

Patriots Enjoy 14-6 'Super' Win over Pioneers

By **CHRIS MORKIDES**
(Local News Correspondent)
September 11, 1978

They called it "Super Saturday" at Great Valley. After the game, Conestoga coach George Cockerill was hard pressed to find anything super about "Super Saturday." The reason he had just witnessed his Pioneers and their number five ranking fall to the Patriots 14-6. "Those pre-season rankings have no basis," a disappointed Cockerill said after the game. "It's great to be ranked as high as we were but you can't take the ranking home with you."

Steve DiAntonio, who had scored the first Patriot touchdown on a 28-yard second quarter pass from Marion, caught McDevitt's pass in stride for the touchdown. McDevitt bulled over on the two-point conversion and Great Valley had a 14-0 lead.

Pioneers didn't quit

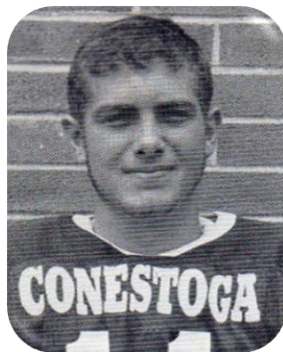
The Pioneers didn't quit. They took the ensuing kickoff and marched 65 yards in 13 plays for a touchdown. **Brian Holland**, Conestoga's all-state running back, carried the final six yards for the score at 9:26 of the fourth quarter. The two-point conversion failed and Conestoga trailed 14-6.

That's the way it stayed until, with 2:30 left in the game, Conestoga got the ball back and mounted a last-ditch effort.

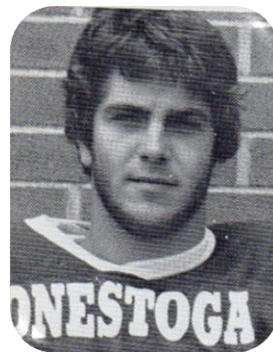
Quarterback **Gary Schofield** spurred the drive which started at the Pioneer 14. Completions of 13.9 and 16 yards to **Mark Trudel** along with two Schofield runs moved the ball to the Great Valley 42 with 52-seconds left to play. At this point, Schofield elected to go for the whole ball of wax. "A little bit further," Schofield said. "And it would have been tied."



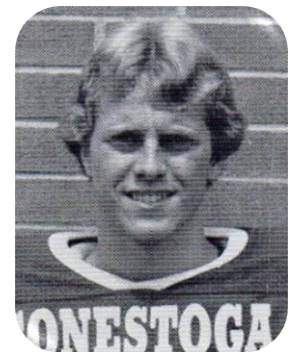
Brian Holland
Senior 6-0, 189
Running Back



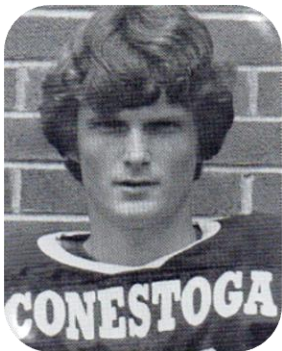
Gary Schofield
Senior 6-3, 195
Quarterback



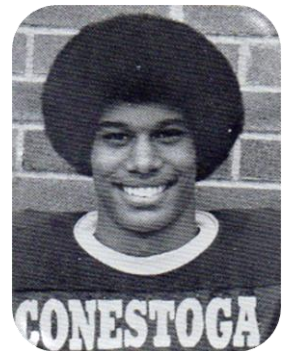
Mark Trudel
Senior 5-7, 140
Split End



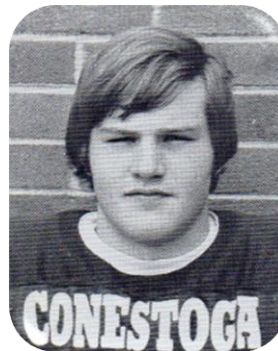
Al Berger
Senior 5-8, 148
Defensive Back



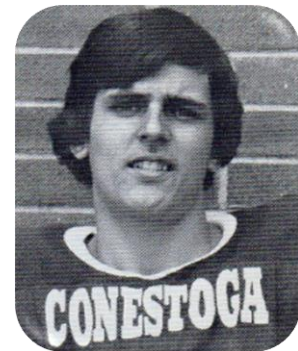
Max Matteson
Senior 6-1, 158
Wide Receiver



Steve Dickerson
Senior 5-10, 156
Defensive Back



Kevin Gallagher
Senior 5-8, 170
Linebacker



Joe Wunderlich
Senior 6-0, 165
Linebacker

Conestoga Comes Back to Rout Pennridge

By RAY DOYLE

(Local News Correspondent)

September 16, 1978

The Conestoga Pioneers showed just how tough they may become before the season is much older. Last night at Pennridge High School in Perkasio, the Pioneers spotted the host Rams a 13-0 lead, but then came back to take a well earned 35-21 victory. Pennridge, a perennial Bux-Mont contender, drove 87 yards in eight plays to score following the open kick-off.

Pioneers bounce back

With less than four minutes remaining in the half, **Mark Wyatt** recovered a Jim Jampo fumble at the Pennridge 23-yard line. The Pioneers caught fire, driving in for the score in six plays. Brian Holland sparked the drive picking up 20 yards in four carries and blasting into the end zone from one yard out. He also kicked the extra point.

The alert Pioneers successfully tried an on-sides kick with **Tom Latta** making the recovery at the Rams' 44-yard line. Quarterback Gary Schofield failed with a pass but on the next play he pitched to Holland who tossed a 44-yard scoring strike to sophomore **Billy Delaware** to tie the game. Holland added the conversion and Conestoga took a 14-13 lead to the locker room at half-time.

Holland injured

Conestoga took the second half kickoff and began a drive toward the Ram goal. Holland was injured on a running play as the drive began and had to be retired

for the evening. The injury was diagnosed as a twisted knee.

Despite losing their premier running back, the Pioneers pressed the attack, proving just how deep the offense is.

Delaware and **Rich Syrek** took over the running and quickly moved the Pioneers down the field. Syrek burst over from the one to make it 20-13. On the drive, Delaware carried twice for 30 yards and Syrek three times for 30 more.

Schofield takes to the air

Schofield showed the versatility of the Pioneer attack by unleashing a passing blitz against the Rams. The talented signal-caller took Pioneers 56 yards in eight plays and hit on four passes in the drive. The big play was a 35-yarder to Delaware for the score.

On the touchdown pass, Delaware was very closely guarded by Jim Jampo, who was all over him.

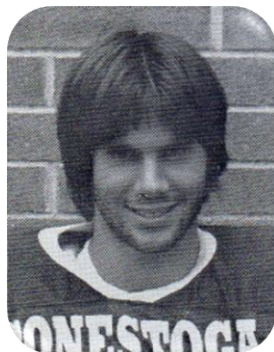
"It was a flag pattern to the corner. He was all over me but I just came up with it," said Delaware about the play which turned the game around.

On the conversion, Schofield hit Syrek with a pass over the middle for the two-pointer and Conestoga went back out in front 28-21.

