrd took off on first down and raced 60 yards down the right sidelines to the Phoenixville 20. End Joe Parella threw a key block en route, and Byrd did a nifty piece of hurdling to get by three fallen tacklers in the early going. From the 20, Siravo knifed through guard to the 10 for another first down.

Pete Thorell got two yards and then Byrd took off again around his right end for the touchdown behind a nifty block by Jimmy White. Thorell stopped a Phantom threat late in the second period by intercepting a pass on his 33.

## **Phantoms Threaten**

On a 78-yard play, the Phantom QB passed from his 14 to his 35. The receiver caught the ball and scurried all the way to the Conestoga eight

where Byrd tackled him from behind. On the next play, Whitaker tackled the quarterback for a 12-yard loss followed by a 10-yard loss as time ran out in the half.

Conestoga opened the second half by marching 62 yards for a touchdown on 12 plays. The big gainers en route were 9- and 24-yard runs by Siravo and a 13-yard pass from Freed to Thorell. Freed, after plowing to the one for a first down, needed only one play to add the final touch for an 18-0 lead.

## **Lledo Races 77**

Conestoga used only two plays in travelling 83 yards for the second score of the third period. After a Phoenixville punt, Byrd chopped through guard to his 23. Lledo carried the ball for the first time on the next play and made a big hit. He fled through left guard and was in the clear at midfield. White delayed a Phantom tackler at the Phoenixville 25, and Lledo went over the final stripe. White kicked the extra point.

Midway through the fourth quarter, Conestoga made it 31-0, reeling off only five plays in the 42-yard march. Lledo returned a Phantom punt 13 yards to the Phantom 42. Siravo blasted to the 33. A Freed pass went incomplete, and then Byrd turned right end for a first down at the 27. Thorell got seven more on a reverse to the 20 and then Freed found Barajas in the end zone on the striking end of a TD pass. Barajas went down the middle and cut left for the catch.

Phoenixville scored with only 25 seconds left in the game. Their extra point was blocked by Joe DiAntonio.

*Daily Local News, 11/18/57*



## **Spring-Ford On Road**

# **Conestoga Shoots for Sixth Ches-Mont Victory**

Conestoga High School's football team, boasting one of the most aggressive lines and running attacks in the Ches-Mont League, goes after victory #6 in that circuit on Saturday afternoon at Teamer Field against Spring-Ford High.

Spring-Ford has startled some opponents with its quick-opening plays up the middle. The Rams also use a direct pass from center to throw the surprise pass from

**SIRAVO, BYRD  
RUSHING LEADERS**  
**Berwyn – Conestoga High halfbacks Harry Siravo and Eddie Byrd have virtually identical rushing yardage, compiled on the team's six Ches-Mont League games**

**Siravo has rushed for 557 yards while Byrd has 554. Siravo lead the team in total offense with 596 yards.**

punt formation or sweep the ends. The Pioneers will be looking for all of these maneuvers in an effort to avenge last year's defeat.

### **Good Physical Shape**

Conestoga mentor, Bill Paolantonio, said that his squad was in good physical shape and that he would go with the same lineup that cracked out a recent 31-6 victory over Phoenixville.

*Daily Local News*

November 22, 1957

# **Conestoga Ties for Ches-Mont in Snow, Siravo Runs 63**

## ***Thorell Scores Two, Barajas Once on Fumbles***

Galloping Harry Siravo ran 63 yards for a touchdown on the first play from scrimmage, and Conestoga's smashing defense accounted for three more scores as the Pioneers of Coach Bill Paolantonio walloped Spring-Ford, 25-0, on Teamer Field, Berwyn, on Saturday to go into a first place tie in the Ches-Mont Football League.

Spring-Ford fumbled 12 times, and Conestoga turned three of the fumbles into touchdowns. Pete Thorell, defensive halfback, who was out of action three weeks ago with a hair-line rib fracture, picked up two fumbles and raced 30 and 18 yards for touchdowns. End Mex Barajas sprinted 25 yards with another fumble pick-up.

