

## **Pioneers Open with Win**

# **Conestoga slips past W.C. East**

*Daily Local News*

September 2, 2000

By **PETER DIGIOVANNI**

Staff Writer

BERWYN—The Conestoga High School Football team found out life without Marquis Weeks may not be so bad after all. Weeks, the all-time leading rusher in Conestoga history with over 6,000 yards, is now enrolled at the University of Virginia.

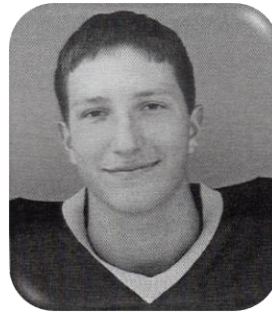
But Conestoga had enough left to defeat West Chester East 20-13, in the nonleague opener for both clubs Friday night. The Pioneers came out smoking, going 76 yards in nine plays to take a 6-0 lead. Sophomore quarterback John D'Agostini hit on all four of his passes during the drive.

"John (D'Agostini) showed a lot of poise for a sophomore," Conestoga head coach Matt Gibson said. "East put a lot of pressure on him and he responded well." West Chester East came right back. The game was delayed at that point for 45 minutes due to lightning flashes.

Conestoga found some lightning of its own after the delay, with Pat Heim racing 90 yards down the left sideline with the Viking kickoff to give 'Stoga the lead back at 12-7. Gibson felt the delay may have worked to the Pioneers' advantage.

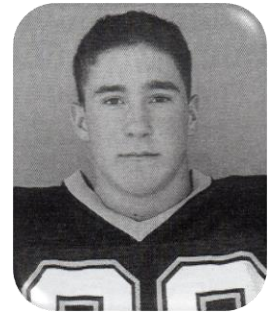
"East had just scored when play was stopped and then Pat (Heim) runs the kickoff back," Gibson said. "That was a very big play." The second half was a defensive battle with both teams playing field position. But the young Pioneers finally hit on a big play.

D'Agostini hit Tyler McCraw on a 37-yard touchdown pass with 6:00 left to give Conestoga a 20-13 advantage. McCraw ran under the rainbow from D'Agostini and was wide open down the left sideline.



**TYLER MCCRAW**

Junior 6-2, 190  
Wide Receiver  
Linebacker



**ERIC HILLENBRAND**

Junior 5-8, 175  
Running Back  
Defensive Back

Pioneer safety Eric Hildenbrand killed a Viking rally with 4:20 left by picking off a Chamness pass over the middle at the Conestoga 20-yard line.

Hildenbrand was all over the field for the Pioneers, as were many of his young teammates. "I just saw the quarterback bring his arm back and cock it a little and I went to the ball," Hildenbrand said. "I felt good on the field all night."

Conestoga ran the clock down to 1:02 when a punt snap sailed over the head of Mark Norcini, and East recovered at the Conestoga 22-yard line with 56 seconds and no time outs left. The Pioneers stiffened right there, sacking Chamness twice and holding on for the hard-fought win.

Gibson was both drained and relieved after the hard-fought win. "We beat a good team in East. They were very physical and disciplined and our young kids responded well."

# Conestoga shuts out Springfield

*Daily Local News*

September 10, 2000

By **PAUL MOSER**

Staff Writer

BERWYN—In the first Central League game of the post-Marquis Weeks era, Conestoga awkwardly thumped Springfield, 12-0, but strolled to an enviable 2-0 start to the season. In the process, Weeks' heir at running back, Steve Shea, earned his first 100-yard game by dragging Cougars defenders for 125 yards on 24 carries. His 23<sup>rd</sup> attempt resulted in the Pioneers' second touchdown and cemented the team's first league victory of the 2000 campaign.

"A win is a win," Conestoga second-year coach Matt Gibson said. "We were very sloppy. We have to overcome the mistakes. We are going to overcome the mistakes." The Pioneers, out of necessity, controlled the pace of the game defensively from the opening snap. Conestoga's front seven ran rampant in the Cougars' backfield, holding Springfield to 56 total yards.

The most imposing statistic came against the run.

The Pioneers limited the Cougars to 52 yards on 36 carries. In the air, Springfield didn't fare much better, completing one of 11 passes for four yards. "Our front played their hearts out," Gibson boasted. "The four of them definitely did their jobs tonight."

That group was led by end Dave Wimer. The senior opened the scoring

five minutes into the game by recovering Springfield quarterback's fumble at the Pioneers' 32 and rumbling 68 yards for their first score and first touchdown of his career.

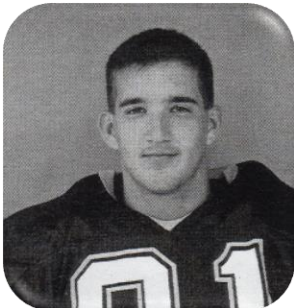
"When it comes down to it, we need defensive plays to win," said Wimer, who narrowly missed a two-touchdown game after dropping a touchdown pass late in the second half. "We knew we had the players to win, so we just kept giving it to them."

The Pioneers shut down any offensive hope the Cougars could generate, allowing just four first downs and halting Springfield's lone trip into the red zone at the 6-yard line. In addition, the Pioneers shoved the Cougars' early second half bid to tie the game at the 25 back 10 yards, courtesy of a Chase Bower sack.

"The first half, Dave (Wimer) had the big play and we kind of got sloppy," Shea said. "We took things for granted. Over halftime, we just got fired up." Fired up turned out to be an understatement. Shea earned 80 of his yards in the next half and teammate Anthony Beard added 65 more, entering the backfield for the first time after the break. The second-half burst erased any doubts to whether Conestoga could move the ball or win the contest.