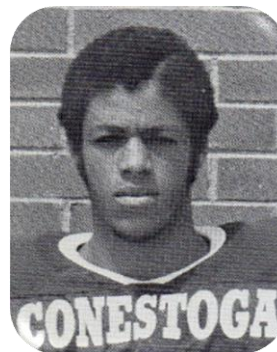
The Pioneers defense stopped the next Ram drive and with 4:35 remaining, Conestoga launched a 64-yard nine-play scoring drive to put the game away. Schofield carried the ball six times in the drive for 27 yards. The score came on a three-yard keeper by Schofield, who also booted the extra point.



Mark Wyatt
Junior 5-10, 168
Linebacker



Tom Latta
Senior 5-6, 142
Defensive Back



Bill Delaware
Sophomore 5-9, 155
Wide Receiver



Rich Syrek
Junior 5-9, 157
Running Back

Conestoga Has Too Much for Springfield

Daily Local News
September 25, 1978

Conestoga quarterback Gary Schofield performed a surgeon-like job for the Pioneers Saturday as he patiently picked apart the Springfield defense in leading his club to a 20-2 Central League victory. For host Conestoga the win was its first league contest of the 1978 season.

With Pioneer speedster running back Brian Holland sidelined with an injury, Schofield went primarily with the air attack hitting on 13-of-19 passes for 100 yards and a touchdown.

Conestoga opened the scoring with an aerial attack that chewed up small hunks of real estate, the longest completion being a 13-yarder to Billy Delaware.

On the drive that began late in the first period and would eventually culminate early in the second, Mark Trudel also gathered in three receptions but it would be on the ground that the touchdown itself would occur. For the score, Schofield rambled four yards on a keeper

and then added the extra point himself to give his club a 7-0 lead.

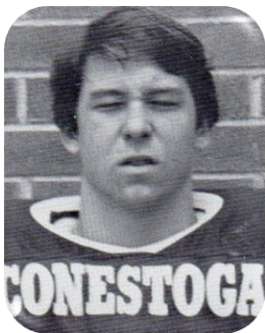
The second Conestoga touchdown was a ground blitz later in the second quarter as the Pioneers rolled 45 yards in just three plays with **Brian Leiser** doing the scoring honors with a 10-yard sweep.

Springfield scored its only points of the game in the third period when Leiser failed to escape the end zone on a first-and-10 from his own three-yard line.

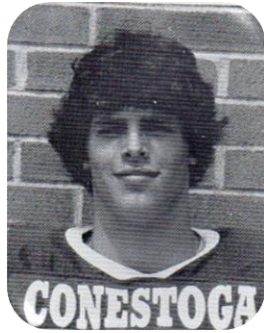
But Conestoga put the game out of reach in the fourth stanza when another Schofield air show ended with the Pioneer quarterback hitting **Doug Sharpe** with a four-yard scoring strike.

On the defensive side of the ledger, the Conestoga defense had an outstanding day allowing Springfield to penetrate in Pioneer territory just one time.

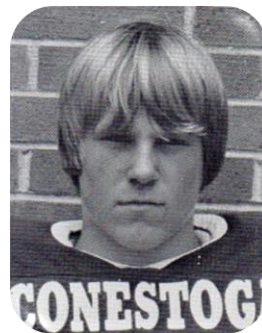
Rick Syrek was Conestoga's leading rusher Saturday piling up 53 yards on 10 carries and Trudel emerged as the leading receiver with six catches good for 55 yards.



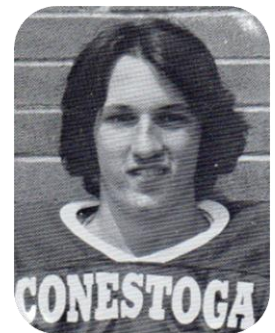
Brian Leiser
Senior 5-8, 160
Defensive Back



Doug Sharpe
Junior 6-1, 178
Offensive End



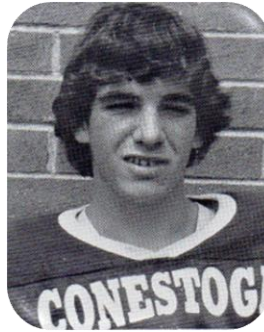
Chris Christensen
Junior 5-10, 183
Defensive Guard



Peter Elisio
Junior 5-10, 180
Linebacker



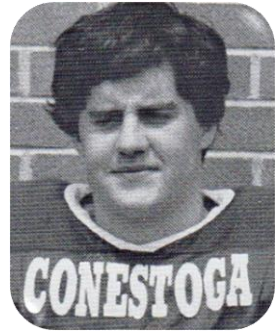
Mike Shanno
Junior 5-10, 150
Wide Receiver



Mike Rafferty
Junior 5-10, 155
Defensive Back



Louie DeLuca
Junior 6-0, 160
Offensive End



Paul Corcoran
Junior 5-10, 180
Defensive Guard

Pioneer Defense Topples Ridley

By RAY DOYLE
(Local News Correspondent)
October 2, 1978

The Conestoga defense came of age according to Pioneer assistant football coach Jim Messener Saturday morning and no one is doubting his statement since Conestoga posted a big 27-19 victory over the Ridley Green Raiders in an important Central League game at Teamer Field. It was the first time since 1971 that Conestoga has beaten Ridley.

The Pioneer defense had been described as "inexperienced" or at best "maturing" after three games which produced two victories. But, Saturday morning the Pioneers turned in an outstanding defensive effort which kept Ridley's talented quarterback Joe Keegan under wraps for much of the game.

Conestoga held the Raiders to 57 total rushing yards for the game and pressured Keegan to the extent where he threw four interceptions and was sacked six times. Leading the charge for the Pioneers, was senior defensive back, Tom Latta.

"I've been waiting all week for this," said Latta. "I knew he (Keegan) threw a lot and I decided I was just going to sit back and wait for the ball."

The game was described by the senior defensive back as his "best ever."

Pioneers start slowly

The Pioneers wasted several early chances to score. The first Latta interception put the ball at the Ridley 24, with 5:40 left in the first period, but a fumble turned it right back to the Raiders.

In the second period, with 3:30 remaining, Billy Delaware, chosen the outstanding offensive player by the Pioneer coaching staff, electrified the crowd with a

sparkling 81-yard touchdown run on a slick inside reverse. On the run the swift sophomore broke two tackles before racing for paydirt.

Ridley ties

Conestoga quarterback Gary Schofield hit split-end Mark Trudel with a 24-yard strike to put the ball at the Raiders' 43. Two plays later, Brian Holland broke over the right side, cut to the sidelines and romped 39 yards for the score. Schofield again converted.

The Pioneers struck again at the start of the fourth quarter and again it was defense that made the difference. Keegan went back to pass from his own 25 but a hard charging **Tak Papariello** sacked the Raider passer and forced a fumble which was recovered by **Ed Olson** at the Ridley 13. After a one-yard plunge by Rick Syrek, Schofield went 12 yards on a keeper for the score. Schofield converted to make it 21-7.

A Latta interception set up the final Pioneer score. Grabbing a Keegan toss at the Ridley 30, he took it back to the one yard line. Holland took it over on the next offensive play by the Pioneers.