### **Seventeen Fumbles**

Occasional heavy snow and sleet, 30-degree temperatures and a pea-soup fog presented the miserable conditions that had a hand in causing 17 fumbles overall. Conestoga kept its running attack inside throughout the entire game with the exception of an early end run.

Spring-Ford's deepest penetration pierced to the Pioneer's 12 in the third period. Staunch rush and pass

defense by Conestoga tackle Sel Whitaker, guard Bill Leary, quarterback Alan Freed and halfback Thorell prevented Spring-Ford from picking up a single yard on four downs from the 12.

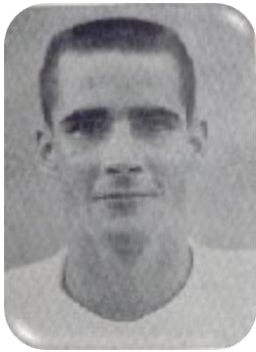
### **Siravo Scores First Touchdown**

Some 1,000 fans, armed with umbrellas, heavy boots and blankets had just settled down following the opening kickoff when Siravo, the best-running "mudder" on the field, tore off tackle on his long touchdown run. S-F kicked off to Alan Freed who ran the ball from his 10 to the 37. On the game's first scrimmage play, Siravo rampaged off left tackle, twisted away from a tackler at midfield and plodded down the sidelines for a touchdown. End Joe Parella threw a nifty open-field block on the 12.



Harry Siravo

(Continued on next page)



Pete Thorell



Mex Barajas

### Thorell Recovers Fumble

On S-F's fourth play from scrimmage after the kickoff, the ball squirted out of the Ram quarterback's grasp. Thorell picked the ball out of the air and ran for a touchdown. Thorell cut in behind Eddie Byrd's sharp

block at the five. Jim White, usually a guard, dashed around right end from a fake placement formation for the extra point, and the Pioneers took a 13-0 lead with the game only two minutes old.

### Barajas Scores

Later in the period, Conestoga was stopped at the Spring-Ford 35. But on the Rams' first play from this spot their halfback fumbled on a pitchout play, and Barajas scooped up the ball and ran for a touchdown down the middle of the field.

### Thorell Scores Again

Spring-Ford was operating on third down from its 24 when 230-pound Whitaker swooped in to hit the Phantom QB hard. He fumbled. Thorell made the pickup and ran from the 18 from the Pioneers' fourth and final touchdown.

*Daily Local News*

November 25, 1957

### Whitaker Almost Blocks Punt



### Pete Thorell Runs for Score



**PETE THORELL (18) HAS A CLEAR PATH TO THE GOAL LINE** after picking up a Spring-Ford High fumble on the Rams' 18 early in the second period. Conestoga players behind him are Joe Seagers (21) and 'Mex' Barajas (27). Thorell scored on another fumble pick-up in the first period on a snowy Saturday afternoon in Berwyn.

**SEL WHITAKER (EXTREME RIGHT), CONESTOGA'S STAR 230-POUND TACKLE**, uses all of his 6'5" reach to nearly block the punt of Spring-Ford's Thompson (49). Walt Pierce (83) is the white-shirt player in the center.

# Conestoga Hosts West Chester In Toss-Up Test

## *52<sup>nd</sup> Renewal to Decide Ches-Mont Champion Tomorrow*

Thursday morning's Ches-Mont League battle between West Chester and Conestoga High Schools at Teamer Field, Berwyn, looms as a virtual duplicate of the 1956 Turkey Day game. A title hinges on the outcome. An overflow crowd is expected.

Coach Bill Paolantonio is back for his third stab at a title and his other assistant, Bob Fitzgerald, is also on the job. Paolantonio's 1955 team won the title. Up to now his teams have won 23, lost only four and tied two.

The tremendous rushing power of Conestoga halfback Harry Siravo through the middle and off tackle, and the flying end runs of his sidekick Eddie Byrd have been the Pioneers' bread and butter all season.