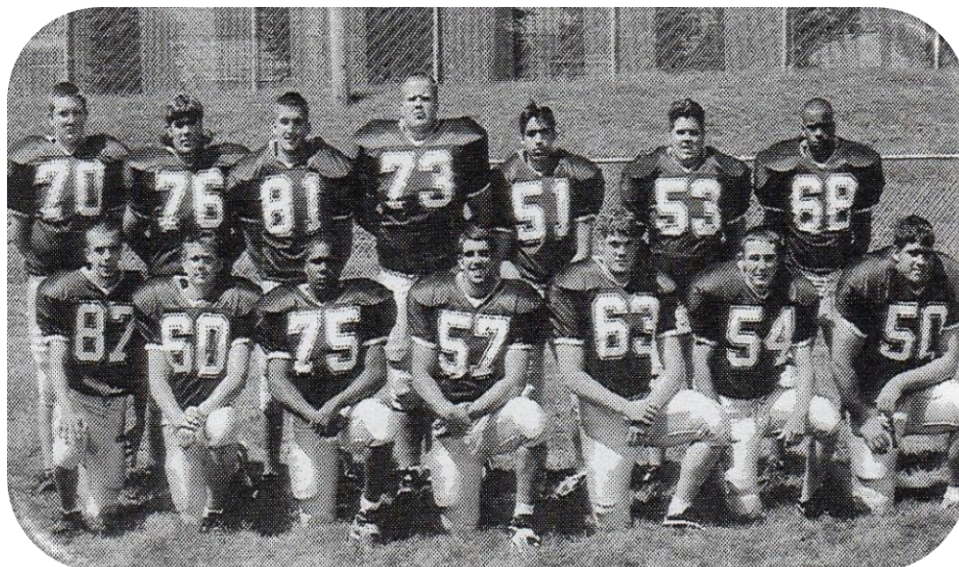
Shea made the latter official with a 7-yard scramble to cap a 14-play, 65-yard drive early in the fourth quarter. The junior logged 49 yards on the drive and scored initially on a four-yard scamper before it was called back by a holding call. Shea, physically ill from the workload, left the game after the penalty only to return two plays later to score his first touchdown of the season.

"He's a workhorse and getting better with every game," Gibson said. "Steve's a great back, we have a tradition here. Anytime you get a back over 100 yards it will help you win."



**DAVE WIMER,**  
**Captain**  
Senior 6-3, 215  
Tight End  
Defensive Lineman





## Defensive Line

**Front Row:** Brian Chidester, Charlie Scott, Aris Byrd, Bill Perrone, Tom Watson, Doug Jamieson, Cal Corvaia;

**Back Row:** Grant Harris, Matt Lyons, Dave Wimer, Jon Puk Mike Messina, Joe Holobovich, Ron Shepherd

## Linebackers

**Front Row:** Andrew Colbert, Travis Dalton, Matt Duncan, Pat Heim, Ryan Randels, Brian Kennedy

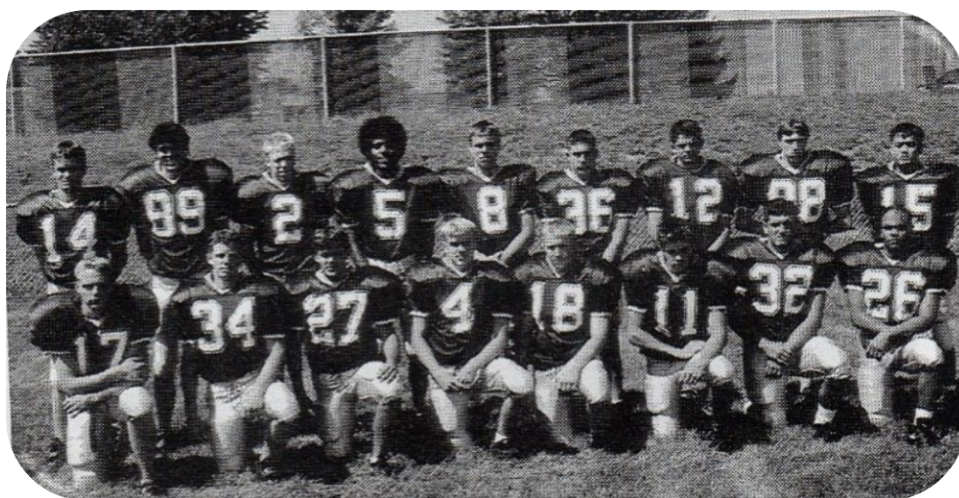
**Back Row:** Brian Chu, Jared Allred, Chase Bower, Anthony Beard, Tyler McCraw, Pete Hellberg, Joe Santoleri



## Defensive Backs

**Front Row:** Chris Stuart, Jon Weller, Pete Decker, Kevin Stach, Jesse Warren, Ryan Bird, Steve Shea, Terrance Smith

**Back Row:** Greg Dougherty, Dan Plastino, JR McMackin, Lamont Smith, Dewey Burke, Eric Hildenbrand, Tom Parry, Mark Choate, Quyen Dang





# 'Stoga stays unbeaten

*Daily Local News*

September 16, 2000

By **PAUL MOSER**

Staff Writer

BERWYN—After two and half games, the kinks are out. And it couldn't have come at a better time for the Conestoga High's football team—one week before it is to face defending Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class AAA state champion Strath Haven.

The Pioneers played an opening half of mistake-laden football, which plagued them the first two games of the season Friday night against Central League foe Haverford High. After the homecoming king and queen were announced at the half, however, the Pioneers pulled it all together and played their best stanza of football thus far and cruised to a 35-14 victory.

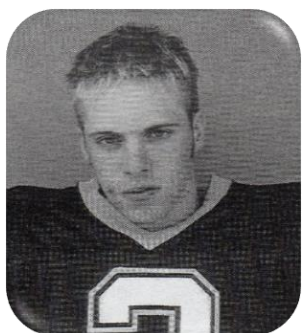
The triumph came after Conestoga trailed 14-13 at the half, caused by a John D'Agostini interception and subsequent defensive breakdown. Coming out in the third quarter, the Pioneers scored two touchdowns on time-consuming drives paved by a dominant offensive

line and slick running by first-year starter Steve Shea at tailback.