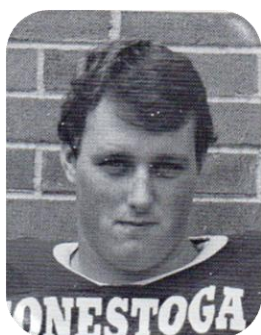
Defense's day

Still it was the **defense** that made the difference. "They (defense) were beautiful today. They contained the quarterback and did not let him roll out. The pressure (six sacks) kept him from getting the ball off," said Cockerill

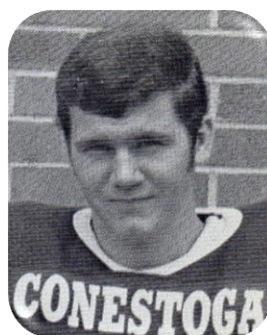
"Our 50 defense worked well and everyone got an even rush at the quarterback. We were getting off the ball and driving back their offensive line," said **defensive captain Frank Pitts**. And it was driving back their offensive line that made Conestoga's defense come of age.



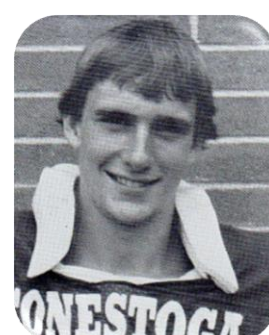
Tak Papariello
Senior 5-10, 175
Defensive End



Ed Olson
Senior 6-3, 240
Offensive Tackle



Frank Pitts
Senior 6-4, 230
Defensive Tackle



Jerry Evans
Junior 5-9, 150
Defensive End

Schofield Pass Lifts Pioneers

By **CHRIS MORKIDES**
(Local News Correspondent)
October 9, 1978

Haverford has a habit of scaring the hell out of Conestoga football team. In 1976 and 1977 the Fords not only scared the heavily favored Pioneers, they beat them. On Saturday at Haverford the Fords put the Pioneers through the wringer again but this time the results were different.

This time Conestoga woke up from what has become a yearly nightmare to defeat the Fords 20-14 on Gary Schofield's 30-yard touchdown pass to Mark Trudel with 13 seconds left.

Schofield's pass capped a brilliantly engineered drive in which the 6-3, 195-pound senior quarterback drove his team 89 yards in the last 1:30 to overcome a 14-13 deficit.

The drive started on the Conestoga 11 yard line with time winding down on the clock. Schofield immediately completed a 17-yard pass to Trudel to move the ball to the Conestoga 46.

Schofield missed his next two attempts but hit **Steve Stanko** over the middle on third down to move the ball to the Haverford 41 with less than a minute remaining.

An off-sides penalty and a short completion to Stanko moved the ball to the 30 with 19 seconds left on the clock.

On the next play Schofield dropped back to pass and pump-faked to Trudel who had run down and in. The fake froze the Haverford defense.

Trudel turned his pattern up the left sideline leaving the Haverford defense in his wake. Schofield hit him in stride for the touchdown.

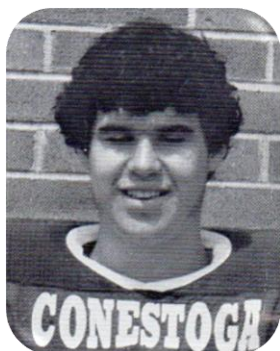
"My heart was thumping when I saw the ball in the air," Trudel said. "I was just thinking that I didn't want to miss it."

The Pioneers finally got on the board with 2:10 left in the first quarter on Rich Syrek's 15-yard touchdown run. Syrek's run came after Frank Pitts recovered Haverford's third fumble of the game.

Syrek's run proved to be the only offense Conestoga could muster until late in the fourth quarter. In the meantime, Haverford took a 14-7 lead on quarterback Bob Castell's one-yard touchdown run in the second quarter and Castell's 30-yard third quarter TD pass to Todd Feldman.

The Fords looked like they were ready to expand the lead early in the final period after Bob Consul intercepted Syrek's attempted halfback pass. Following the interception the Fords moved to the Conestoga 42 where, on a second down play with four minutes remaining, Haverford's Pete Minnis swept left end and picked up good yardage to the Conestoga 30.

Minnis coughed up the ball, however, and Brian Leiser picked it out of the air. Leiser returned the fumble 50 yards to Haverford 20-yard line, setting up Syrek's five-yard touchdown run with 3:29 left in the game. The two-point conversion failed and Conestoga still led 14-13.



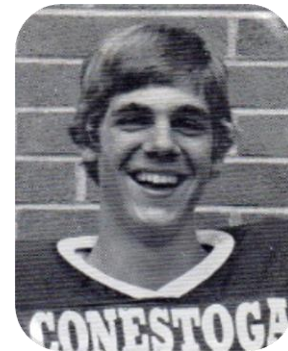
Steve Stanko
Junior 6-3, 192
Offensive End



Pat Corcoran
Junior 5-10, 180
Defensive Guard



Jeff Carter
Junior 6-2, 180
Defensive End



Jeff Paolizzi
Junior 6-0, 165
Quarterback

Conestoga in 34-8 Rout

By **RAY DOYLE**
(Local News Correspondent)
October 16, 1978

For several weeks coach George Cockerill of the Conestoga Pioneers has been somewhat perplexed about the running game of his club. Saturday's 34-8 win over Central League rival Upper Darby should ease his anxiety.

The visiting Pioneers exploded for 25 points in the second quarter to take a 32-0 lead at half and end any suspense as to the outcome. The running game did the trick.

"I'm very satisfied," said Cockerill. "It was the kind of consistency in the running game we have been looking for."

The Pioneers rushed for 167 yards in the first half, with Brian Holland leading the way with 105 yards on only seven carries. The talented runner scored three touchdowns.

"Holland must have a vendetta against Upper Darby," said Cockerill, adding, "the last two games he played against them have been terrific."

Holland breaks one

Holland went 55 yards for the first Conestoga score with 7:58 remaining in the first quarter. It was the first play from scrimmage for the Pioneers after stopping the Royals on a fourth-and-one attempt at the Conestoga 45.

On the play Holland went over right tackle and cut the right sideline. Three Upper Darby defenders had a shot at the swift Pioneer back but he broke all three attempts at the tackles. Schofield kicked the extra point.

A fumble recovery by the Pioneers' Frank Pitts at the Royals' nine-yard line set up the second score. Following a motion penalty against the Pioneers and a one-yard gain by Rich Syrek, Holland took a pitch from Schofield and went wide right on a 13-yard ramble into the end zone. Schofield again converted.

After the defense stopped the Royals at their own 13 on the next series, the Pioneers took the ball at the Upper Darby 34 following a punt. It took but one play, a 34-yard scoring strike from Schofield to Mark Trudel to make it 20-0.

The count went to 26-0 on a 29-yard burst by Billy Delaware on a perfectly executed counter play. Upper Darby fumbled on the first play following the kickoff and **Keith McLean** made the recovery for the Pioneers at the Upper Darby 20. On a fourth-and-one play, Holland went 11 yards for the score. But 37 seconds remained in the half.

