

East edges 'Stoga

Daily Local News

September 5, 1998

By **NEIL GEOGHEGAN**

Staff Writer

WEST GOSHEN—Billed as a clash between a golden armed gun slinging quarterback and a swift, elusive tailback. Friday's season opening high school football battle pitting Conestoga against West Chester East took on a totally different storyline. With the visiting Pioneers determined to contain the passing of East star Matt Schaub, and the Vikings committed to stopping Conestoga's splendid junior runner Marquis Weeks, much of Friday's non-league confrontation did not focus on these two stars.

But it's very difficult to keep great players down for an entire game. Weeks finally broke loss for a second half TD run to give the Pioneers a brief lead, and then Schaub responded immediately by engineering an 85-yard scoring march midway through the final quarter to give the Vikings an eyebrow-raising 25-19 triumph.

"Both defenses tried to take away the other teams' top player, and both were pretty successful," Conestoga head coach Tim Donovan said. "I thought we did a real nice job against Schaub. I didn't think we'd be able to shut him down like that. But he did have one real big play that proved to be the difference."

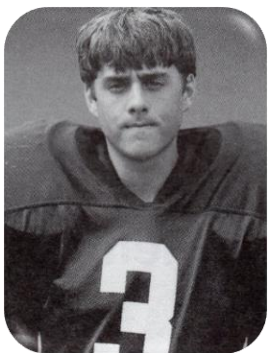
In a surprising twist, East wound up outgaining Conestoga on the ground by a wide margin, while the Pioneers' less heralded passing attack outperformed Schaub and the Vikings. Weeks needed 21 carries to grind out 56 yards, but 'Stoga quarterback Gavin McCrory passed 240 yards and two TD's.

"Our defense did well to contain Weeks," East head coach Joe Carroll said. "We really emphasized that all week because he's a great running back. But (McCrory) threw a little better than we thought he would."

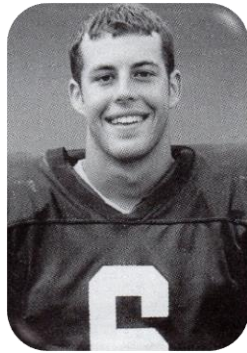
"The turnovers in the first quarter really killed us," Donovan said, who watched as his team turned the ball over six times. "Those are hard to overcome, but they are correctable."

The Pioneers started the comeback by putting together a 72-yard scoring drive late in the half. Brad Stanley hauled in a nine-yard pass from McCrory with 20 seconds remaining to make it 17-7 at the half. Conestoga then took the lead with touchdowns on consecutive possessions in the third quarter: a 52-yard strike from McCrory to Dave Brennan, and Weeks' lone scoring run.

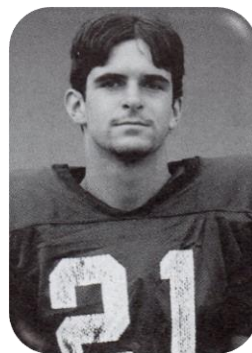
"We fought hard and our kids showed a lot of character," Donovan said.



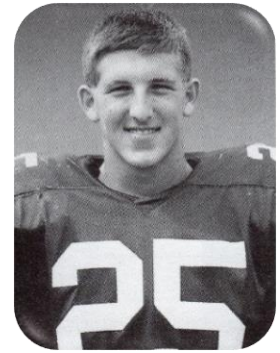
JEFF FERRIOLA
Senior 6-1, 180
Punter/ Kicker



KYLE WILDEMORE
Senior 5-11, 180
Wide Receiver
Defensive Back



PAUL CARSON
Senior 5-11, 185
Wide Receiver
Defensive Back



TOM WIMER
Senior 6-1, 186
Running Back
Defensive Back

Conestoga bounces back with victory over Radnor

Daily Local News

September 13, 1998

By **KEVIN SCOTT**

Staff Writer

RADNOR—If there is one team that realizes just how big a role turnovers can play in a football game, it's the Pioneers of Conestoga High School. After coughing up the ball six times in its season-opening loss to West Chester East a little over a week ago, Conestoga made a corrected effort to put a stop to bleeding before it had a chance to get out of hand by emphasizing the turnover ratio throughout its week of practice.

