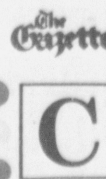


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# SPORTS



**Mike Hlas**  
Gazette  
sports  
columnist

## Ohio St.-Iowa: trick or treat?

This is the last college football Saturday before the U.S. presidential election. Don't be too quick to dismiss the relevance of that.

If the last 16 years mean anything, a changing of the guard in the White House would spell a changing of the football successes of Iowa and Iowa State.

**Exhibit A:** Iowa's football team was 16-28 from 1977 to 1980, the Jimmy Carter years. Hayden Fry coached the Hawks to a 9-13 mark in 1979 and 1980, his first two years on the job. But in the Ronald Reagan-George Bush era, Iowa is 94-43-5 with 10 winning seasons under Fry.

**Exhibit B:** Iowa State was 26-20 during the Carter presidency. The last two times the Cyclones went to bowl games were 1977 and 1978. ISU is 49-73-6 with two just winning seasons since Republicans have occupied the Oval Office.

Neither school has maintained a football program during a time when the president was a billionaire without a political party affiliation, so draw your own conclusions if Ross Perot gets elected.

Now we move from the presidential election factor to the Halloween factor, as if there were a difference.

The last time Iowa played a football game on Halloween was in 1987. The Hawkeyes were 2-2 in the Big Ten before that day's game against Indiana. They are 2-2 in the conference entering today's game against Ohio State.

Iowa won that Halloween game over the Hoosiers, 29-21, and went on to win the rest of the games on its schedule and the Holiday Bowl.

Iowa State played on that 1987 Halloween, by the way, and lost to Colorado, 42-10.

All omens aside, there is football to be played this afternoon before the ghosts and goblins rule the night.

**FIRST OFF,** Ohio State is not a very good team. Just kidding. Just kidding!!!

The Buckeyes seem to be very good, at least most of the time. They looked sensational in a 35-12 win at Syracuse, which hasn't lost to anyone else. Then came OSU's inexplicable 0-2 start in the Big Ten. Losing a close game at Wisconsin was no disgrace, but its 18-16 homefield loss to Illinois remains one of life's great mysteries.

John Cooper's troops seem to have righted themselves, though. Last Saturday's 27-17 win at Michigan State was a fine performance. OSU used the run and pass equally well and was tougher than leather on defense in the second half.

So the Buckeyes are tough nuts to crack and have a record that points them toward a bowl game. Ask yourself if Iowa would be 5-3 instead of 3-5 had it played Bowling Green and Louisville instead of Colorado and Miami. Now ask yourself if Ohio State would be 3-4 instead of 5-2 had it played Colorado and Miami rather than Bowling Green and Louisville. You know the answers.

Do keep in mind the unexpected has become the expected in recent contests between Iowa and OSU. The Hawks weren't supposed to beat the 6-1 Bucks in Columbus last year, but did.

Ohio State wasn't supposed to beat the Hawks in Iowa City two years ago when Iowa entered the game 5-0 in league play, but Greg Frey's 3-yard touchdown pass to Bobby Olive with one second left gave the Buckeyes a 27-26 stunner. OSU scored on the last play of the first half when a 48-yard pass from Frey bounced off Iowa defensive back Merton Hanks' shoulder pads and Jeff Graham's hands.

And Iowa and Ohio State fans will long remember the 28-yard TD pass from Chuck Hartlieb to Marv Cook in 1987 with six seconds left. That gave the Hawks a 29-27 upset win over the Buckeyes in Columbus and sent Earle Bruce packing.

With all the tricks Iowa and OSU have pulled on each other the last few years, Halloween is the perfect day for them to meet.

# Iowa battle cry: Remember Rodgers!

## Hawks carry grudge against Buckeyes into today's game

By Jim Ecker  
Gazette sportswriter

IOWA CITY — The Ohio State Buckeyes made two big mistakes last year when they celebrated an injury to Iowa's Matt Rodgers late in the third quarter in Columbus.

No. 1, they did not count on Jim Hartlieb subbing for Rodgers at quarterback and leading the Hawkeyes to a 16-9 victory before 95,357 fans at Ohio Stadium.

No. 2, they did not count on the Hawkeyes holding a grudge for today's encounter at Kinnick Stadium.

Iowa's offensive linemen took it personally when the Buckeyes whooped it up with Rodgers lying on the ground in pain.

"The thing that a lot of fans don't know and people don't see watching television, a lot of the Ohio State players were laughing when Matt got hurt," Hawkeye guard Mike Ferroni said this week. "It was more like a big joke to them and I think we all took it personal."