Subs play a lot

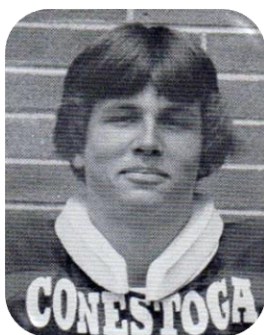
Cockerill also praised his defense. "For the last three weeks the defense has played consistently well. They put on great pressure the entire first half." The Royals had a total offense in the first half of 23 yards.

The final score came on a safety with several Pioneers, led by **John McKay**, pulling down Romano in the end zone with only 0:37 left to play.

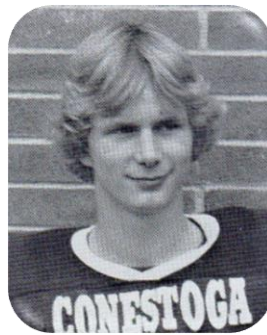
The win keeps the Pioneers in sole possession of first place in the league with a 4-0 mark. Overall Conestoga is 5-1 on the year. Upper Darby is 1-3 in loop play. Next Friday night the Pioneers host Bel Air, Maryland. Game time is 7:30.



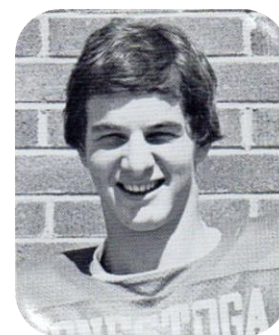
Keith McLean
Senior 6-2, 170
Defensive End



John McKay
Junior 6-2, 190
Defensive Tackle



Mike Lee
Junior 5-11, 143
Defensive End



Bill Esler
Junior 5-8, 180
Running Back

Fast Start Propels Conestoga Past Overmatched Bel Air 40-14

By RAY DOYLE
(Local News Correspondent)
October 21, 1978

Last night host Conestoga got off to the quickest start since the tortoise raced the hare. After only 4:45 had elapsed in the opening quarter, the Pioneers led 20-0. One had visions of a 160-0 game.

The tortoise disguised as the Bel Air Maryland football team did come back to make it a respectable 20-14 first half, but the overall versatility of the Pioneers added 20 more points in the second half to take an impressive 40-14 win.

Brooke Boyle fumbled the opening kickoff and Tom Latta pounced on it to give the Pioneers the ball at the Bobcat 22-yard line. Brian Holland burst over the left side, going the distance for the score, and Gary Schofield added the conversion.

One the next series, the Cats fumbled again and Keith McLean recovered for the Pioneers. On the next play, Billy Delaware took a reverse and skirted left end, rambling untouched 23 yards for the score. Schofield again converted.

The Bobcats were again stopped on the next offensive series and punted the ball with the Pioneers taking over at their own 42.

"They can't score from there," commented an observer in the press box. On the next play the Pioneers scored. The play was the most spectacular of the evening. Schofield handed the ball off to Holland, who reversed to Delaware. The talented sophomore pitched the ball back to Schofield and he hit Holland with a pass over the middle and the speedy back went the distance to the end zone. In all, the play covered 58 yards.

Bobcats claw back

The Bel Air team did not quit. Quarterback Jerome Walters scored from four yards out on a keeper. The Cats held the ball on the drive for 6:58.

May have relaxed

The Conestoga defense was up at the start of the game but may have relaxed after an easy 20-0 pad had been built. "Yeah the defense relaxed a little," said Pioneer linebacker **Dave Barenborg**. Coach George Cockerill agreed. "We sat back and breathed a little with the lead. They didn't panic and came back and played their type of game."

After intermission, the Pioneer defense came back to life. "We knew what we had to do in the second half," said the Pioneer linebacker. "Everybody was firing off the line and there was good hitting."

The defense limited the Cats in the second half to nine yards, passing on only one completion. In the process, Latta picked off one pass and Brian Leiser stole a pair.

The Pioneers took the second-half kickoff and controlled the ball for nearly six minutes, driving 68 yards on 10 plays. Syrek scored from 10 yards out, scooting the right end with a pitchout, to make it 26-14. Schofield hit his third placement of the evening.

Midway in the final quarter, Schofield hit split-end Mark Trudel over the middle and the quick receiver dashed 25 yards for the score. In all, the play covered 41 yards.

The final score came with 3:27 remaining as Syrek bolted 65 yards on a pitch right, cutting back to the left and outracing the defense for the final touchdown.

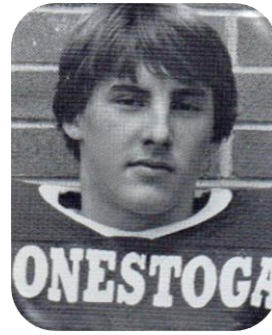
Syrek led all runners with 114 yards on 11 carries. Trudel had a fine night in the reception department, grabbing six for 104 yards.



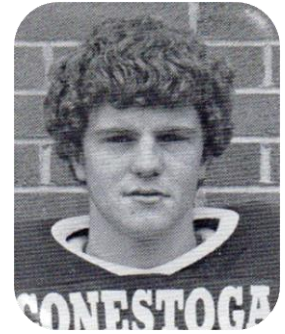
Dave Barenborg
Senior 6-0, 176
Linebacker



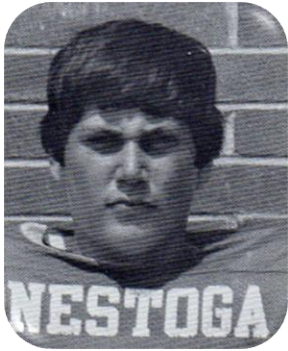
John Vogelsang
Junior 5-9, 169
Center



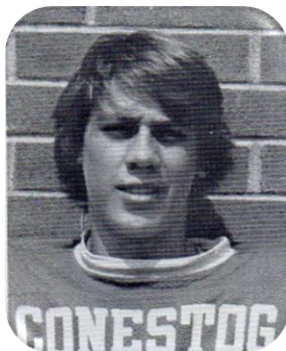
Mike Karmilowicz
Junior 5-11, 155
Defensive Guard



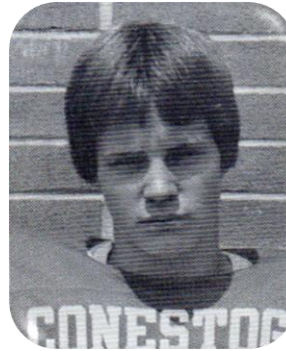
Gavin Burns
Junior 5-10, 165
Defensive Guard



Dean Machikas
Sophomore 5-9, 156
Offensive Guard



Chris Ross
Sophomore 5-7, 125
Offensive Guard



Karl Schwartz
Sophomore 6-0, 177
Offensive Tackle



Mark Shirkness
Sophomore 5-7, 130
Defensive Back



Dick Sloan
Sophomore 5-3, 115
Wide Receiver



Brian Watson
Sophomore 5-11, 165
Offensive Tackle

Syrek, Schofield Help Conestoga Crush Radnor

By **RAY DOYLE**
(*Local News Correspondent*)
October 28, 1978

For the second week in a row, the Conestoga football Pioneers treated their fans to a 40-14 victory. Last night the victim was neighborhood rival Radnor.