All of the extra work paid substantial dividends in Saturday morning's Central League opener, where the Pioneers made a visit to Radnor. Conestoga's defense played a very aggressive game, forcing five turnovers. And the Pioneers offense was quick to capitalize on the miscues, turning three of those into touchdowns in the 28-13 victory.



MARQUIS WEEKS,

Captain

Junior 6-0, 195

Running Back

Defensive Back

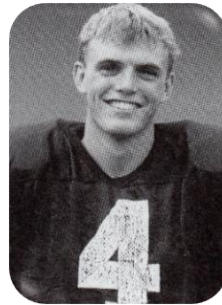
"We really emphasized all this week winning the plus/minus ratio," said Conestoga head coach Tim Donovan. "And we felt that if we win the plus/minus ratio, we win the game. I thought our defense played phenomenal."

Running back Marquis Weeks also exploded for a big day on the ground, carrying the ball 23 times for 192 yards—150 of which

came in the second half—and a touchdown. The hefty rushing total was a bit of vindication for Weeks, who was coming off a 56-yard performance in the season opener.

"My goal was to make up for that last game and make up those yards," said Weeks.

Dave Brennan played the spoiler early in the third quarter, intercepting Grabuski's first pass of the half. Conestoga quarterback Gavin McCrory, who finished



GAVIN MCCRORY

Senior 6-2, 185

Quarterback

5-for-9 for 70 yards, picked up his second touchdown pass of the game when he hooked up with Weeks on a screen pass that turned into a 45-yard play where Weeks broke three tackles and avoided two others with a spectacular spin move.

"I was just trying to get into the end zone," Weeks said of the play that gave the Pioneers a 21-7 lead.

Radnor (0-1, 1-1) cut the lead to 21-13 with 10:56 left in the fourth on a 2-yard run by Nick Elisio, but Weeks shut the door two series later with a 57-yard touchdown romp that upped the lead to 28-13. Rich Watson opened the scoring for Conestoga with 7:55 remaining in the first quarter when he recovered a fumble and returned it 25 yards for the score.

The Pioneers upped the lead to 14-0 following yet another fumble recovery on the very next series when McCrory hit Brennan on a 7-yard scoring play that capped a nine-play, 35-yard drive. "We really needed this game to help get the bad taste out of our mouth from last week," said Weeks.

'Stoga suffers setback

Daily Local News

September 19, 1998

By **TED TORRANCE**

Staff Writer

BERWYN—The Cougars scored 19 points in the final nine minutes and 10 seconds to erase a 31-20 deficit and post a 39-31 victory over the Pioneers in Central League football action Friday night. Conestoga (1-1, 1-2) had taken a 31-20 lead with one minute to play in the third quarter on a 20-yard field goal by Matt Hildenbrand.

The Pioneers had jumped off to a 7-0 lead with 10:59 still showing on the clock in the first quarter. Led by Marquis Weeks, who picked up 62-yards on his first three carries, the Pioneers sent Brad Stanley over for the score. Led by Stanley and Weeks, the Pioneers put together an 86-yard drive. Weeks capped it by scoring

with 2:11 left in the first quarter. Conestoga was in the lead again. The Pioneers boosted the advantage to 21-7 as Weeks scored again with 5:46 left in the half.

Buchholz cut the Pioneers' lead to a point, but the extra point was blocked and Conestoga led 21-20. It took the Pioneers less than two minutes to match that score as Weeks ran 51-yards for the score and a 28-20 lead. The fourth quarter was all Springfield.

Weeks was simply outstanding for Conestoga. The 6-foot, 195-pound junior carried the ball 29 times for 223 yards and three touchdowns, but it was not enough. Conestoga chances were also greatly diminished with the loss of Stanley, who was hurt and did not carry the ball in the second half. "We were kind of limited in what we could do on offense," said Conestoga head coach Tim Donovan. "We not only lost Stanley, but also Matt Walters, who could not dress."

