



Gazette photo by Paul Jensen

Ready to fire

Pat Dale of Cedar Rapids Washington prepares to launch a pass despite the presence of a Dubuque Senior defender during second quarter action at Kingston Stadium Friday night. Dale fired four touchdown passes in the game to give him 25 for his career, tying a school record.

Prairie zaps Linn-Mar, 27-6

Errors were the name of the game Friday as Cedar Rapids Prairie pounced on several early Linn-Mar turnovers and captured a 27-6 victory from the Lions in the final game of the season for both squads.

Running back Scott Joens scored all four Prairie TDs, including one on a third-quarter 35-yard jaunt with an interception, as the Hawks closed out the regular season with their third consecutive victory. Prairie finished 1-4 in the East Central Iowa Conference and 4-5 on the year. Linn-Mar, 1-8 overall, woundup 0-5 in the ECIC.

The contest was only three plays old when Lion quarterback Craig Connington had a short pass to the near sideline picked off by Prairie's Bret Wagner who returned the ball 10 yards to Linn-Mar's 25 yard line. Five snaps later Joens bowled over the goal line from four yards out to score his first touchdown.

Prairie's second score wasn't long in coming.

Late in the first quarter a punt snap sailed over Wes Frangul's head and the Hawks' Dennis Bruns recovered on the Lion four. Joens ran the ball over from the two and Prairie had a 13-0 lead.

"I thought the game would be closer," admitted Linn-Mar Coach Bill Nash, "but I didn't expect us to give the ball away so easily. It just killed us to give the ball away right off the bat like that."

"But Prairie has really improved the second half of the season and they did play well."

Prairie Coach John Oertel agreed that his Hawks, victors over Iowa City Regina (21-7) and Keokuk (40-14) in their last two outings, played solid football, but he liked their performance in the second half better than in the first.

"We should've scored three more touchdowns because we were inside their 10 yard line that often, and that

was a disappointment to us. But I was happy with our defense. It was the best pass rush we've had all year, and Scott Douglas, Dennis Bruns and Sam Wilson were responsible for that."

Douglas and Bruns are both underclassmen, but that's nothing unusual for Prairie. Oertel said his squad is largely composed of juniors. Among the others who will return to the team next fall are Joens, a 6-1, 185-pounder, and running back Jim Porter, who ran for 46 yards on five carries versus the Lions. Reserve quarterback Curt Woods is back, as is defensive back Wagner.

But Nash has no shortage of young players either, and, as he said, "I know brighter days are ahead for us."

One of the players who brings a smile to Nash's face is sophomore quarterback Bob Busch who returned to action last week against Regis after suffering an injury early in the season.

Center Point romps, 47-14

CENTER POINT — Playoff-bound Center Point overwhelmed Maquoketa Valley 47-14 in Tri-Rivers Conference football Friday night.

The victory gives Center Point an 8-0 conference record and a 9-0 overall record. Maquoketa Valley dropped to 4-5 for the season, 4-4 in the conference.

Ed-Co 20 Alburnett 6

ALBURNETT — Edgewood-Colesburg claimed a 20-6 victory over Alburnett Friday night in prep football.

Scoring touchdowns for Ed-Co were Brian Wessel, George Billmeyer and Randy Whittman.

Ed-Co finished the season 3-5 and Alburnett evened its record at 4-4 in league play.

Central City 14 East Buchanan 12

WINTHROP — Chris Akers threw for two touchdowns as Central City squeaked by East Buchanan, 14-12, in Tri-Rivers Conference football Friday night.

Bill Stanford rushed for 138 yards for the winners. The victory gives East Buchanan and Central City 2-6 records in the conference, while East Buchanan finished at 3-6 for the year and Central City at 2-7 overall.

Starmont 26 North Linn 8

STRAWBERRY POINT — Brian Sparrgrove picked up two touchdowns on runs of 5 and 6 yards to pace

Starmont to a 26-8 win over North Linn in Tri-Rivers Conference action Friday night.

Mike Breckenfelder and Al Wehmeyer added touchdowns for the winners while North Linn picked up its only score on a 13-yard scamper by Tim Smith.