There were numerous heroes for the Pioneers. Rich Syrek scored four touchdowns including a brilliant 85-yard return of a kickoff. Quarterback Gary Schofield rushed for 113 yards on 11 carries and hit his receivers for 189 more yards on 10 completions.

Defensively **Sam Karmilowitz** stole a pair of passes and recovered a fumble. The offensive blocking of Frank Pitts, Ed Olson, **Jim Surine**, **Rory O'Kane** and **Joe Bendinelli** was devastating. In fact, the entire team played one whale of a ball game.

"They are a complete football team," remarked George Corner, coach of the Radnor Red Raiders, following the game. Corner feels the Pioneers are the finest team his club has seen this season.

Schofield totes ball

The Pioneers got off to a flying start as Syrek returned the opening kickoff 53 yards to the Raider 35-yard line. Schofield hit Billy Delaware with a pass to the Radnor 10 but clipping penalty negated the gain and the Pioneer drive stalled.

In their second offensive series the Pioneer drove 59 yards in five plays. A Schofield to Delaware aerial put the ball at the Radnor 25 and on the next play, Schofield called an audible at the line, kept the ball and streaked straight ahead all the way to paydirt. Schofield then kicked the extra point, the first of four he would hit in the game.

Jeff Fordham, who had a standout game at defensive tackle for the Pioneers recovered a fumble at the Raider 17. On the next play, Schofield found Syrek wide open in the right corner of the end zone and the count mounted 14-0. The clock showed 6:53 to play in the half.

Trying to play catch-up ball, the Raiders went to the air on the next series but Karmilowitz picked off his first interception to set up the Pioneers at the Radnor 30.

Pure power

A pass over the middle to tight end Steve Stanko moved the ball down to the five yard line and the Pioneers went into their power-I goal line offense. In the formation, linebacker **Andy Foster** and tackle Pitts drop into the backfield and act as blocking backs. Two downs, with Syrek carrying the ball provided the desired results, the Pioneers third touchdown. The attempt for point failed.

"Both Andy (Foster) and I have good times in the 40 (dash) and we can go through and open up the hole," said Pitts, adding, "it really works well in short yardage situations."

Offense keeps rolling

In the third quarter, the Pioneers struck again on a 37-yard scoring strike from Schofield to Syrek.

With seconds remaining in the quarter, Brian Leiser cracked over from the one to raise the lead to 33-7. Radnor kept trying and in later stages of the final quarter, scored again.

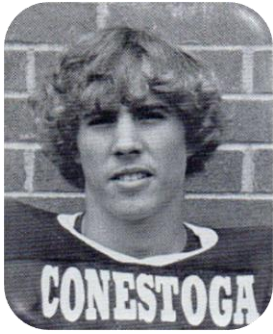
On the ensuing kickoff, Syrek electrified the crowd with his 85-yard touchdown return, giving him 24 points for his night's work.

Excellent blocking

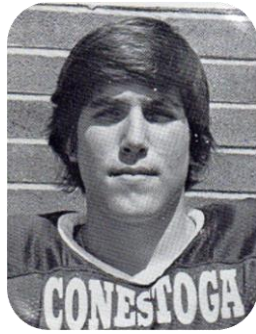
George Cockerill, coach of the Pioneers, knew that Schofield could run the ball on the Radnor defense.

"They use a wide-six and the quarterback sneak is wide open on the alignment. Also our kids did an excellent job of blocking. Actually the Pioneers did an excellent job of everything against a Radnor club that made them work for everything they got.

The Pioneers are now 5-0 in Central League play and lead the loop. Overall their record is 7-1 and they are ranked among the top teams in the area.



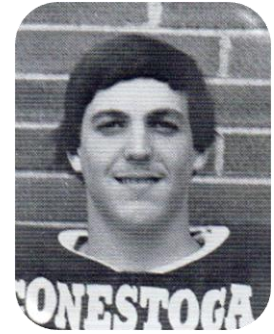
Sam Karmilowicz
Senior 5-9, 150
Defensive Back



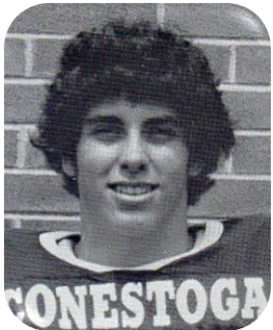
Jim Surine
6-3, 200
Defensive Guard



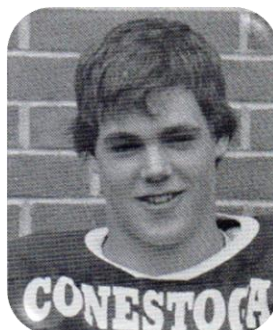
Rory O'Kane
Senior 6-1, 200
Center



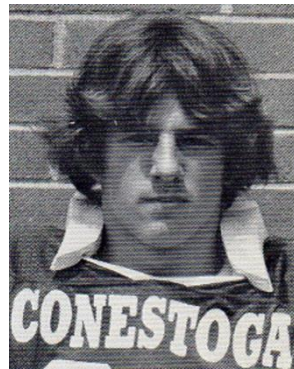
Joe Bendinelli
Senior 5-9, 190
Offensive Guard



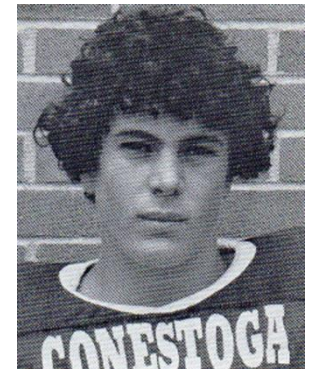
Jeff Fordham
Senior 6-3, 220
Defensive Tackle



Andy Foster
Junior 6-0, 190
Linebacker



Jim Bonner
Sophomore 5-11, 175
Defensive Tackle



Rick Kienzle
Sophomore 6-0, 175
Defensive Tackle

Late Score Difference as Pioneers Nip Aces

By RAY DOYLE
(Local News Correspondent)
November 6, 1978

Roger J. Frassenei is a man of his word. "We will make the game interesting and exciting for the fans," he said earlier in the week, in discussing the pending game with Central League leading Conestoga.

Happily, from the Conestoga point of view, the game Saturday was just that, interesting and exciting. For a while the Aces threatened to make it more than that and to knock the Pioneers out of undisputed possession of first place. A fourth quarter Pioneer score pulled the game out and gave Conestoga a 14-10 win in a very hard fought game.

"The defense played the kind of game we thought we had to have," said Conestoga coach George Cockerill.

The critical point came in the last two minutes of the game. With Pioneers protecting their four-point lead, the Aces following a pass interference call, set up first and ten at the Pioneer 39-yard line.

The defense stiffened and stopped three running plays to the outside, allowing but six yards. On fourth down, the Aces went to speedy Jeff Brown on a sweep left but the pitch by quarterback Dave Holland was fumbled and although Lower Merion recovered, the ball went over to the Pioneers at the 33.