The Hawkeyes have not forgotten. "You never forget something like that," said Ferroni, a tough 280-pound senior from Union, N.J. "During this week it's something that a lot of us will be thinking about. Many of the Ohio State players that were in that game on defense last year are still there this year."

A packed house of 70,397 is expected at Kinnick Stadium (2:35 p.m., KCRG-TV Channel 9). Ohio State is a 3 1/2-point favorite.

Iowa and Ohio State will not play again until 1995, with a two-year recess to absorb Penn State's entry into the league next season.

THE HAWKEYES and Buckeyes are

■ Who: Iowa vs. Ohio State
■ When: 2:36 p.m. today
■ Where: Kinnick Stadium; Iowa City
■ TV: ABC; KCRG-TV (Channel 9)

part of a seven-way logjam for second place in the Big Ten with 2-2 league records. Iowa, 3-5 overall, needs to finish the season with a four-game winning streak to assure itself a bowl invitation.

Ohio State, 5-2, needs a victory to keep the heat off Coach John Cooper, who gets ripped in Columbus every time his team loses and sometimes when it wins.

High stakes and high emotions are the order of the day.

"We look at this game as being a war," said Ferroni. "This is for all the marbles. We can't afford to lose another game in the Big Ten and I guess neither can they."

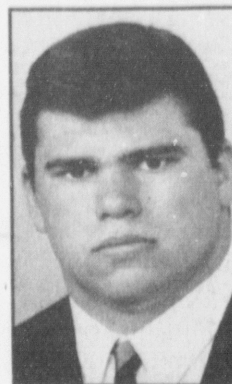
Iowa's Scott Davis, an offensive tackle,

also took umbrage at Ohio State's reactions when Rodgers got hurt last season. But he said the emotions run even deeper than that.

"They think for some reason because we don't have the great tradition that Ohio State does, they always think they're better than us," said Davis. "It's kind of like rich and poor. That usually sparks pretty intense emotion."

The Hawkeyes have come full cycle

■ Please turn to page 5C: Hawks



**Mike Ferroni**  
"You never forget something like that"

## PREP FOOTBALL

## 5 MVC teams in playoffs

By Mark Dukes  
Gazette sports editor

Five Mississippi Valley Conference teams along with Marion, Alburnett, North Linn and Solon have qualified for the state high school football playoffs.

Cedar Rapids Kennedy and Cedar Falls joined Cedar Rapids Jefferson, Linn-Mar and Iowa City High Friday night. The other three teams already had locked up berths before this week's games.

Iowa City High (9-0), Jefferson (8-1), Kennedy (6-3) and Cedar Falls (6-3) all qualified out of the Mississippi Division of the MVC. Linn-Mar won the Valley Division at 8-1.

In first-round matchups Wednesday night at 7:30, Jefferson and Kennedy clash at Kingston Stadium, Cedar Falls plays at Linn-Mar and Iowa City High will host Davenport Central.

Linn-Mar will be making its eighth straight playoff appearance and will be out to win its fourth state title. The Lions won state championships in 1985, '89 and '90.

Jefferson beat Iowa City West Thursday night to wrap up its first playoff berth since 1979. The J-Hawks won the large-school state title in 1972, the first year of the playoffs.

Iowa City High, finishing the regular season unbeaten for the first time in 39 years, will make its fifth playoff trip since 1986. Kennedy has qualified for the playoffs each of the past three seasons.

Marion finished a 6-2 regular season with a 35-13 win at Oskaloosa and will make its first playoff appearance since 1984. The Indians will open Wednesday night at Mount Pleasant.

Alburnett will make its first state playoff appearance after closing out a brilliant 9-0 season in Class 1A. The Pirates, qualify-

■ Please turn to 3C: Playoffs

## PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS



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363-7000,  
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Gazette photo by L.W. Ward

**TRIPPED UP:** North Linn's Ryan Rozek, center, heads for the turf after being tripped by an unidentified LaSalle tackler Friday night at LaSalle. The Lancers' Andy Nemecek (45) closes in. The 24-6 Lynx win sent North Linn to the playoffs. Story, 3C.

# George rescues Lions with his foot

By Jeff Dahn  
Gazette sportswriter

Heading into its Mississippi Valley Conference regular-season finale Friday night against Dubuque Senior, the Linn-Mar football team really didn't have anything to prove.

The Lions had already wrapped up their fourth straight conference championship and their eighth straight Class 4A playoff berth. Not much was riding on the game except pride and a real revulsion to losing.

