

It's over! West's losing skid ends

By Mike Slagle
Gazette Sports Correspondent
IOWA CITY — The drought may not be totally over, but the drops of a sweet victory rained down on Iowa City West for the first time in nearly four seasons Friday night.

Trojan quarterback Rob Rogers connected with Mario Senter for a 20-yard TD strike with 27 seconds left in the game to lift host Iowa City West to a 35-28 win over Cedar Rapids Prairie.

The win snapped West's 35-game losing streak. The last time the Trojans were victorious was in 1988, when they registered a 20-14 victory over Cedar Rapids Kennedy in that season's fourth game.

PREP FOOTBALL

"A great win like this begins with a great week of practice," said a calm Trojan Coach Reese Morgan amid a throng of excited fans. "That is exactly what we had this week. Our fans better get use to winning, because there is going to be more on the way."

The Rogers to Senter TD aerial put the finishing touches on what was a see-saw game. The lead changed hands four times and appeared to be headed for overtime before the Trojan defense took charge late in the fourth quarter. Iowa City West allowed the Prairie offense one total yard in the final period

and no first downs in setting the stage for the winning TD pass.

Prairie (2-2) struck early. Brian Armstrong took the game's opening kickoff 80 yards around the left side of the field for a quick 6-0 Hawk lead. The PAT kick was wide right.

West came right back with its first possession going 70 yards in nine plays, capped by Senter's four yard run. The ensuing PAT gave the Trojans their first lead of the season, 7-6.

The Trojans took advantage of a Prairie turnover right before halftime. A 12-yard Rogers to Josh Lawler TD pass with under a minute remaining knotted the game at 14 at halftime.

"I knew our kids believed at halftime

that we could win this game," Morgan said. "We feel that way about every game. If we didn't, there would be no use in playing them."

Any doubt that West was focused on winning was erased 16 seconds into the second half. Trojan back Mpeti Lobeye took the kickoff and raced 83 yards to put the Trojans up 21-14.

"Winning is what it is all about," Lobeye said. "The whole team came together. This was a 'we' win."

West (1-3) used a little bit of trickery in its next possession. Tailback Senter took a pitch and rifled a 19 yard TD pass to Greg Van Hoesen to put the Trojans up 28-14.

Just as quickly as West went ahead,

however, back came the Hawks. Prairie back Dusty Coufal plunged in from 1 yard out, capping a 10 play 65 yard drive to bring the Hawks within 8 at 28-20 at the end of the third quarter.

Prairie tied the score three plays later when Brian Lefebure blindsided Rogers, knocking the ball loose. Lefebure ran 47 yards with the fumble recovery, and after the two point conversion, the game was deadlocked at 28.

Rogers was knocked out of the game for a period of about six minutes, but reentered the contest to engineer the final winning drive, a 39-yard march.

"All along we knew we could do this," said Lawler, who caught 10 passes for 105 yards. "Now, we finally have."

Lions win physical battle, 18-15

By Jeff Johnson
Gazette sportswriter

There were long passes, tough runs, hard-hitting defenses and last-minute heroics Friday night at Marion's Armstrong Field.

In other words, just another Linn-Mar/Cedar Rapids Kennedy football game.

Split end Jeff Kinne caught a 14-yard pass from quarterback Jamie Hubler with just under four minutes remaining in the game and defensive back Pat St. John had two huge fourth quarter interceptions to help lead the host Lions to an 18-15 victory over visiting Kennedy.

Linn-Mar improved to 3-1 in the Valley Division of the Mississippi Valley Conference. Kennedy dropped to 2-2 in the Mississippi Division of the conference.

"I'm just really proud of our kids," Linn-Mar Coach Greg Purnell said. "The effort that they put forth tonight was one that our fans, student body and coaches will remember for a long time. It was just a tremendous team effort."

Linn-Mar entered the final quarter with an 11-7 lead but saw Kennedy take the lead, 15-11, with 8½ minutes remaining when Cougar running back Eric Martin scored on an 8-yard run and Kennedy quarterback Jarvis Allison threw a two-point conversion pass to Derek Roberts.

The Cougar points were set up when defensive end Jason Jones recovered a Linn-Mar fumble on the Lion 32-yard line. Martin, who had 93 yards on 18 carries in the game, toted the ball six straight times to cover the 32 yards.

Kennedy then forced a Linn-Mar punt on the ensuing possession. Lion Pat St. John then stepped in front of an intended Cougar receiver and picked off an Allison pass towards the sideline with 5:43 left, putting the ball on the Kennedy 25-yard line.

"I HAVE TO GIVE the credit to (defensive end) Josh Hayler for that one," St. John said. "He was putting pressure on the quarterback from behind and made him force it a little bit. I just stepped up and grabbed it."