Speed worried winners

Frank Pitts, a standout defensive tackle for the Pioneers all season, discussed the game.

"It was definitely the toughest game so far this season. Their outside speeds worried me a little. They went nowhere up the middle but were very good outside."

Pitts summed up the game, “We were able to hold them on the last three plays and the fumble was the key.”

In the final moments, the Pioneers gambled somewhat but it paid off and put the game out of reach of the fiery Aces. In a second and eight situation at their own 35-yard line and but 54 seconds on the clock. Pioneer quarterback Gary Schofield hit wide receiver Billy Delaware with a 12-yard pass for a needed first down.

“The play was an audible. We needed the first down and the slant-in was there,” explained Cockerill.

Pioneers score first

Following a missed field goal attempt of 35-yards by the Aces, Ernie Shapiro in the second quarter, the Pioneers engineered a 13-play, 80-yard scoring drive. Staying completely on the ground. Conestoga using basic dive plays, moved methodically down the field.

Brian Holland went the final 28 yards, bursting between guard and tackle on the left side, cutting to the sideline and outracing the Aces’ secondary. Schofield added the conversion.

At the start of the second half, the Aces took the kickoff and drove 55 yards to tie. A Shapiro 30-yard field goal with 5:45 remaining in the third quarter put the Aces ahead.

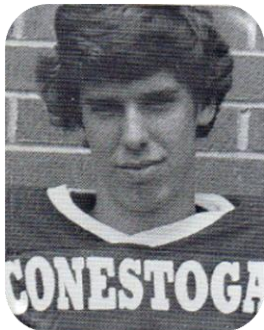
Near the end of the quarter, the Pioneers began the decisive drive. Sparked by runs of 25-yards and 29-yards by Rich Syrek and Brian Holland respectively. Conestoga moved to the Aces seven yard line. Holland carried to the five as the quarter ended and two plays later Schofield wedged over from the one with game clincher.

Did what was necessary

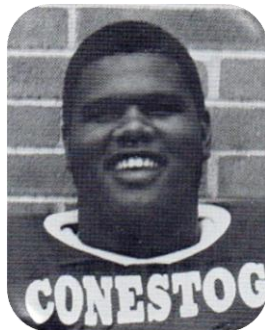
“We had a busy week of practice and the offense was flat, but we moved the ball when we had to,” said Cockerill. The prime mover for the Pioneers was Brian Holland with 134 yards on 23 carries.

The Pioneers dedicated the game to Brian Fitzgerald, a teammate killed in an auto accident on Oct. 28.

“We dedicated this game to him. He was part of the team,” said Pioneer lineman **Albert Mitchell**, adding, “we really went all out to win it for him.”



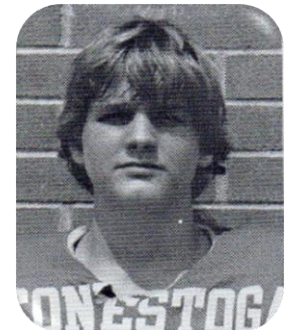
Brian Fitzgerald
Senior 5-9, 150
Linebacker



Albert Mitchell
Senior 6-3, 265
Defensive Tackle



Tim Curran
Senior 5-9, 160
Offensive End



Chris Siegel
Sophomore 5-9, 145
Center

Pioneers Close to Central Crown

By RAY DOYLE
(Local News Correspondent)
November 20, 1978

Conestoga moved a notch closer to a goal the Main Line school has seen elude them in the past. The Pioneers need a victory over Marple-Newtown on Turkey Day to win the Central League title outright. Saturday morning, Conestoga clinched at least a tie for the title with a 34-15 win over the Penncrest Lions.

The Pioneers put the game out of reach, building a 28-7 first half lead. The second half saw the Lions play decent ball but the visitors were not able to really get close.

"Our offensive line did a great job in the first half and we were able to run straight at them," said Pioneer coach George Cockerill in explaining the decisive factors in the game.

Lions jump ahead

The Lions scored first to throw a scare into the Pioneers.

The Pioneers charged right back. Led by the running of Brian Holland. Conestoga moved the ball 79 yards on 11 consecutive running plays, with Holland taking a pitch from the quarterback Gary Schofield and skirting the right end for the final seven yards. Schofield's attempted conversion went wide right. In the drive, Holland carried seven times for 63 yards.

Byrd hawks ball

Special teams member John Byrd set up the second Conestoga score. On the kickoff following Holland's touchdown. Schofield kicked short but Byrd alertly raced downfield and recovered the loose ball at the Lion's 31.

From there the Pioneers moved in for the score with Schofield wedging over left guard one yard for the touchdown, Schofield added the extra point. The key

play in the drive was a Schofield to Mark Trudel pass good for 19 yards giving the Pioneers a first down on the visitor's 13-yard line.

Conestoga kept up the offensive pressure, scoring twice more in the second quarter. Rich Syrek, the leading ball carrier, went 51 yards around the left side for a score and Schofield hit Trudel with a pass to make it 21-7.

Schofield hit Billy Delaware, the super sophomore with a pass of 5 yards and the talented receiver streaked 41 yards for the score to make it 27-7. Schofield added the extra point.

Flat second half

Cockerill felt the Pioneers were flat in the second half.

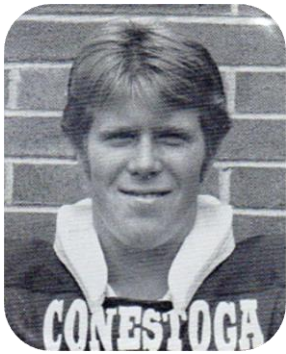
"Maybe we were looking forward to the Marple game and felt this game was just a game that was in the way," said the Pioneer coach, who emphasized the fact that it is tough to stay up with a big halftime lead.

Still the game was won by the outstanding play of the **offensive line** in the first half. They may have done as well in the second half except they were hardly on the field.

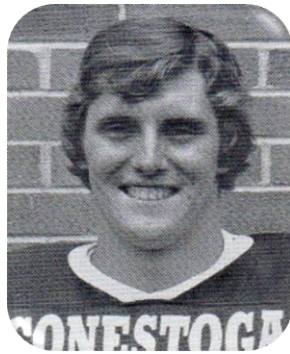
"We knew we could run on them. They didn't give us much of a fight in the first half. It was straight up running and nothing fancy," said Rory O'Kane, the center of Conestoga who led the offensive charge of the Pioneers.

"We knew what the game meant (tie for the title) and we came out and did it," added O'Kane.

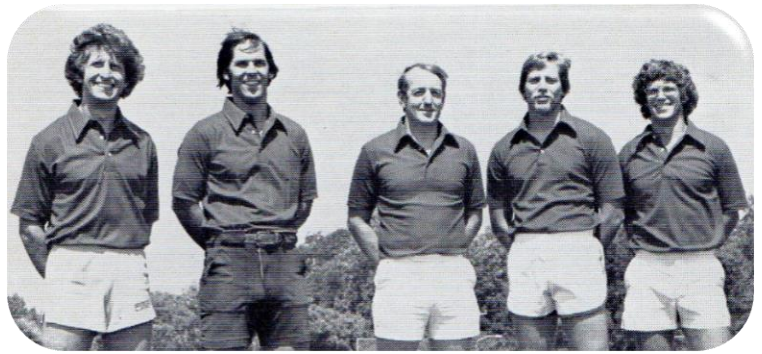
The win was the ninth straight for Conestoga and ran their Central League streak to 7-0. A win on Thanksgiving will give them undisputed title to the crown. Ridley has finished its league season with a 7-1 mark.