Fords stop 'Stoga

Daily Local News

September 26, 1998

By **CARL KAUFFMAN**

Staff Writer

BERWYN—For a case study of how to win a football game, the Conestoga High team had only to look across the line of scrimmage on Friday night at Teamer Field.

"It's the same story, we're hurting ourselves at really critical situations—blocked field goals, interceptions, we have a fourth-and-12 and they score on a big play," Conestoga coach Tim Donovan said.

"Right now we're not well coached, we're not executing very well and unfortunately we have the same kids making the same mistakes over and over again so we have to look at personnel."

The Pioneers started the second half with a 35-yard kickoff return by Marquis Weeks. They drove to the 12-yard line, but had to settle for a 27-yard field goal from Matt Hildenbrand. On the first play from scrimmage on Conestoga's next series, Weeks ran 66 yards for a touchdown to make it 20-16.

Weeks had 102 yards on 16 carries, which was below his average through the first three games.

Strath Haven too strong for 'Stoga

Daily Local News

October 3, 1998

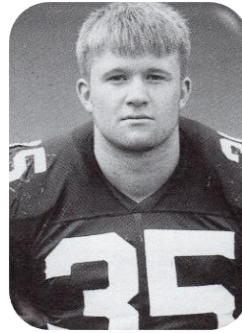
By **CARLO IACONO**

Staff Writer

WALLINGFORD—The Conestoga High School football team got an up-close and personal look at a local juggernaut. Strath Haven put on an impressive offensive show over the first two quarters to quickly defeat Conestoga 35-0.

“That is a real good football team,” Conestoga coach Tim Donovan said. “They are as good as any football team that we’ve ever faced. And as far as Strath Haven goes, that is as good as anybody.”

The Pioneers marched the ball to two first downs and ate nearly four minutes of clock as they moved into Strath Haven territory. Senior fullback Brad Stanley (seven rushes, 45 yards) and junior running back Marquis Weeks (16 rushes, 75 yards) appeared to be the balanced attack Conestoga needed to keep Strath



Brad Stanley, Captain
Senior 6-2, 220
Fullback/ Linebacker

Haven’s prolific offense off the field and, consequently, off the scoreboard.

But an offside penalty turned a second-and-six into a second-and-11. Forced to gain large chunks of yards, Conestoga had to punt on fourth-and-four. “Our game plan was to try to choke the clock a little bit and establish ball control,” Donovan said. “But it has happened to us all year. We get off schedule a little bit and then it kind of snowballs on us. And then we don’t have the ability to get back on track.”

“Our kids didn’t quit,” Donovan said. “Next week we have Penncrest. It’s time to go back to the drawing board a little bit and see what we can do.”

Penncrest downs Conestoga

Daily Local News

October 10, 1998

From Staff Reports

BERWYN—The Penncrest High football team used a late surge to top Central League rival Conestoga 32-14 on Friday night. The Pioneers led 14-12 going into the fourth quarter, but Penncrest scored three touchdowns to put the game away.

“The problem was us fumbling and making mistakes at bad times,” said Conestoga coach Tim Donovan, whose team fell to 1-4 in the Central League and 1-5 overall. “We made crucial mistakes at crucial

times, like jumping offside when they had a fourth down.”

Penncrest (4-1) keyed on Conestoga running back Marquis Weeks, and limited him to 28 yards on 14 carries. “Defensively, Penncrest beat us,” Donovan said. “Their guys were better than our guys.” Brad Stanley ran for 120 yards and a touchdown for Conestoga, which picked up only nine first downs—and did not complete a pass.

“They were keying on Marquis, so we tried to get Stanley the ball,” said Donovan. “It worked, but we didn’t drive. We’d have three or four plays and a penalty, or three or four plays and a fumble.”

