

End of a losing streak

Linn-Mar breaks 3-game skid with 36-18 homecoming victory over Dubuque Hempstead

By Jeff Johnson
Gazette sportswriter

In the throes of a three-game losing streak and seeing its postseason hopes quickly dissipating, Linn-Mar made one last grasp to save its football season Friday night.

"Everybody was just fighting out there," quarterback Wil Meggers said after his Lions claimed a convincing 36-18 win over Dubuque Hempstead.

PREP FOOTBALL

before a chilled homecoming crowd at Armstrong Field. "Our offense was fighting, and our defense. We played great. It feels great to win your homecoming. We're pumped up.

"Hopefully this will get us untracked and back to the playoffs."

Linn-Mar (2-3) made the plays on offense, as it has been doing much of the season, scoring touchdowns in each quarter — two in the second. Keith Musser ran for two scores, and Meggers threw for a touchdown and ran for another.

The maligned Lion defense finally showed its fangs, too, intercepting three passes and hopping on a fumble in the fourth quarter that essentially ended any Hempstead hopes. Linn-Mar came into the game ranked last in the Mississippi Valley Conference defensively.

"I'm just really happy for our kids," Linn-Mar Coach Greg Purnell said.

"Dropping three in a row, not playing very well and not being very aggressive those three weeks. I thought our kids came out tonight and really wanted to win a homecoming game.

"I thought we executed well, and I thought we rose to the occasion on defense when we had to and came up with some big (turnovers)."

As balanced a team offensively as there is in the Valley, Linn-Mar had six different players carry the ball and three more catch passes.

Musser led the rushers with 60 yards on nine carries. Roger Abel, the Valley's leading receiver, caught eight passes for 93 yards before leaving in the third quarter with an ankle injury.

Linn-Mar ended with 190 yards on

the ground, 115 through the air.

"Roger, the guys up front, they all had great games," said Meggers, who completed 11 of 13 passes. "We definitely wanted to get the ground game going, and that would open up our passing game a little. The misdirection seemed to work nice."

Linn-Mar scored its first touchdown late in the first quarter when Meggers hit a wide-open Abel on a 1-yard pass, then extended its lead to 14-0 with 10 minutes left in the second on Meggers' 8-yard run around end.

Hempstead took advantage of a fumbled punt return to cut the lead in half a couple minutes later. Back Zak Gordon converted on a 4th-and-3 run, then scored from 5 yards out two plays later.

Linn-Mar took the kickoff and drove 63 yards on 10 plays to make it 22-7. Fullback Dave McEowen plowed over from the 4 for the score. Nate Hansen had the two-point run.

Zach Schultz' 21-yard field goal made it 21-10 at the half, but Linn-Mar got a 31-yard TD run from Musser in the third and a 9-yard run in the fourth. Joel Decker's 10-yard pass to Tyler Hedrick in the fourth accounted for Hempstead's final points.

"Greg's got a nice team," said Hempstead Coach Roger Baylor, whose team dropped to 2-3. "He's not as big as he'd like to be, but he's got a lot of good skill players. We couldn't contain their quarterback at all."

Western Dubuque rolls

By Mike Koolbeck
Gazette sportswriter

A week ago, Marion High School got pushed around its Thomas Park football field. Friday night, the Indians got punished.

Western Dubuque unleashed a devastating ground attack in the first half in building a 28-0 lead and eased past Marion, 31-6, in a Class 3A District 4 prep football game.

The loss was Marion's fourth consecutive and dropped the Indians to 1-4 overall and 0-3 in the district. Marion also lost junior quarterback Alex Dvorsky to a mild concussion in the second quarter and had two players — juniors Matt Post and Travis Offerman — sustain possible shoulder separations.

"They're real physical and we're not very physical," Marion Coach Dave Messerli said of Western Dubuque.

Marion was held scoreless until Rob Wiley broke loose for a 78-yard touchdown run with 2:59 to play. Wiley finished with 99 of the Indians' 130 yards rushing.

Western Dubuque (4-1, 3-0) ground out 331 yards of rushing offense, 234 in the first half. Senior I-back Joe Strief upped his season rushing total to 906 yards with 158. He ran for 151 in the first half and scored two touchdowns.

"We knew going in they would try to run the football right at us and, unfortunately, we didn't tackle very well," Messerli said. "When you got a good, hard running back, you better tackle him."

Western Dubuque senior fullback Matt Moore left six Marion tacklers in his wake when he rambled 40 yards for a touchdown that capped a 98-yard drive midway through the first quarter.

"The big series was that defensive stand, when our defense stopped them on the 2-yard line," Western Dubuque Coach Tom Kilburg said. "If they scored first, this might have been a different ballgame."

The Indians came up empty on fourth-and-goal from the Bobcat 2 when Chad Zrudsky dropped Dvorsky's quickie pass.