The huge quarter left the Pioneers ahead 27-14 and all but sealed their third straight victory to start the season and second league win. "We really let down at the end of the half," Conestoga coach Matt Gibson said. "We were fortunate to establish the run though in the second half and control things. Our offensive line completely controlled the game from then on."

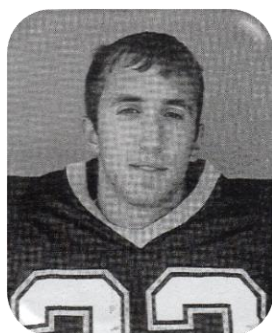
Defensively, a unit that had been stingy all season, but without many turnovers to show, had a similar breakout game to Shea, recovered four fumbles and intercepted two passes. Eric Hildenbrand led the effort when he picked off Haverford quarterback Paul Terra's hurried pass down the far sideline and galloped for a 75-yard touchdown return.

"The nice thing about the team, is we're getting better every week," Gibson said. He hopes that trend continues next week against the defending state champs.



**JR MCMACKIN**

Senior 5-10, 150  
Wide Receiver  
Defensive Back



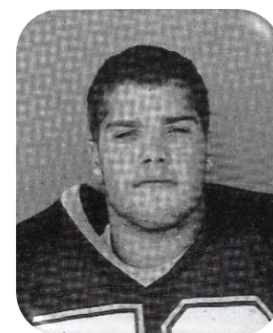
**MARK NORCINI**

Senior 5-11, 170  
Kicker



**JOE HOLOBOVICH**

Senior 5-11, 250  
Offensive Lineman  
Defensive Lineman



**MATT DUNCAN**

Senior 5-8, 160  
Offensive Lineman  
Defensive Lineman

## Learning Curve

### **Defending state champs impressive in win over Conestoga**

*Daily Local News*

September 24, 2000

By **PAUL MOSER**

Staff Writer

NETHER PROVIDENCE—Conestoga High School and Strath Haven had identical 3-0 records entering Friday night's Central League football contest. In addition, both had dominated league competition toward those marks—Conestoga outlasting Springfield and Haverford in two very unchallenging affairs as the Panthers rolled to like victories over Springfield and Lower Merion.

To add to comparative thought, each opened their respective offenses with three-yard scampers off tackle, Conestoga's Steve Shea doing so first. The similarities, however, ended there in front of a packed house at George L. King Field.

The defending Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association champions saw to it as Strath Haven rolled to a 45-12 victory behind 392 total yards of offense that yielded a mere 131. The thrashing left little doubt to who was king in the Central, and the Pioneers smarting to pick up the pieces.

The youngsters that grace the Pioneers' sideline succumbed early to the first state-championship quality team many of them had ever seen. "I don't think we knew what a state championship caliber team looked like," flabbergasted Conestoga quarterback John D'Agostini said. "When you get sacked in a three step drop, you know something is wrong."

A stinging that began to reap reaction midway through the second quarter. Conestoga safety Pat Heim

swiped a Connor pass, as Strath Haven threatened to go up 35, and raced down to the sideline to the Pioneers' 32-yard line. The next play, D'Agostini threw a pretty touchdown pass down the far sideline into the leaping arms of Dewey Burke.

The touchdown drew the first blood the Pioneers could manage all evening and rattled the squad awake. In the waning moments of the half, Connor was sacked with nearly a minute and a half remaining. The decision was made by Conestoga coach Matt Gibson immediately to try and make something happen by calling a timeout to get possession.

After all, the Pioneers had nothing to lose and everything to gain. Conestoga's Terrance Smith made his coach look good as he raced in to block the ensuing punt, and sophomore Kevin Stach pounced on it to give the Pioneers the football on the Panthers' 30. Four plays and a minute later, D'Agostini picked up his second touchdown pass when he found Tyler McCraw on a slant.

Sophomore D'Agostini, finishing with two touchdown passes and 98 yards in the air, was no small part of that learning process as he completed more than half his passes to six different receivers. He did so without any serious running threat as lead-back Shea was held to 47 yards on 17 carries and the Pioneers as a whole were limited to 33.

"John will be a very good make that —is a good football player," Gibson proclaimed following the loss. "He's going to get a lot better, he works real hard in there. We're going to learn from this."

September 28, 2000

Penncrest

Loss

No article

# Pioneers drop third consecutive contest

*Daily Local News*

October 8, 2000

By **PAUL MOSER**

Staff Writer

UPPER DARBY—One play on a football field can sum up an evening very easily. At least that's what Conestoga High found out in a Central League showdown with Upper Darby Friday night at Memorial Field.

Midway through the first quarter, Pioneers' linebacker/tight-end Chase Bower halted an impressive Royals' drive with a big-time interception at midfield. The turnover put Conestoga in great position to score the contest's first points at Upper Darby's 45-yard line.

Unfortunately for the Pioneers, Bower's pick wasn't the play that would symbolize the next 44 minutes. The glimmers of success followed by the costly mistakes plagued the Pioneers throughout the

contest, and to a larger extent became a metaphor for their season—sprinting to three straight victories to open the fall, followed by a limp through three straight losses.

“Tonight we didn't play like we were good enough to overcome our mistakes. We just didn't get it done. We did not come out ready to play.” It wasn't until early in the third quarter that the Pioneers sliced into the margin when feature-back Steve Shea rumbled 26 yards into the end-zone for the first points of the second half.

“That was pretty hard on us,” Shea said of the Pioneers early woes. “They just turned it on of missed tackles, they were just driving us the whole game.” The two play, 30-yard drive, set up by a Jon Weller pick, was the brand of football the Pioneers rode to their first three victories—an opportunistic turnover, followed by Shea's grind-out running. The junior finished with 95-yards on the ground.