Scott Rudderow
Senior 6-0, 200
Offensive Tackle

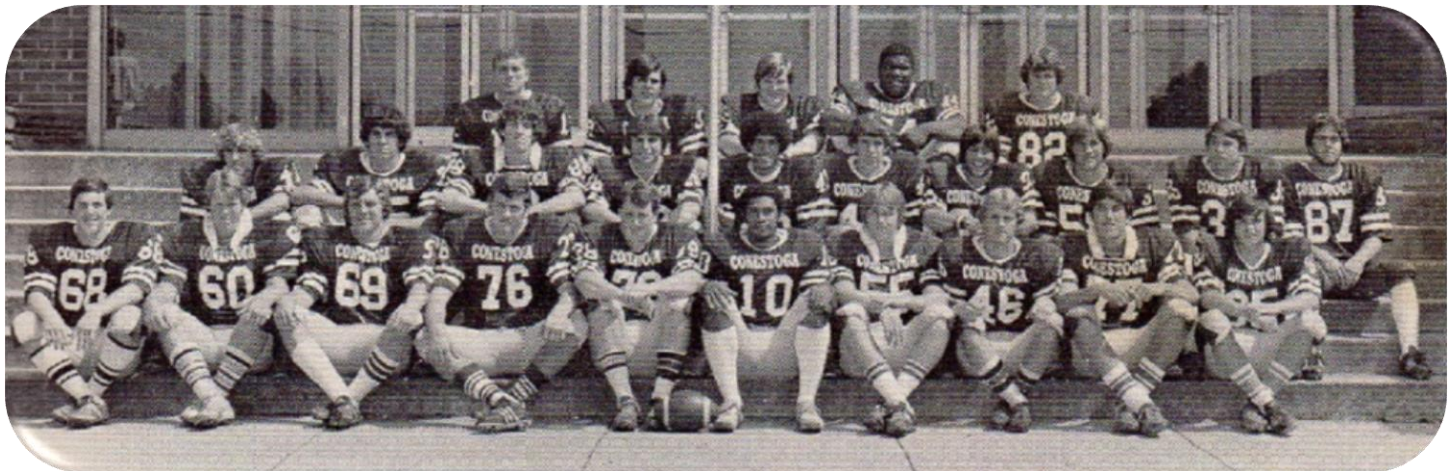


Sean Bailey
Senior 6-2, 210
Offensive Guard



Glenn Wenger, Harry Gicking, **Head Coach George Cockerill**, Jim Messner and Mike Young

Seniors Playing in Their Final Game



Front Row: Joe Bendinelli, Scott Rudderow, Sean Bailey, Frank Pitts, Ed Olson, Brian Holland, Rory O’Kane, Al Berger, Jim Surine, Tim Curran

Second Row: Sam Karmilowicz, Jeff Fordham, Keith McLean, Tak Papariello, Steve Dickerson, Brian Fitzgerald, Tom Latta, Dave Barenborg, Brian Leiser, Mark Trudel

Top Row: Gary Schofield, Joe Wunderlich, Kevin Gallagher, Albert Mitchell, Max Matteson

Pioneers Nip Tigers by One TD

By RAY DOYLE
(Local News Correspondent)
November 24, 1978

Last Thanksgiving the Conestoga Pioneers scored in the final moments of the game to upset Marple-Newton and spoil a perfect season for the Tigers. Yesterday it looked like the Tigers might return the favor, but clutch interception by the Pioneers' **Jim McKenzie** inside the Conestoga 10-yard line with 1:55 remaining in the fourth quarter, choked off the last ditch effort of the visitors and preserved a 14-7 win.

The victory, the 10th straight for the Pioneers, gave them undisputed title to the Central League crown as they went a perfect 8-0 in loop play. The team finished 10-1 with only a 14-6 loss to Great Valley keeping them from a perfect season.

"The team has progressed all through the season. The more games we played the more we came together as a team. We won the tough ones when we had to," said Pioneer coach George Cockerill.

"At no time did either team let up," said Cockerill in a tribute to both teams. "It was a very tough game," said defensive standout Frank Pitts. "We had to keep them from scoring and rely on our offense. I don't see how they (Tigers) were 7-3."

"They hit hardest of any team we played this year," said Pioneer running back Rich Syrek. "That number 77 (Bill Maas) was tough, I've never been hit like that before."

Quarterback Gary Schofield also praised the Tigers. "They were rushing very hard on passes," said the Pioneer quarterback, who set a new school record of 1,057 yards passing in a season. The old record was 994 yards.

Tigers roar first

The tigers stopped Conestoga's initial drive, following the opening kickoff and took over at their own 21-yard line. Nine plays later, Bo Rotoloni scampered 14 yards on a pitch right for Marple score.

The next time the Tigers got the ball it looked like they were going to complete another long drive. Starting at their own 16, Marple methodically moved down the field for the first down at the Pioneer nine

yard line. On a second and 10 play Rotoloni crashed over the right side but fumbled and when the referees unraveled the pile, two Pioneers, Keith McLean and Tom Latta were wrapped around the ball.

This was the first break of the ballgame for Conestoga. With three minutes remaining in the half, the Pioneers started to move. On a third down play at their own 26-yard line, Brian Holland burst over the right side for 24 yards. On third and two at the Tiger 42. Schofield went back to pass but was rushed. He flipped to Syrek at the last moment and the speedy halfback took the ball to the Marple 12.

Conestoga had a first down at the 27.

Two plays later, Schofield hit Billy Delaware with a 27-yard scoring strike. Schofield then added the extra point as his kick barely cleared the crossbar. But 48 seconds remaining on the clock in the half.

Stop Tigers again

Marple took the second half kickoff and drove 55 yards to the Pioneer 20, but a fourth down pass was intercepted by defensive back Brian Leiser to shut off the threat.

Conestoga came back and drove 85 yards on 15 plays for the game winner Syrek ripped 33 yards to the Pioneer 48 on the first play of the drive and using basic running plays and taking advantage of good blocking by the offensive line. Conestoga drove to the Tigers' 16.

Syrek carried for 10 yards on a draw play, run out of the shotgun formation and Holland cracked down to the three to make it second and goal. Schofield then faked a run to the right by Holland, kept the ball and rolled left unmolested into the end zone with 19 seconds remaining in the quarter. Schofield's kick made it 14-7.

In the waning moments of the game the Tigers made a strong bid to pull it out. On the first down play, that McKenzie intercepted the Messa pass, and the Pioneers clinched the title.

"The interceptions and the fumble recovery were the keys. If they had scored on any one of those situations it would have turned the game around," said defensive captain Pitts.

Came a long way

Pitts felt his club has steadily improved throughout the season.