Quarterback Alan Freed also does a great job in mixing up his plays and running the bootleg occasionally. In fact both quarterbacks are expected to run this play once or twice during the game.

Mex Barajas, only 5-7 at end, has developed into a capable pass catcher for Conestoga. He gets downfield fast and often out-foxes the enemy secondary. Jimmy Lledo has good speed at fullback to go all the way. He raced 76 yards into pay dirt against Phoenixville.

The Pioneers have not used the forward pass too much except against non-league opponent Plymouth-Whitemarsh when Freed connected on six of 13 passes for 135 yards. The Pioneers are good at defending against aials, however.

Only four touchdowns have been scored against Conestoga in seven league games, two on passing. The Pioneers boast the best defensive unit in the league.

*Daily Local News*

November 27, 1957

# Conestoga, Downingtown Share Ches-Mont Title

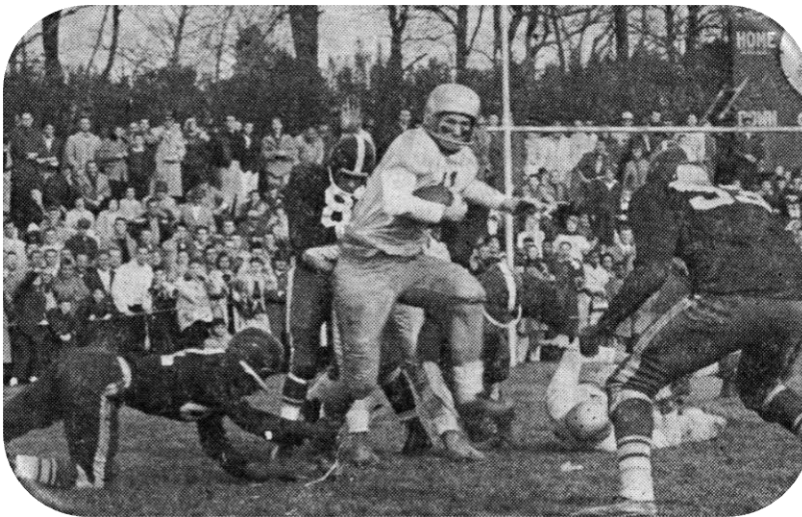
## *Yelovich Stirs Pioneers on 95-Yard Run To Beat WC 25-13 Before 6,500*

By **RED HAMER**

*(Local News Sports Editor)*

**November 29, 1957**

Conestoga High defeated West Chester 25-13 yesterday morning to share in the Ches-Mont League championship in one of the real Thanksgiving Day classics in this 52-year old football series dating back to 1903. Conestoga's coach Bill Paolantonio saw his Pioneers win their second title under his outstanding leadership rein of three seasons and finish the regular season with an 8-1-1 record.



**QUARTERBACK ALAN FREED** fights his way past three Warrior defenders, but faces another.



**HERE'S THAT MAN YELOVICH**, ending up a 95-yard gallop with a recovered fumble, giving the Pioneers another score.

It was a wild and woolly ball game played in perfect football weather at Teamer Field, Berwyn, before 6,500 fans, the largest throng ever to see football on the seven-year-old gridiron.

The entire complexion of the ball game turned completely in Conestoga's favor with West Chester leading 7-6 in the third period.

### **Yelovich Streaks 95**

West Chester, soon after their TD, went knocking again and came up with a first down on the one-yard line. WC QB tried his right side, fumbled on the five and Pioneer center Tony Yelovich scooped up the pigskins and dashed 95 yards right up the sidelines behind eight blockers for a touchdown to put Conestoga ahead, 13-7. Then guard Jimmy White, in placement formation, passed to his end Mex Barajas for the extra point deep in the corner of the end zone.

West Chester ripped back, and scored on an eight-yard pass to tie the game 13-13. Conestoga capitalized on a bad pass from center and chugged 38 yards for the lead touchdown and drove 34 yards for the clincher when another daring fourth down pass by West Chester backfired. Both winning scores came in the fourth period.