## Conestoga falls victim to streak

*“We've had a tough last four games. Now we get right back into the Central League next week with Lower Merion (at home Saturday). We have to come out ready to play.”--Matt Gibson, Conestoga Head Coach*

*Daily Local News*

October 15, 2000

By **LIZ SULLIVAN**

Staff Writer

BERWYN—On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, a full moon hung over Teamer Field and appropriately enough the bad guys wore black. The Conestoga High School football team lost to Interboro, 33-7, in a nonleague clash.

Conestoga (3-4) received the opening kickoff of the second half. The Pioneers moved the ball 75 yards down the field on 12 plays. Conestoga converted a pair of fourth-down conversions, including on a 10-yard touchdown pass from quarterback John D'Agostini to tight end Chase Bower.

“In the second half we did an OK job,” Gibson said. “It just wasn't enough. When you play a team like Interboro, you have to play for 48 minutes (four quarters). We've got some great kids and they just keep playing hard.” The loss was the fourth straight for the Pioneers.

“We're just playing it one game at a time, one play at a time,” Gibson said. “We can't dwell on the past. That's the great thing about athletics, you always get another chance to do it again.”

Interboro added a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns. Conestoga blocked both point after attempts. Senior David Wimer got a piece of Kyle Pattison's kick on the first score of the quarter. Junior Terrance Smith partially blocked the second.

## Defeat Central League Rival Lower Merion

# 'Stoga bounces back with win

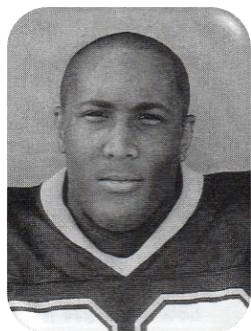
*Daily Local News*

October 22, 2000

By **DAVE SPILLANE**

Staff Writer

BERWYN—The Conestoga High School football team rebounded from a tough nonleague loss last week with a 36-16 triumph on Saturday afternoon over Central League rival Lower Merion at Teamer Field.



**ANTHONY BEARD,**

*Captain*

Senior 5-10, 200

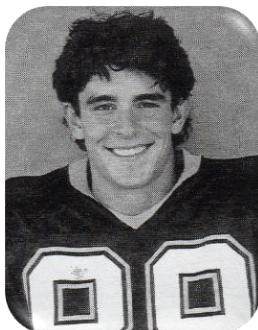
Running Back

Linebacker

Conestoga sophomore quarterback John D'Agostini threw for 240 yards and two touchdowns to pace the Pioneers (3-3, 4-4). The explosive Conestoga ground game accounted for 240 yards on 32 attempts. Junior tailback Steve Shea led the way, rushing for 160 yards and a touchdown on just 13 carries. Senior fullback Anthony Beard contributed with 94 yards on the ground and two touchdowns.

The key to the Pioneer victory was the offensive line's stellar performance. The line pushed and shoved Bulldawg defenders creating huge holes that enabled the Conestoga running game to thrive and supplied D'Agostini with ample time to locate open receivers.

"Offensively, we controlled the line of scrimmage and so we did a good job running the football," said Conestoga head coach Matt Gibson.



**DAN PLASTINO**

Senior 6-1, 165

Wide Receiver

Defensive Back

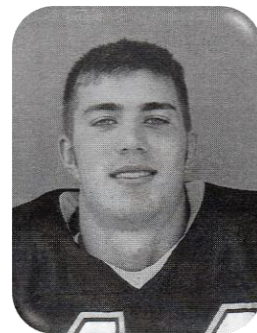
The Pioneer offense relied on the play-action pass to manufacture scoring opportunities. On Conestoga's first play from scrimmage, D'Agostini faked the handoff to Beard and then launched a pass down the middle of the field to senior receiver Dan Plastino. D'Agostini's completion resulted in a 61-yard reception for Plastino. Shea then scored on a 16-yard run, giving Conestoga an early edge.

"John D'Agostini did a great job on the play-action passes. We felt Chase Bower was going to have a big game catching the ball and on the play action pass he was able to do that," said Gibson. Bower had a huge game, leading the Pioneers with four receptions and 125 yards against Lower Merion (1-6, 2-6).

"They (Lower Merion) were putting too many men up on the line to stop Shea, because he's been having such a great year, so we had to use the play action," said Bower, who caught a 91-yard touchdown pass on a play-action fake late in the third quarter.

"We played to our game plan perfectly. We had some big plays. John threw the ball well and opened up Steve's running." The Conestoga defense had been shaky at points in the season, allowing an average of 305 yards per game. However, on Saturday it surrendered just 282 yards and 16 points.

"They (Lower Merion) mix things up a little bit. So we had to buckle down. Defensively, we really stepped it up this week and played a lot better," said Gibson. "Some people were doubting us after last week, but we showed today against a talented Lower Merion team how good we can play," said Bower.



**CHASE BOWER**

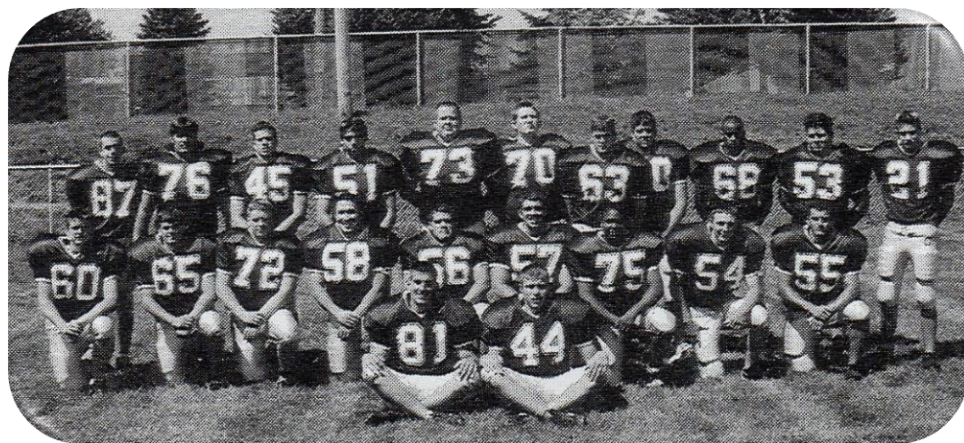
*Captain*

Junior 6-3, 210

Tight End

Linebacker





### Offensive Line

**Front Row:** Dave Wimer, Chase Bower

**Middle Row:** Charlie Scott, Brian Kennedy, Travis Dalton, Brian Chu, Matt Duncan, Bill Perrone, Aris Byrd, Doug Jamieson, Joe Santoleri