“All I can say is we have come a long way.”

Syrek summed up the feelings of the Pioneers.

“I loved it. I like being number one.”

Schofield, who was honored at halftime as the outstanding Pioneer by the Old-Timers Club, was very pleased.

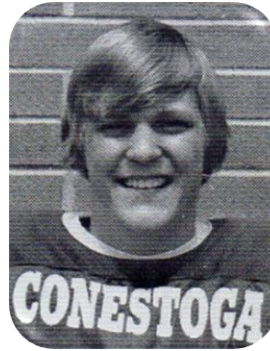
“I’m satisfied and tremendously happy. All season we played with a lot of pride. We are all together like a family.”

Schofield gave a lot of credit for the win to the offensive line. “The line did a super job on running plays. They blew them out when they had to on the scoring drives.”

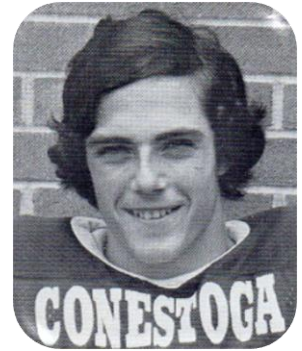
“We were truly a team today,” said Cockerill. The coach used as an example the attitude of split-end Mark Trudel. The talented receiver went into the game needing 37 yards to establish a new record for yardage by a receiver. He got 32 yards in the game.

“Sure Mark wanted the record but after the game was over he didn’t care because he won it.”

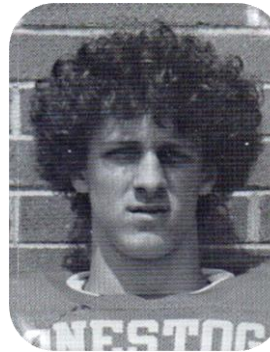
Cockerill also pointed to the play of his star running backs Holland and Syrek. “Both want to carry the ball on every play but today both had their best game of the season blocking for each other. Everyone played unselfishly to win for the team



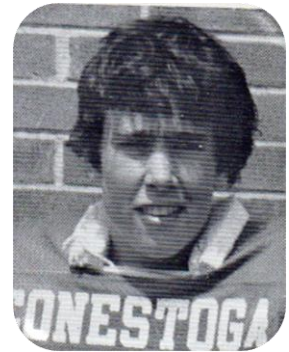
Jim McKenzie
Junior 5-10, 182
Linebacker



Chris Bourque
Junior 5-10, 152
Linebacker



Brian Fisher
Sophomore 5-9, 156
Defensive End



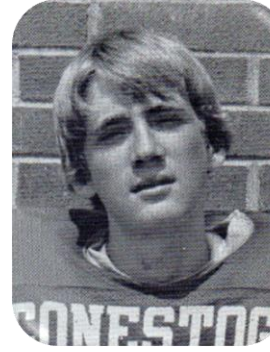
Dave Callopy
Sophomore 6-0, 182
Offensive Tackle



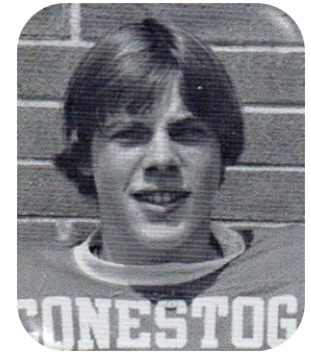
Andy Decker
Sophomore 5-9, 140
Defensive Back



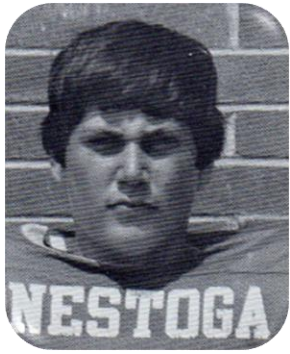
Martin Dempsey
Sophomore 6-0, 155
Defensive End



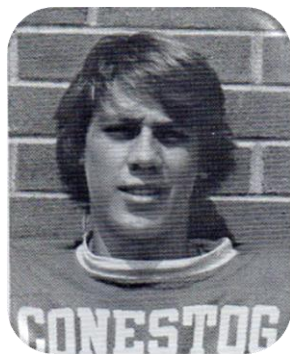
Jim Hughes
Sophomore 5-9, 147
Running Back



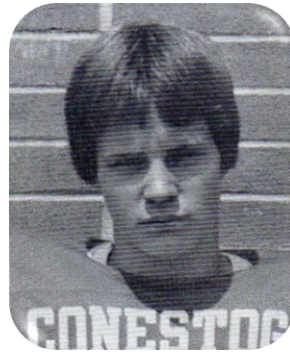
Josh Loucks
Sophomore 5-6, 128
Offensive Guard



Dean Machikas
Sophomore 5-9, 156
Offensive Guard



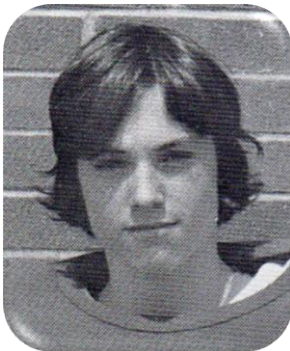
Chris Ross
Sophomore 5-7, 125
Offensive Guard



Karl Schwartz
Sophomore 6-0, 177
Offensive Tackle



Mark Shirkness
Sophomore 5-7, 130
Defensive Back



Dick Sloan
Sophomore 5-3, 115
Wide Receiver



Brian Watson
Sophomore 5-11, 165
Offensive Tackle

1978 Conestoga Pioneers



First Row: R. Watson, Albert Mitchell, Sam Karmilowicz, Jeff Fordham, Tak Papariello, Scott Rudderow, Sean Bailey, Frank Pitts, Ed Olson, Brian Holland, Rory O'Kane, Al Berger, Jim Surine, Max Matteson, Keith McLean, Gary Schofield, Mark Trudel

Second Row: Pete Elisio, Kevin Gallagher, Josh Wiles, Mark Wyatt, Chris Bourque, Andy Foster, Jim McKenzie, Chris Christensen, Louie DeLuca, John McKay, Mike Rafferty, Paul Corcoran, Tim Curran, Steve Stanko, Doug Sharpe, Mike Shanno

Third Row: Rich Syrek, William Delaware, Joe Bendinelli, Jeff Carter, Rick Kienzle, Jerry Evans, Mike Karmilowicz, John Vogelsang, Mike Lee, Jeff Paolizzi, Pat Corcoran, Brian Fitzgerald, Tom Latta, Dave Barenborg, Brian Leiser, Gavin Burnes, Jim Bonner, Joe Wunderlich

Fourth Row: Jim Hughes, Ed Simpson, Sandy McKay, Mark Veil, Chris Siegal, Tim Streeter, Tim Cosgrave, Steve Balzar, Pete Beaghan, Steve Metricarti, Martin Dempsey, Tim Turner, John Byrd, Brian Fisher, Mark Shirkness, Dick Sloan, Andy Decker, Jay Donatone, Karl Schwartz

Fifth Row: Lenny Beard, Chris Ross, Kevin Keady, Dave Callopy, Brian Watson