It then took four plays for Linn-Mar to get the

PREP FOOTBALL

deciding score. After three runs, Hubler went back on a play-action pass and hit Kinne in the right flat. He squirted away from defensive back Aaron Woods at about the 5-yard line and scampered into the end zone.

St. John then ended any Kennedy comeback hopes by picking off another Allison pass at midfield with 2:39 remaining.

"KENNEDY IS ONE of the most physical teams I've ever seen in the Mississippi Valley Conference," Purnell said. "Our kids were out-weighted, but they hung in there and they sure weren't outplayed. Whoever won that football game tonight would have played a good football game to win it."

Kennedy took a 7-0 lead in the first quarter when it drove 68 yards in 7½-minutes on its first possession. Martin scored the touchdown on a 1-yard run.

Linn-Mar took the lead just before the half after stopping a Kennedy fake punt attempt on fourth down at the Linn-Mar 40.

Wingback Mike Shipley took an inside shuffle pass from Hubler and scampered 48 yards to the Kennedy 4. Clint Nelsen scored two plays later on a 3-yard run around left end with 1:44 left in the halfand Hubler ran for the two-point conversion on a fake extra-point to give Linn-Mar an 8-7 halftime edge.

Linn-Mar took the opening possession of the third quarter and drove inside the Kennedy 10. But two quarterback sacks stopped the drive and Lion kicker Eric George nailed a 33-yard field goal to give Linn-Mar an 11-7 lead.

Hubler completed 9 of 12 passes in the game for Linn-Mar for 166 yards.

"We were really down after last week (a 56-13 loss to Iowa City High)," Hubler said. "But we had a heck of a practice and really worked our butts off this week. We came out and played a great game."

Keen leads LaSalle to 12-0 win; Lancers 2-0 in District 5 action

EDGEWOOD — Mike Keen ran for one touchdown and passed for another Friday night as Cedar Rapids LaSalle improved to 2-0 in Class 1A District 5 and 3-1 overall with a 12-0 prep football win over Edgewood-Colesburg.

Keen, who finished with a game-high 74 yards on 25 carries, scored in the second quarter on a 2-yard run. In the fourth, he found Brian O'Donnell in the end zone from 5 yards out.

Ed-Co, which collected just 79 yards on offense, fell to 0-2, 2-2. The Vikings lost three fumbles and threw three interceptions.

Linn County

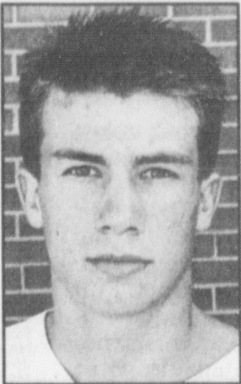
■ At Central City, ninth-ranked Center Point-Urbana rallied to nudge Central City-Springville, 8-6, in Class 2A District 5.

The Cat-birds (0-2, 1-3) drew first blood in the third quarter on a 7-yard pass from Tayte Trampe to Jason Farrington. The 2-point conversion attempt failed.

With six minutes left, Stormin' Pointer quarterback Jason Williams plunged into the end zone for the tying score, and Joel Rodgers' run for the 2-point conversion gave the Pointers (2-0, 4-0) the win.

■ Alburnett also went to 2-0, 4-0 with an 8-6 win, over 1A District 5 rival North Linn at Coggon.

The Pirates were able to convert a two-point conversion after Jason Neighbor tossed a 7-yard



Mike Keen

PREP ROUNDUP

touchdown pass to Mike Feldmann. Thomas Wright ran for the extra points.

In the third quarter, North Linn hit paydirt when Ryan Rozek slammed into the end zone from two yards out. But the Lynx (1-1, 2-2) failed on their 2-point try.

They were at the Alburnett 1 with 11 seconds left, but failed on two field goal attempts.

■ In a 1A intra-district game, fourth-ranked Lisbon rushed for 278 yards en route to a 42-30 win over Tri-County at Thornburg.

Lisbon's Jeff Clark returned the second-half kickoff 80 yards for a touchdown. Tate Stamp intercepted two Tri-County passes.

Tri-County's Travis Molyenux rushed for 110 yards and two touchdowns on 31 carries.

■ Second-ranked Solon (2-0, 4-0) rushed for 261 yards in a 58-6 2A District 6 romp at Wilton (0-2, 0-4). Andy Lawrence led the Spartans with 84 yards rushing and one touchdown. John Scranton rushed for 56 yards and three touchdowns.

■ In a 2A District 6 game at Mount Vernon, Mike Douglas passed for two touchdowns and sneaked a yard for another as the Mustangs (1-1, 3-1) trounced Louisa-Muscatine (0-2, 0-4), 39-6.