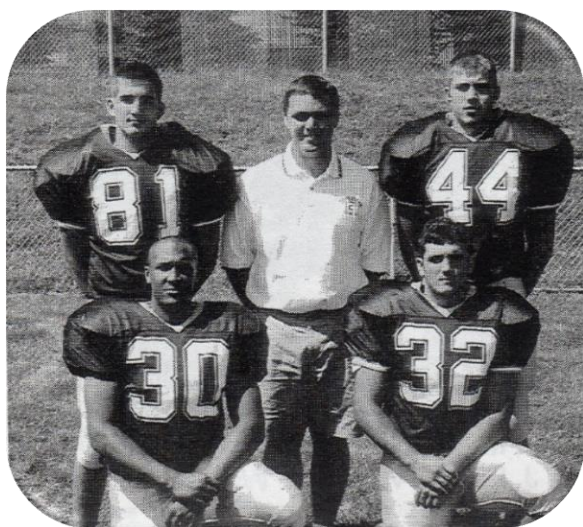
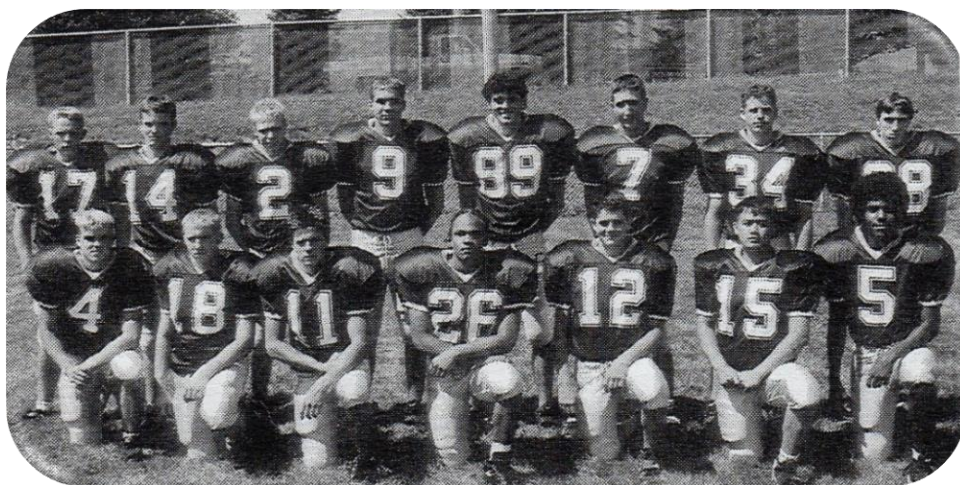
**Back Row:** Brian Chidester, Matt Lyons, Jared Allred, Mike Messina, Jon Puk, Grant

Harris, Tom Watson, Cal Corvaia, Ron Shepherd, Joe Holobovich, Ryan Randels

### Receivers

**Front Row:** Kevin Stach, Jesse Warren, Ryan Bird, Terrance Smith, Tom Parry, Quyen Dang, Lamont Smith

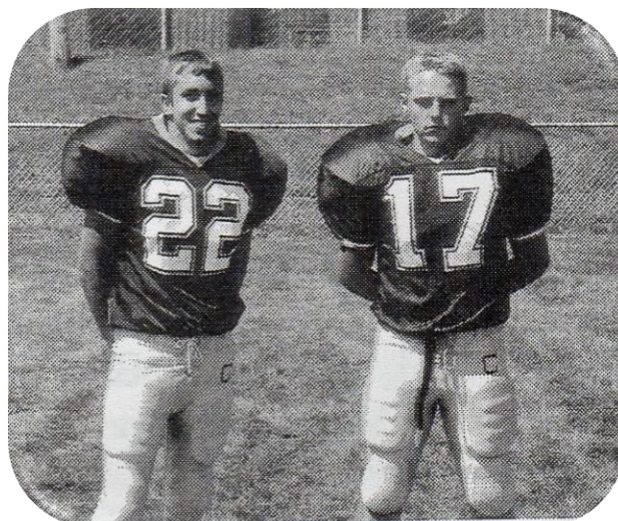
**Back Row:** Charlie Stuart, Greg Dougherty, JR McMackin, Pete Hellberg, Dan Plastino, Tyler McCraw, Jon Weller, Mark Choate



### Captains

**Front Row:** Anthony Beard, Steve Shea

**Back Row:** Dave Wimer, Coach Gibson, Chase Bower



### Kickers

Mark Norcini, Charlie Stuart



# Conestoga's Steve Shea rushes for 274 yards in a shootout win

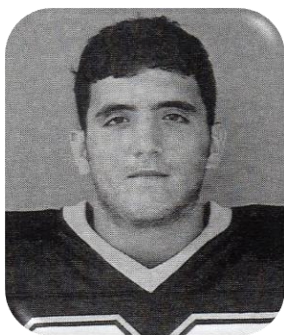
*Daily Local News*

October 29, 2000

By **RON D'ORAZIO**

Staff Writer

RADNOR—Steve Shea received all of the blocking that he could ask for. He took full advantage of the help. Shea scampered for 274 yards on 35 carries in leading Conestoga High School by upstart Radnor, 41-34, in a Central League football contest Friday night.