The pride won out. Senior kicker Eric George nailed a 28-yard field goal with 19 seconds left to lift the 10th-ranked Lions to a thrilling, 40-38, come-from-behind win over the Rams at Armstrong Field.

"I'm just elated for our kids," Linn-Mar Coach Greg Purnell said. "To wind up 8-1 — I just feel good for the kids and the program."

The win was the sixth straight for the Lions, who expect to play their playoff opener at home

Wednesday night. Senior missed a shot at the playoffs after losing its second straight game and finishing 5-4.

Linn-Mar fell behind, 38-37, with 3:01 left in the game when the Rams' Jon Osterkamp scored on a 6-yard run and Joe Oelson booted the PAT.

The Lions started their final drive from their own 29 with 2:54 left. They used eight plays to move to the Senior 28, where they faced second-and-1. Quarterback Jamie Hubler gave to the Lions' main man — fullback Clint Nelsen — who peeled off a 10-yard gainer, and Linn-Mar had a first-and-10 on the 18.

But the offense stalled. Nelsen was held to no gain on the first play and Hubler threw a pair of incompletions, leaving the Lions facing a fourth-and-10. Purnell called on George with just 0:19 left, and his kick was perfect.

"He had to hit it, and he did," Purnell said. "He struggled a lit-

■ Please turn to 4C: Lions

## Playoff-bound Cougars rip Regis Royals, 41-14

By J.R. Ogden

Gazette assistant sports editor Cedar Rapids Kennedy played like a team that didn't want its season to end Friday night at Kingston Stadium.

And on the strength of its 41-14 whipping of northeast side rival Regis, the Cougars' season won't end just yet.

Kennedy improved to 6-3 overall and in the Mississippi Valley Conference, clinching its third straight berth in the Class 4A state playoffs.

Regis ends its first season in the MVC 2-7.

"We want to keep playing," said junior quarterback Scott O'Shea, who ran for one touchdown and passed for another while completing

6 of 10 passes for 141 yards.

The Cougars built a 31-0 lead before Regis' Tony Campbell returned a kickoff 81 yards as the first half ended. Charles Schimberg's PAT run made it 31-8 at intermission.

On Kennedy's first possession of the second half, O'Shea completed a five-play, 61-yard drive with a three-yard touchdown run with 8:22 left in the third. That put the Cougars up 38-8 and let Coach Don Knock call off the dogs.

The Royals scored with 3:51 left in the game on a 5-yard pass from Damon

■ Please turn to 4C: Cougars

# Iowa State, Missouri scuffle to avoid rock bottom in Big 8

By Mike Koolbeck  
Gazette sportswriter

The way Iowa State Coach Jim Walden sees it, the Cyclones and Missouri are two football teams on parallel tracks.

But those tracks intersect today when Iowa State hosts Missouri at Cyclone Stadium. Kickoff is at 1 p.m.

Iowa State (2-5) and Missouri (1-6) are winless in Big 8 Conference play, both at 0-3.

Both teams have instituted new offenses — Iowa State favors the running game with its option attack, and Missouri favors the forward pass.

Both teams have played well against

tough competition — Iowa State blew a 26-point lead in the third quarter before falling to No. 18 Kansas two weeks ago, 50-47. Missouri was beaten, 34-24, last week by No. 8 Nebraska and earlier in the season was clipped by No. 8 Colorado, 6-0, and No. 5 Texas A&M, 26-13.

"I think both our teams are playing really hard," Walden said. "Looking at their film and looking at our film, we're not exactly catching all the good breaks in the world."

Walden said both teams are struggling to break a losing mindset.

"They're playing as hard as they can and trying to do everything they know

how to win a ballgame, but they just can't quite get past the bridesmaid type mentality," he said.

Missouri Coach Bob Stull echoed those sentiments following the Tigers' loss to Nebraska.

"There's no doubt we're improved," he told a Columbia, Mo., newspaper. "(But) we are just not quite good enough to make the plays when we need to."

Freshman defensive tackle Steve Martin expressed his frustration to the Columbia paper.

"It's kind of like getting your paycheck and having nothing but bills," Martin said. "Bills to pay and you don't get any

for yourself. We're not reaping any of the glories."

Both teams' strengths play to the other team's weakness.

Iowa State ranks third in the Big 8 in rushing offense with a 181.3 yards per game average. Missouri is dead last in the conference in defending the rush, allowing 201.3 yards per game.

The Tigers have the second best passing offense in the Big 8 and rank ninth nationally, averaging 388.7 yards per game. Iowa State's pass defense is ranked last in the league with a 133.6 efficiency

■ Please turn to page 5C: Cyclones