### **Final Score**

Jimmy Lledo, Pioneer fullback, who played a standout game on defense, swept six yards around end on a reverse and then Eddie Byrd put on a great burst of speed around his right end on the next carry for a 34-yard touchdown run. Left guard Bill Leary pulled out and made the key block.



# Conestoga, Downingtown Dominate Ches-Mont All-Stars

## *Yelovich Repeats, Conestoga Places Three on First Team*

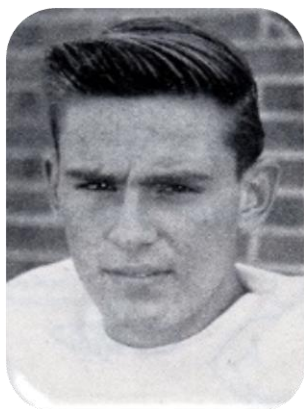
One of the strongest All Ches-Mont League teams of all time, dominated by co-champions Downingtown and Conestoga High Schools, boasts an aggressive 190-pound per-man line and an offense that kicks like the proverbial mule.

Conestoga's great line is well-represented on the first team with huge 6-5, 230-pound Sel Whitaker anchoring the forward wall at tackle. Conestoga's Jimmy White,

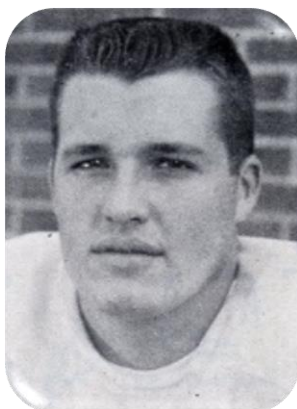
a sprinter during the track season, placed at guard next to his center teammate Yelovich. The writers thought so much of Conestoga's line that they gave unanimous support to Whitaker, White and Yelovich. There wasn't a line in the league that could keep huge Whitaker out of its backfield. Fans were amazed that Whitaker was so agile for his tremendous girth.

Yelovich is the opportunist linebacker and center who scooped up a fumble and ran 95 yards for a touchdown against West Chester.

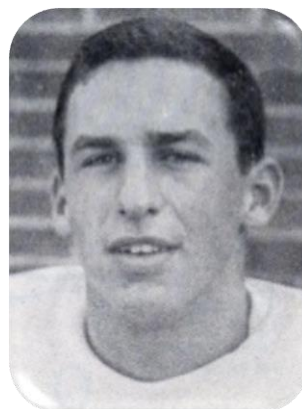
The Pioneers' end Mex Barajas and end-sweeping halfback Eddie Byrd placed on the Second Eleven. Three players – guard Bill Leary, quarterback Alan Freed and line-pounding Harry Siravo – received Honorable Mention.