**STEVE SHEA,**  
*Captain*  
Junior 5-10, 185  
Running Back  
Defensive Back

Shea scored three times, including a third-quarter touchdown that put the Pioneers (3-3 Central League, 5-4 overall) ahead to stay. Immediately following a Radnor score that gave the Raiders a lead, Shea and his offense responded. The junior tailback carried the ball on seven out of eight plays and finished the drive with a four-yard dive into the end zone.

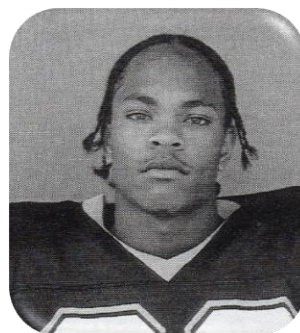
The Raiders promptly fumbled the kickoff and the Pioneers needed just three plays to make the score 38-31 to start the fourth quarter. Shea racked up career numbers in yards and was the focal point for over half of Conestoga's plays.

"My offensive line, my fullback and my wide receivers were opening them (holes) up," Shea said. "It

was easy because they would clear the biggest path and I would just run straight." Radnor's defense could not contain Shea, who had five carries of over 20 yards and a long of 35.

Though Conestoga piled up the offense, the defense had difficulty holding off a resilient Radnor squad. Isaiah Harrison touched Conestoga for 126 yards and a touchdown and threw a 62-yard bomb to Dan Hennessy during a third-quarter rally.

"We've gave up a lot of big plays defensively," Conestoga coach Matt Gibson said. "We had a couple missed assignments that hurt us. They scored on every one of them." "They are a good football team with skill



**TERRANCE SMITH**  
Junior 5-7, 150  
Wide Receiver  
Defensive Back

athletes that are good enough to beat you if you aren't ready on every play."

The Pioneers defense, however, made up for it on the final drive. Down by seven, the Raiders started at their own 10. Two sacks and an interception by Terrance Smith later, the game belonged to Conestoga.

"They (the defense) made the big plays when they had to," Gibson said. "We finished tonight."

# D'Agostini fuels Conestoga

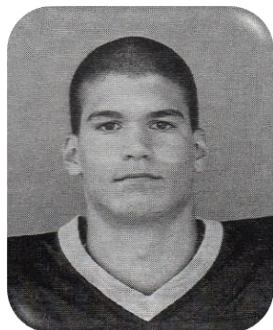
*Daily Local News*

November 12, 2000

By **DAVE SPILLANE**

Staff Writer

FOLSOM—Friday evening's gridiron battle between Central League rivals Conestoga High School and



**JOHN D'AGOSTINI**

Sophomore 6-3, 200

Quarterback

Defensive Back

Ridley was scholastic football at its best. The Pioneers prevailed in overtime, 23-20.

Sophomore quarterback John D'Agostini had the game of his life, completing 24 of 31 passes for a grand total of 253 yards and two touchdowns, including the game winner in overtime.

"John did a really nice job today," said Conestoga head coach

Matt Gibson. "The offensive line game him (D'Agostini) great protection, so we could execute." Down 17-6 with 6:08 remaining in the fourth quarter, D'Agostini orchestrated a comeback that would make John Elway proud.

A field goal from senior place-kicker Tyler McCraw with 5:07 left brought the Pioneers within eight points of Ridley. The Green Raiders were forced to punt on their ensuing possession, allowing Conestoga to take over on the Ridley 45-yard line.

D'Agostini led the Pioneers down the field, firing pinpoint passes to his primary target, split end **Dewey Burke**, who amassed eight catches for 119 yards. With 2:01 remaining in regulation and the ball spotted on the Raiders' 4-yard line, D'Agostini lofted the ball high

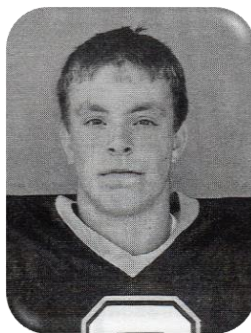
into the night sky, and senior halfback Pat Heim corralled the pass in the end zone. Heim's touchdown catch brought the Pioneers within two points of Ridley's shrinking lead.

After Gibson called for a timeout, Conestoga lined up for the two-point conversion. D'Agostini took the snap from under center and rolled out of the pocket towards the right sideline. On the run he found senior tight end Chase Bower open in the end zone for a successful conversion. Bower's catch sent the game into overtime tied at 17.

"It's always a dogfight against Ridley," said D'Agostini. "They always play us tough."

The Pioneers won the overtime coin toss and elected to defend. The Green Raiders took possession of the ball on the Conestoga's 10-yard line. Senior tailback Kyle Stockton was stuffed on three of his carries by the Pioneers' defense, forcing a field goal from kicker Mike Snow. Ridley now held the lead at 20-17.

"The defense really stepped it up today," said Gibson. "They were aggressive and overall, they did a great job."



**DEWEY BURKE**

Junior 5-11, 198

Quarterback

Defensive Back

Conestoga now took over on the Raider 10-yard line. On the very first play, D'Agostini found a streaking Burke open in the end zone. Burke hauled the ball in for the game-winning score. "It was a great game. The offensive line was awesome. They gave me all the time to throw," said D'Agostini. "It's the best football game I've ever played."



## 'Stoga ends rivalry on a positive note

# Pioneers down Marple Newtown 20-10 in their final Thanksgiving Day meeting

*Daily Local News*

November 24, 2000

By LIZ SULLIVAN

Staff Writer

BERWYN—The Conestoga High School football team made sure the final Thanksgiving Day game with Marple Newtown was one fans of the Pioneers won't soon forget. On Thursday, the Pioneers overcame an early deficit to beat the Tigers 20-10 at Teamer Field.

Earlier this season, Marple Newtown announced it was ending the 24-year holiday tradition with Conestoga. Instead, the Tigers will play Delaware County neighbor Cardinal O'Hara. "It's really a shame it's ending," Conestoga head football coach Matt Gibson said, a Conestoga graduate and captain of the 1987 squad. "A lot of people look forward to the game each year. It was nothing on our part in ending it, it was all them."