'Stoga upends Ridley

Daily Local News

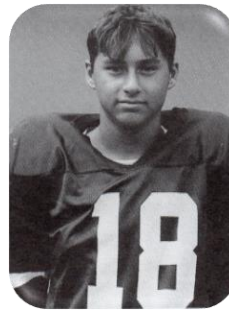
October 24, 1998

From Staff Reports

RIDLEY—The Conestoga High School football team earned its first victory over Ridley since 1979, downing the Green Raiders 23-7 on Friday night in a Central League game. Marquis Weeks led the way for the Pioneers, rushing for 163 yards and three touchdowns while intercepting a pair of passes.

"Nobody quit," said Weeks. "We beat them on their field, on their (Parent's Appreciation) night. This makes our season." "Coming in we said to put everything else behind us and play the game tonight. We played the way we should've been playing all season."

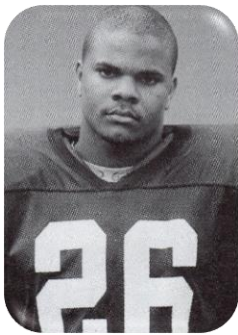
Weeks gave the Pioneers (2-5 Central, 2-6 overall) a 7-0 lead on a 10-yard second-quarter run, but Ridley



MATT HILDENBRAND
Junior 5-8, 165
Punter/ Kicker

(4-2, 4-3) tied the game just before half. After a late third-quarter field goal by Matt Hildenbrand gave Conestoga the lead for good, Weeks scored on runs of 34 and 48 yards in the fourth quarter to put the game away.

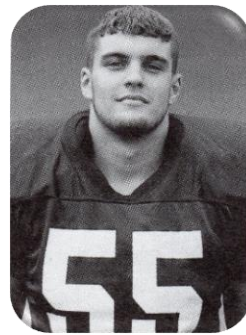
"Our defense and special teams were phenomenal," Conestoga coach Tim Donovan said. "Number 33 (Weeks) played the best game he's played since he's been at Conestoga. He was a pleasure to watch." The Pioneers forced three fumbles and intercepted four passes.



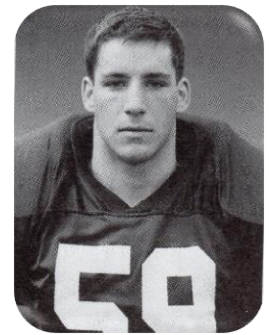
BRANDON SMITH
Senior 5-9, 190
Fullback
Linebacker



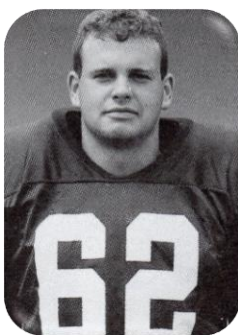
TRAVIS ALLRED
Senior 5-9, 215
Fullback
Defensive Lineman



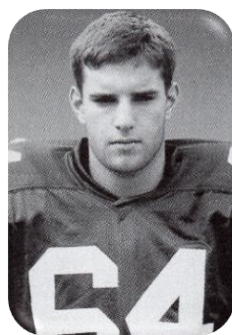
MIKE DESJADON
Senior 6-2, 205
Offensive Lineman
Defensive Lineman



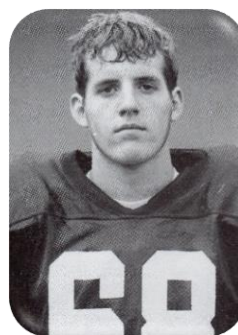
LARRY CABRELLI
Senior 6-2, 212
Offensive Lineman
Defensive Lineman



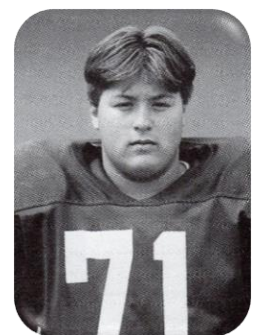
J. R. CAVANAUGH
Senior 6-0, 200
Offensive Lineman
Defensive Lineman