Springville 45 Lisbon 19

LISBON — Chris Clarke scored three touchdowns on runs of 9, 13 and 14 yards and Kent Allison passed for three other TD's to pace the Springville Orioles to a 45-19 season-ending victory over Lisbon.

Pat Stachow added the Orioles' final TD on a 3-yard scamper.

Marion coasts into Class 3A playoffs with 52-0 rout

INDEPENDENCE — The Marion football team capped a perfect season Friday night as it rolled to its ninth straight victory, whipping shorthanded Independence, 52-0.

Vaughn Klopfenstein led the Indian attack with three touchdowns — two on four-yard runs and another from two yards out.

Tom Benkusky ran eight yards for another Marion TD. Mike McAreavy returned a punt 28 yards to score and the other Marion TD's came on one-yard runs by Kurt Hall and Brian Driscoll.

The Indians tallied up 311 total yards rushing with only 32 yards passing.

Marion now enters the Class 3A playoffs for the third straight season. It will begin Wednesday with a game on the road against Oelwein. Oelwein also is 9-0 after defeating Dyersville Beckman, 19-8, Friday.

Independence, which finished the season with a 3-6 record, was hampered Friday by the fact that several of its players were suspended during the week.

FAMED TENNIS pro Chris Evert Lloyd has had only one coach, her father Jimmy, a teaching pro in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Coach needed

Cedar Rapids Washington is in need of a coach for its girls gymnastics team. Interested persons should call athletic director Duane Kramer at 398-2226.

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Benton finishes season unbeaten

By Bob Hilton
Gazette Sports Reporter

VAN HORNE — The old tradition that "Benton Community can't be a winner" literally went up in flames on the sideline Friday night after the Bobcats' 21-0 victory over Grundy Center.

With the victory, young coach Reese Morgan's team gave Benton Community its first unblemished regular-season record at 9-0, and its first post-season berth, opposite second-ranked Fairfield in first-round Class 3A play here Wednesday.

The Bobcats last week bagged their first East Central Iowa Conference championship.

What went up in flames in the symbolic sideline ritual Friday night, Morgan explained, was "a piece of paper I was handed when I

took this job three years ago. On it were written the five barriers we had to overcome to make this a winning program.

"I told the players this week that if we won tonight, we'd burn that paper, we'd burn the old tradition that Benton Community can't be a winner."

To achieve that, the Bobcats reversed the shutout magic Grundy Center had used on seven previous opponents this fall. Grundy Center had been scored upon only in its lone loss, 22-10 to top-ranked Hudson.

"We're awfully proud of the courage and desire our kids displayed," Morgan said. "It was a great win for them, the school, and the community."

"Grundy Center is an excellent defensive team, just excellent."

But Benton Community was an

even better defensive team.

The Bobcat defenders not only limited Grundy Center to 85 yards in total offense, they were responsible for the first two Benton Community touchdowns.

On the third play of the second period, the first of cornerback Bill Boies' two one-handed interceptions gave the Bobcats the ball at the Grundy Center 6. Workhorse full-back Wade King nudged over from the 1 four plays later.

Kevin Hook ad-libbed Benton Community's final score with 2:16 left in the third period.

Back to punt, he got a low snap from center. He scooped it up and, without an instant's hesitation, swung downfield outside Grundy Center's charge, banged off a tackler at midfield, and finished a 72-yard TD jaunt running away from the pack.

Kennedy falls in overtime, 12-9

CEDAR FALLS — Cedar Falls claimed an overtime 12-9 victory over Cedar Rapids Kennedy Friday night in prep football action.

Joel Smith scored first for the Cougars on a 19-yard run in the first quarter. Kennedy led at half, 6-0.

In the third quarter, Chuck Cross kicked a 33-yard field goal for Cedar

Falls which was followed in the fourth by a 25-yard FG boot by Scott Rundall for Kennedy.

Dave Stricker of Cedar Falls then caught a eight-yard pass from Rich Sheriff to tie up the game and force overtime play.

Cross was successful on his second field goal attempt of the

evening, a 27-yard kick, to give Cedar Falls the winning edge.

The Cougars lost despite outstanding rushing by Joel Smith who had 27 carries for 121 yards.

Cedar Falls ends the season, 5-4. Kennedy dropped to 6-3.

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