Gibson and Conestoga officials haven't thought about a new opponent. "We've just been focusing on this game, this season," he said.

The first quarter ended 3-0. Then Conestoga woke up and took over. Steve Shea gave the Pioneers the lead for good with a six-yard touchdown run with about 10 minutes left in the game. Shea finished with 15 carries for 56 yards. However, it was the junior's play on the defensive side of the ball that helped Conestoga win.

Late in the second quarter, Shea intercepted quarterback Brandon Grose for the first time. Shea's return helped set up a 27-yard field goal by Tyler

McCraw. McCraw made two of four field goals attempted in the game. Shea had his second interception of the game in the fourth quarter. The pick eventually set up McCraw's second field goal of the game.

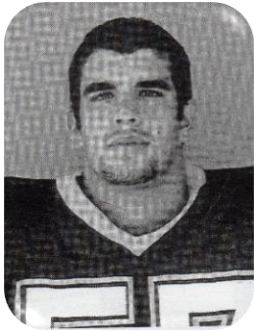
A three-year starter at free safety, Shea said he'd never had two interceptions in a game. "I was just pretty lucky," Shea said, a team co-captain. "The first one (teammate) Eric Hildenbrand tipped right to me. On the second, it hit off the receiver and right into my hands. Overall, our defense just executed things perfectly."

Said Gibson: "Steve always seems to be around the ball. They say good athletes are always around the ball and that good things tend to happen." Special teams came up big for the Pioneers in the second quarter.

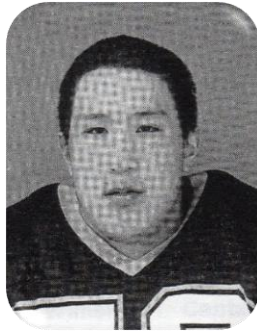
Senior David Wimer partially blocked a punt by Marple's Phil Cook. The ball was picked up by Conestoga's Pat Heim and returned 35 yards for a touchdown. "Our defense was able to control the game," Gibson said. "We were aggressive in our play calling. I thought our secondary covered them well."

The win was the Pioneers fourth straight and helped them finish the season 7-4. "I'm very happy with how we ended the season," Gibson said. "It says a lot of our seniors, for keeping this team together and helping us turn it around."

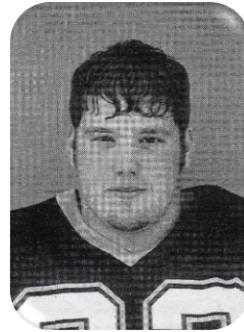
As he spoke to his players after the game, Gibson encouraged them to take a piece of grass at Teamer Field as memento of a special game.



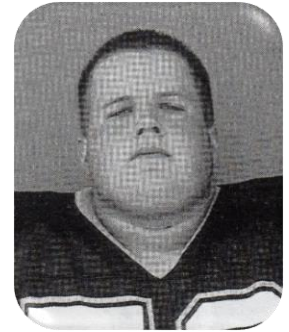
**BILL PERRONE**  
Senior 5-11, 210  
Offensive Lineman  
Defensive Lineman



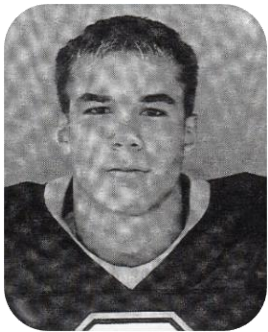
**BRYAN CHU**  
Senior 5-8, 185  
Offensive Lineman  
Linebacker



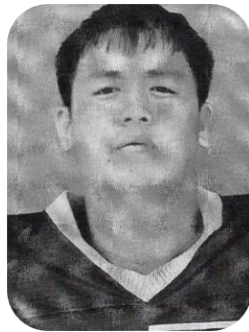
**TOM WATSON**  
Senior 6-0, 220  
Offensive Lineman  
Defensive Lineman



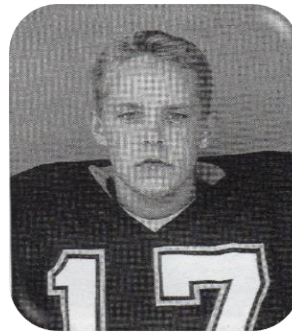
**JONATHAN PUK**  
Senior 6-5, 300  
Offensive Lineman  
Defensive Lineman



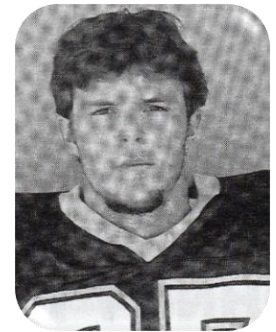
**PETE HELLBERG**  
Junior 6-3, 195  
Wide Receiver  
Linebacker



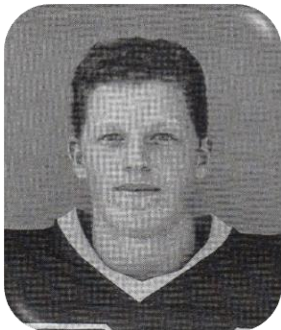
**QUYEN DANG**  
Junior 5-8, 160  
Wide Receiver  
Defensive Back



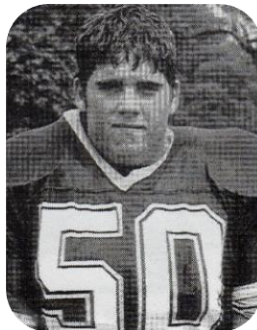
**CHRIS STUART**  
Junior 5-10, 180  
Wide Receiver  
Kicker



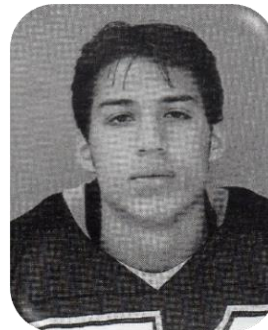
**PETE DECKER**  
Junior 5-8, 165  
Running Back  
Defensive Back