Tony Yelovich  
First Team Center



Sel Whitaker  
First Team Tackle



Jimmy White  
First Team Guard



Mex Barajas  
End



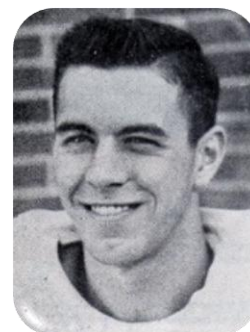
Eddie Byrd  
Halfback



Bill Leary  
Tackle



Alan Freed  
Quarterback

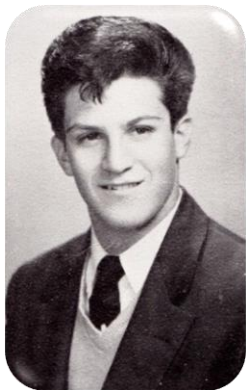


Harry Siravo  
Halfback

# 1957 Conestoga Football Team



No.	Player	Class	Position	No.	Player	Class	Position
11	Alan Freed	12	Back	40	Gerald Rogers	10	End
26	Jimmy Lledo	12	Back	F	Bob Busey	10	End
35	Harry Sivaro	12	Back	H	Art Toensmeier	10	End
86	Jim Mitchell	12	Back	J	Harvey Mitchell	10	End
17	Donald Henry	11	Back	20	James White	12	Guard
18	Pete Thorell	11	Back	28	Bill Leary	12	Guard
34	Marty Sarmiento	11	Back	84	Joe D'Antonio	12	Guard
L	Gab Pilotti	11	Back	85	Xen Green	12	Guard
16	Peter Chiccino	10	Back	32	Chic McDonnell	11	Guard
19	Eddie Byrd	10	Back	37	Frank Lemma	10	Guard
38	John Tunnell	10	Back	39	Jim Renzi	10	Guard
89	Pete Schaefer	10	Back	A	Rich Mannel	10	Guard
C	John Vause	10	Back	E	Jay Barajas	10	Guard
M	Ben Smith	10	Back	G	Claire Morris	10	Guard
N	Doyle Russell	10	Back	33	Bob Bauzenberger	12	Tackle
O	Dave Bloom	10	Back	81	Dom DiAntonio	12	Tackle
12	Tony Yelovich	12	Center	92	Sel Whitaker	12	Tackle
43	Phillip James	11	Center	36	Bruce Schutte	11	Tackle
45	Ralph Brown	10	Center	83	Walt Pierce	11	Tackle
21	Joe Seagers	12	End	14	Walter Madison	10	Tackle
27	Mex Barajas	12	End	B	Ken Hartman	10	Tackle
30	Joe Parella	11	End	P	Ted Schellhamer	10	Mgr
41	Matt Alston	11	End	T	Brian DeHaven	10	Mgr
91	Kevin O'Connor	11	End	Q	Bob Fitzgerald		
D	Bill Nutter	11	End	R	Coach Paolantonio		
K	Dave Toensmeier	11	End	S	Coach Kane		
24	Bob Pasquarella	10	End				



**Mex Barajas**



**Baynard Bauzenberger**



**Joseph D'Antonio**



**James Fitzgerald**



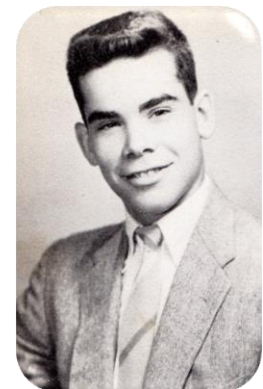
**Alan Freed**



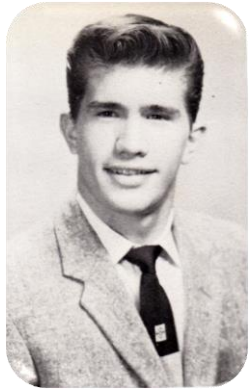
**Xen Green**



**Bill Leary**



**Barry Lewis**



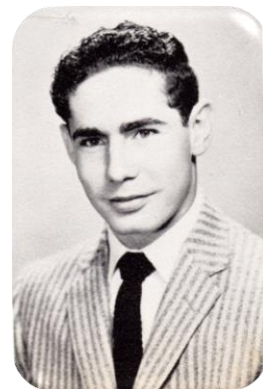
**James Lledo**



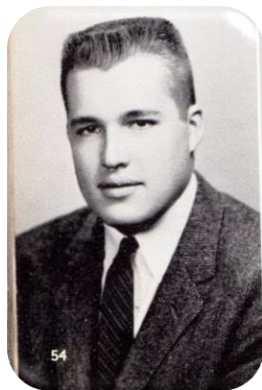
**James Mitchell**



**Joseph Seagers**



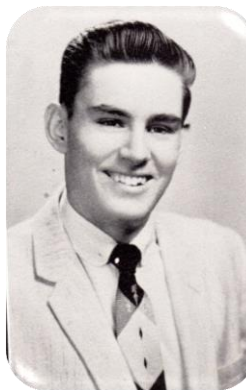
**Stephen Semelsberger**



**Seldon Whitaker**



**James White**



**Tony Yelovich**

# **Seniors on the Team of 1957**