ERIK TIFFT
Senior 5-11, 195
Offensive Lineman
Defensive Lineman



TENCH TILGHMAN
Senior 5-11, 200
Offensive Lineman
Defensive Lineman



KENT YAVUZ
Senior 5-10, 215
Offensive Lineman
Defensive Lineman

Rejuvenated Conestoga Rolls past Lower Merion

Daily Local News

October 31, 1998

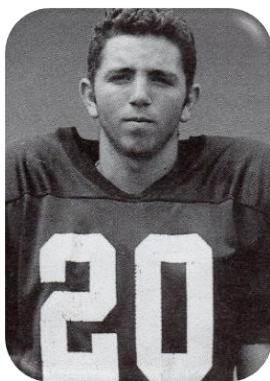
By **SCOTT PAIDA**

Staff Writer

BERWYN—The Conestoga High School football team brought the confidence boost it picked up in last week's big win at Ridley right back home with it on Friday evening and that wasn't good news for visiting Lower Merion.

The Pioneers pounded the Aces and rolled to a 43-0 Central League victory. Marquis Weeks rushed for two Conestoga touchdowns and Dave Brennan caught one more as the Pioneers put the game away with a 24-point second quarter.

The win improved Conestoga's record to 3-5 in the Central League and 3-6 overall and head coach Tim Donovan hopes his team's past two victories can translate to success in the final two games of the year against Sun Valley and Marple Newtown.



ANDY SHEA

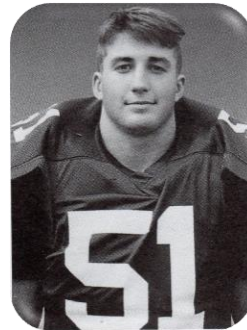
Junior 5-10, 170
Wide Receiver
Defensive Back

"Last week (against Ridley) gave us a lot of confidence," said Donovan. "And confidence breeds confidence, so hopefully we can keep that rolling." Conestoga scored on its first possession of the game when quarterback Gavin McCrory connected with Andy Shea on a 33-yard screen pass to give the Pioneers a 6-0 lead.

After stopping a lengthy drive by Lower Merion (1-7, 2-7), on fourth down at the Pioneer 14-yard line,

Conestoga used a couple of big plays to set up its second touchdown early in the second period. A 33-yard catch by Brennan brought Conestoga down to the Lower Merion 14 and McCrory eventually ran the ball

in from the 1. The two-point conversion made the score 14-0.



MILES BOWER

Junior 6-0, 190
Offensive Lineman
Linebacker

An interception by the Pioneers' Miles Bower gave the Conestoga the ball at the Aces' 13 paid off in a 10-yard run by Weeks that increased the lead to 22-0 with 6:39 to play in the first half. Another Lower Merion turnover, this one a fumbled punt, resulted in the Pioneers' final touchdown of the half.

McCrory found Brennan from 7 yards out with 1:14 to go and Brennan ran in his own two-point conversion as Conestoga went up 30-0, a lead it carried into the break.

"Good teams, when they expect to win, play well and we did," said Donovan. "We played well tonight and I think that gives them confidence." "We had some hard practices (this week)," said Weeks, who led the Pioneers in rushing with 100 yards on 13 carries. "We didn't want to take any teams lightly because we were having turnover troubles. So we just wanted to take care of the ball and score as many points as we could."

Week's second touchdown, a 32-yard run with 8:41 to go in the third quarter, put Conestoga ahead 37-0 and brought on mercy rule. With the clock running continuously for the most part, the Pioneers didn't have to wait long to wrap up the victory, adding one more touchdown in the fourth quarter on a 1-yard run by Tom Wimer.

"We've been close all year long," said Donovan. "We kind of been struggling, but we've been close. In the close games, we've wound up on the short side, but Ridley I think gave us confidence that will hopefully carry us the rest of the year."

Pioneers Win

Daily Local News
November 14, 1998
From Staff Reports

BERWYN—Marquis Weeks and Brad Stanley each ran for over 100 yards as the Conestoga High School football team claimed a 43-21 non-league victory over Sun Valley on Friday night.