Mount Vernon led at the half, 33-6, and scored on its first possession of the third period.

Douglas' TD passes were for 23 yards to Nathan Smith, 31 to Jarud Pospisil.

Smith also ran 14 yards for a touchdown. Dan Studdt scored on two short runs.

Mount Vernon held Louisa-Muscatine to 3 yards passing, 24 rushing.

J-Hawks: Dominate Washington

■ From page 1C

period and to Tory Meiborg in the third.

Henderson moved out of the pocket on both TD passes, the first of which traveled 11 yards to Johnson and the second 20 yards to Meiborg.

"We played a lot better (tonight)," Henderson said. "They had a real tough front line . . . but after we wore 'em down, we thought we played real well. We used designed sprint-outs and the line did real well on those."

The J-Hawks may have also found another offensive weapon in fullback Donnie Karr. Just a junior, Karr came off the bench to rush for 120 yards on eight

carries, and scored a fourth-quarter TD on a 5-yard run around left end.

"He's been hurt a little bit for the last two weeks, and we've been slowly trying to get him in," Dostal said. "It's not something I want to rush. Our philosophy is, we don't want to put someone in the position to fail. We want to put them in a position to be successful."

JEFFERSON scored in its second possession of the game, moving 80 yards in 11 plays, with Henderson's 41-yard keeper on the first play setting the stage. He found Johnson alone in the

end zone with 11:53 left in the half. Chris Sarchett kicked the first of his three PATs.

THE J-HAWKS scored six minutes later when Allison intercepted a pass on the Warrior 20 yard line, and waltzed down the left sideline for the score.

Jefferson's last two TDs came on the Henderson pass to Meiborg as time expired in the third period and on Karr's run with 6:19 left in the game.

Washington got into Jefferson territory on only three possessions. Its deepest penetration was to the J-Hawk 14 early in the first period.

Connors tops error-prone Navratilova

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Jimmy Connors beat Martina Navratilova in a quasi-tennis match Friday night and her defeat was mostly her fault.

Or mostly her double-fault, to be exact.

Connors, a 6-1 favorite in man-to-woman betting, won 7-5, 6-2 before a sellout crowd of 13,832 outdoors at Caesars Palace. Both stars came to play and not to create an event, like Bobby Riggs' infamous "Battle of the Sexes" with Billie Jean King at the Astrodome in Houston 19 years ago.

"Jimmy played great," Navratilova said. "I was really impressed with how he handled the pressure. I guess I'm glad it's over."

There were few exchanges among the players and hardly any between them and the fans during the struggle for a winner's prize of \$500,000.

Navratilova committed eight double faults and two of them were key.

With Connors up 6-5 in the first set, Navratilova double-faulted away set point.

Connors was leading 3-2 in the second set and was ahead 15-30 with Navratilova serving in the sixth game when she double-faulted again. Connors then broke service, held his own and broke service again to close out the match.

Connors, on the other hand, had only six double faults, although he was allowed just one serve. This meant if he faulted, it was automatically a double fault.

Another bend of the rules allowed Navratilova to serve to a wider court. She had 2 feet, 3 inches extra on each side, or half of the doubles alley. She, however, scored only six points on shots into the doubles lane.

"I didn't take advantage of the alleys," Navrati-



Jimmy Connors

BATTLE OF SEXES

lova said. "I served poorly today.

"I was more nervous today than any match I've ever been in," said the 35-year-old Navratilova, who has won 160 women's single titles, including nine Wimbledon and four U.S. Opens.

She said she took the match because "at my age, it's difficult to do something different."

"I thoroughly enjoyed playing Martina," said the 40-year-old Connors, a winner of 109 singles titles, including two Wimbledon and five U.S. Opens. "I didn't know what to expect going out there playing her."

While Connors didn't know what was coming, what he got in the first set was a severe challenge and probably a bit of a shock when Navratilova broke his opening service.

The fans obviously enjoyed the match, shouting encouragement to their favorite, and there was very little levity among those in the crowd, which seemed to appreciate the performance of the players.

The most boos came during the warmup after Connors hit a ball into the crowd, and the umpire told the crowd to return the ball.

The match was witnessed by Riggs and King, who engaged in their "Battle of the Sexes" before more than 30,000 in 1973. King won that \$100,000 winner-take-all match 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

At the time, King was one of the leading players on the woman's tour while the 55-year-old Riggs was a former Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion and a tennis and golf hustler of some note.

While Connors got the \$500,000 prize, he and Navratilova also got substantial appearance fees, which weren't announced but were estimated to be anywhere from \$200,000 to \$500,000 apiece.

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