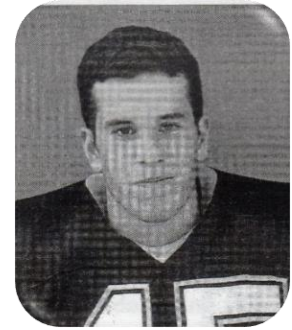
**JON WELLER**  
Junior 5-11, 165  
Wide Receiver  
Defensive Back



**CAL CORVAIA**  
Junior 6-2, 260  
Offensive Lineman  
Linebacker

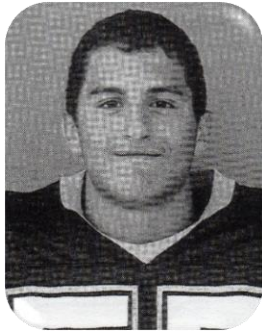


**MIKE MESSINA**  
Junior 6-0, 190  
Offensive Lineman  
Defensive Lineman

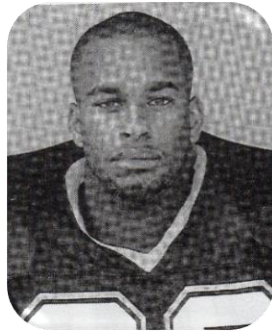


**JARED ALLRED**  
Junior 6-0, 190  
Offensive Lineman  
Linebacker

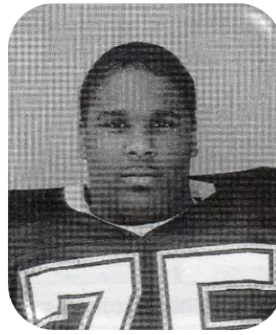




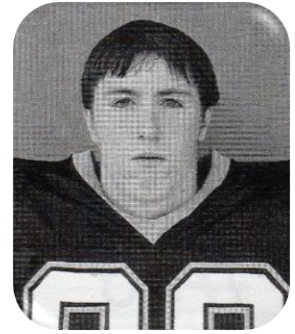
**JOE SANTOLERI**  
 Junior 5-8, 160  
 Offensive Lineman  
 Linebacker



**RON SHEPHERD**  
 Junior 6-0, 185  
 Offensive Lineman  
 Defensive Lineman



**ARIS BYRD**  
 Junior 5-11, 205  
 Offensive Lineman  
 Linebacker

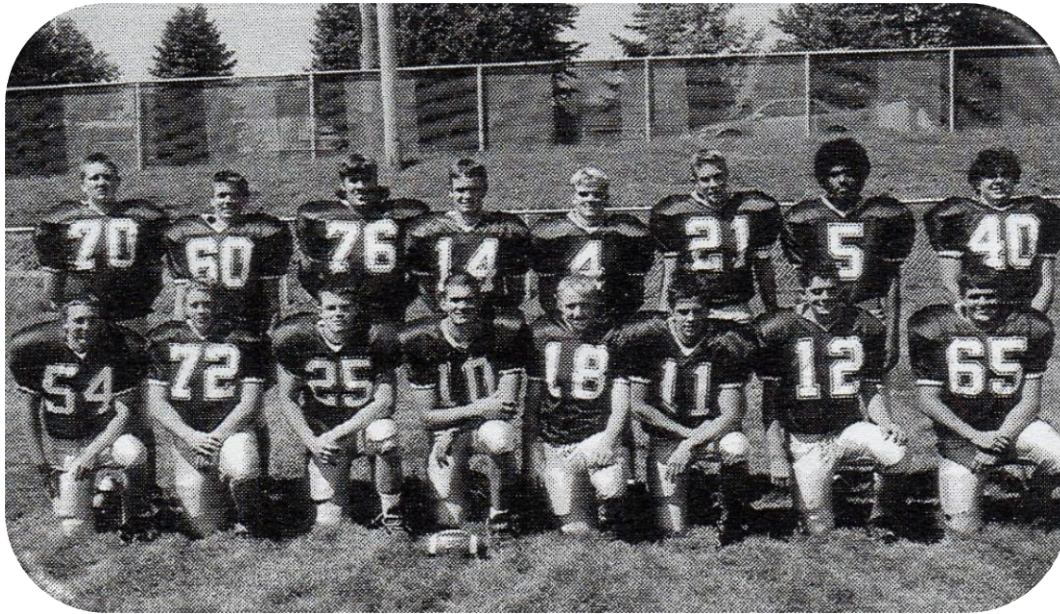


**MIKE CHOATE**  
 Junior 5-10, 160  
 Wide Receiver  
 Defensive Back

**Sophomores**

**Front Row:** Doug Jamieson, Travis Dalton, Pat Heim, John D'Agostini, Jesse Warren, Ryan Bird, Tom Parry, Brian Kennedy

**Back Row:** Grant Harris, Charlie Scott, Matt Lyons, Greg Dougherty, Kevin Stach, Ryan Randels, Lamont Smith, Andrew Colbert



“BERWYN—The Conestoga High School Football team found out life without Marquis Weeks may not be so bad after all. Weeks, the all-time leading rusher in Conestoga history with over 6,000 yards, is now enrolled at the University of Virginia. But Conestoga had enough left to defeat West Chester East 20-13, in the nonleague opener for both clubs Friday night.” That was the opening paragraph from the Daily Local report of the Pioneers’ opening game for the 2000 season.

The team under the tutelage of Head Coach Matt Gibson won three games in a row, and then they came up against the State Champion Strath Haven team. They lost that game and the following three. But the young team turned things around and won their next four games to go 7-4 for the season. Captains for the team were seniors Dave Wimer and Anthony Beard and juniors Chase Bower and Steve Shea. Gibson was proud of his defense throughout the season, and sophomore quarterback John D’Agostini credited his offensive front for his success. Pat Heim, Tyler McCraw, Eric Hildenbrand, Terrance Smith and Dewey Burke were often mentioned in the newspaper articles.