Weeks rushed for 159 yards and four touchdowns, while Stanley added 119 yards and two touchdowns. “It was awesome,” said Conestoga coach Tim Donovan. “I

know we’re at the end of the season, but those guys are really hitting stride. They are the heart of our offense.”

Conestoga piled up 300 yards on the ground despite losing four fumbles. After taking a 14-7 lead at the half, the Pioneers (4-6) put the game away with a 21-point third quarter.

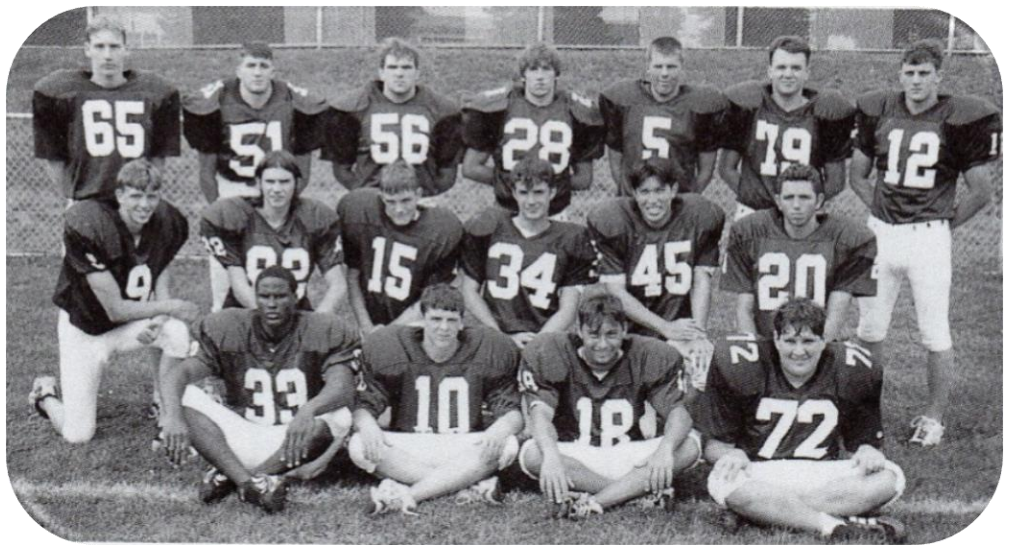
“When we held on to the ball we really moved,” Donovan said. “I wasn’t really happy about that, and we also need more consistency from our defense. The effort was there; we just need more consistency.”

Juniors

Front Row: Marquis Weeks, Andy Siravo, Matt Hildenbrand, Nate Feldman

Middle Row: Christoph DeMaskey, Eddie Rogers, Mike Wham, Chris Murphy, Albert Lee, Andy Shea

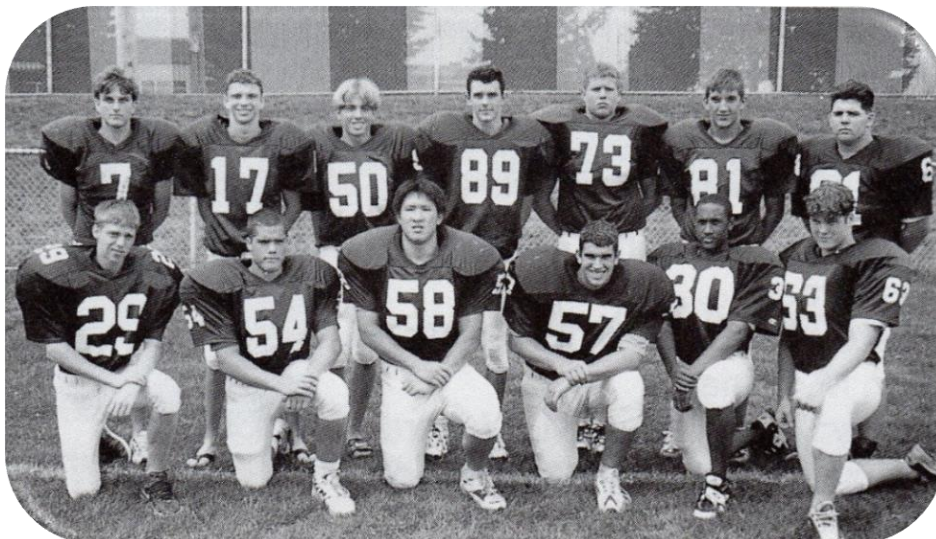
Back Row: Kevin Nacios, Miles Bower, Pete Keller, Matt Milnes, Andrew Bradley, Joe Leonard, Rich Watson

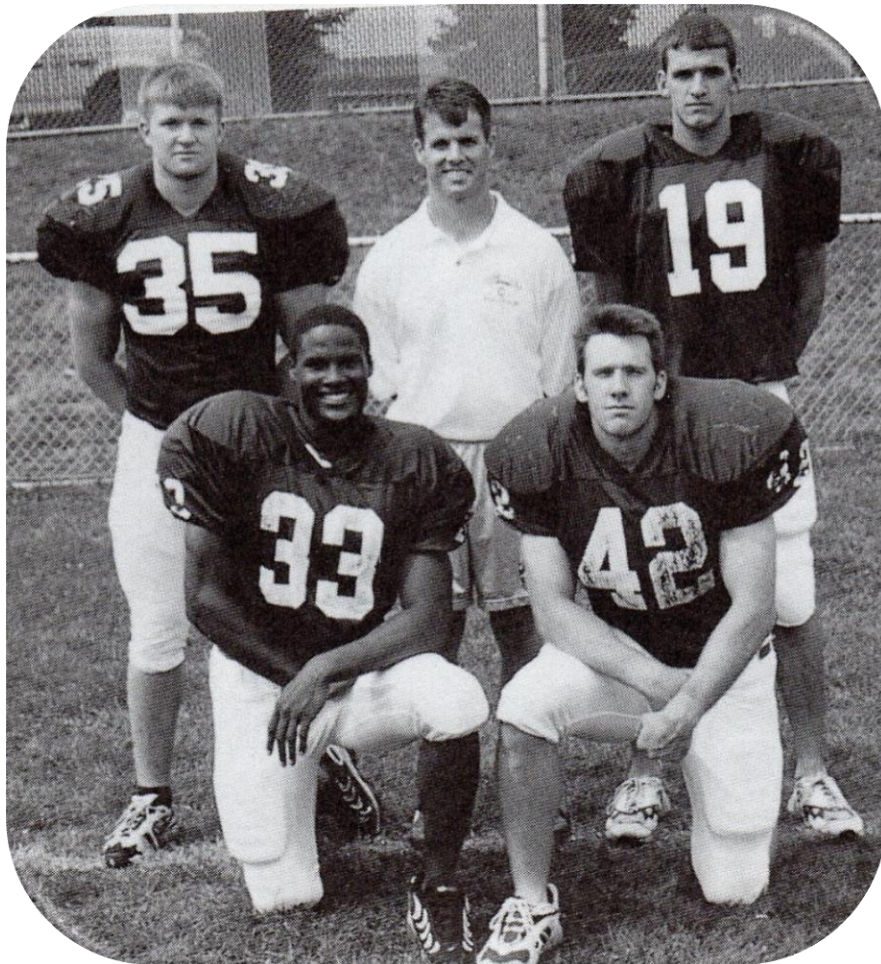


Sophomores

Front Row: J. R. McMackin, Matt Duncan, Bryan Chu, Bill Perrone, Anthony Beard, Tom Watson

Back Row: Tom Ford, Adam Saunders, Bret Baker, Dan Plastino, Jonathan Puk, Dave, Wimer, Joe Holobovich





1998 Team Captains

Front Row: Marquis Weeks, Matt Walters

Back Row: Brad Stanley, Head Coach Tim Donovan, Dave Brennan

The 1998 Football Squad finished the season with four wins over Ridley, Lower Merion, Sun Valley and Marple Newtown to record a five win and six loss year. Tim Donovan was the head coach. Marquis Weeks, Matt Walters, Brad Stanley and Dave Brennan were team captains. Marquis Weeks, Matt Hildenbrand, Miles Bower and Andy Shea were leaders from the Junior Class.

Pioneers close with fourth straight victory

Defeat Marple Newtown 48-7

Daily Local News
November 27, 1998
By Kevin Scott
Staff Writer

BERWYN—In athletics, nothing is more important than finishing strong. Whether it be in an individual game, season, or career, ending things on a high note is definitely of the utmost importance.

For the Conestoga High football team, the only thing that mattered was finishing the 1998 campaign on a roll. And that's exactly what it did on Thanksgiving Day morning when it feasted on arch-rival Marple Newtown's defense in a 48-7 rout.

After starting the season at 1-6, the talented Pioneers reeled of four straight wins to close out the year and finish at 5-6 overall and 4-5 in the Central League. Over those last four games, Conestoga's defense, which was routinely allowing 20 or more points per contest in the early going, surrendered a total of only 35 points.

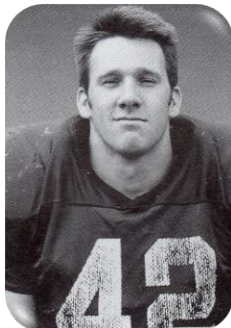
"I think that this was very important from the standpoint that our senior class is a great bunch of guys and they deserved much better than 1-6 and now they can hold their heads high," Conestoga head coach Tim Donovan said. "And this also gives us a lot of great momentum for next year."

The win was also very big for the Pioneers because it gave them the 11-10-1 lead over Marple Newtown in the all-time Thanksgiving series. "That's a great boost for these kids," said Donovan, who has yet to lose to Marple since taking over the program in 1995.

Junior running back Marquis Weeks was a one-man wrecking crew for Conestoga, as he ran for 239 yards on 19 carries and scored on touchdown runs of 15, 51, 24 and 54 yards. He finished the season with 1,451 yards, well shy of his 2,000-yard sophomore season, but still quite impressive.

"Marquis has had a great year," quarterback Gavin McCrory said. "I mean, 2,000 yards is unbelievable. You look in the NFL and only three guys have ever done it. If it wasn't for Marquis we wouldn't be anywhere."

Weeks and Pioneers' offense were clicking on all cylinders on Thursday, pounding out 197 total yards in the first half during which they scored touchdowns on four of their five possessions. But it was the passing game that gave Conestoga its first score. The Pioneers used nine straight running plays to get to the Marple 3. And McCrory capped the drive with a 3-yard pass to tight end Matt Walters in the back of the end zone.

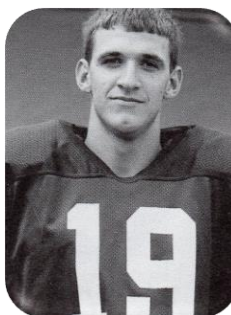


Matt Walters, Captain
Senior 6-2, 210
Tight End/ Linebacker

After a failed fake punt by Marple (1-8, 2-9) gave Conestoga the ball on the Tiger 31, it took just four plays for the Pioneers to cash in. Weeks scampered 15 yards off right tackle for the 14-0 lead. McCrory's two-yard sneak with 5:48 left until the half moved the lead to 21-0. Weeks finished off his first-half scoring on a spectacular 51-yard run around the left side for the 28-0 lead with 1:22 left.

"Our defense has gained confidence all season long," said McCrory. "They realized that they were good and that they could make the stops." The score was 48-0 before Marple had its most productive drive of the game.

"We knew that we had a really good team when we first came out this season," said McCrory. . . "Things didn't go very well early and I think that we wanted to prove to everyone that Conestoga has a good football program and that we were a good team this year."



Dave Brennan, Captain
Senior 6-4, 195
Wide Receiver
Defensive Back

NOTES: Conestoga senior wide receiver/defensive back Dave Brennan was awarded the T.E. Conestoga Old Timer's trophy at halftime. The award is given to the most deserving senior who displays a work ethic on and off the

field, perseverance and leadership skills.