Things went from bad to worse when Marion senior Kevin Evans fumbled the kickoff following the Western Dubuque touchdown and the Bobcats recovered at the Indian 24.

Six plays later, Bobcat senior quarterback Nic Lehman sneaked over from 1 yard out.

The Bobcats scored the next two times they got the ball, marching 72 and 49 yards.

Western Dubuque plays at West Delaware (4-1, 2-1) next Friday.

Marion plays at Benton Community (4-1, 3-0).

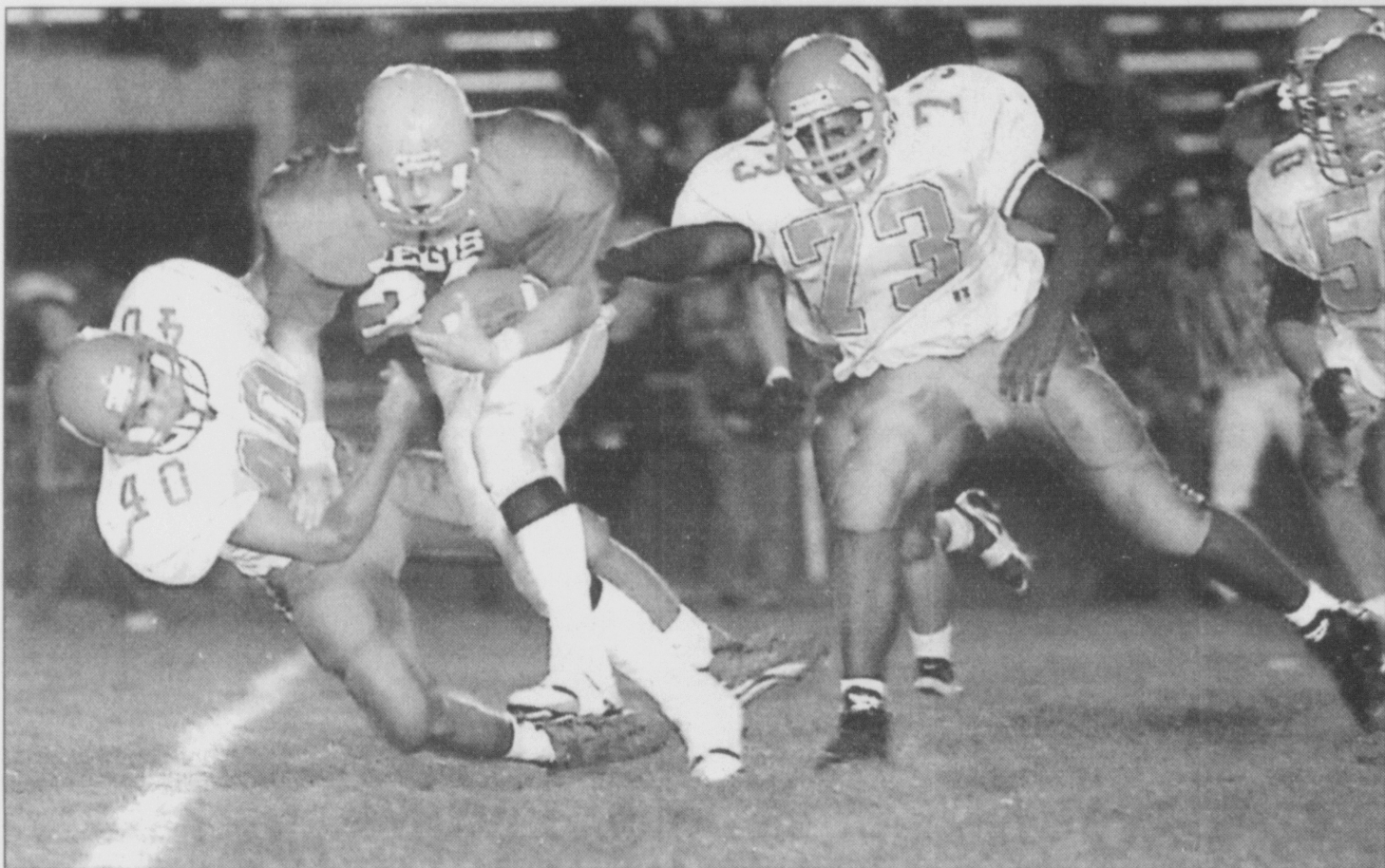


Photo by Katrina Kump, Gazette intern

Cedar Rapids Washington's Lovar Kidd (left) and Martez Pirtle chase Regis High's Ben Bowers on Friday night at Kingston Stadium. Bowers scored three touchdowns in Regis' 19-8 win.

Regis: Tops Washington, 19-8

■ From page 3C

total breakdown of various parts."

Winker was convinced his team could rebound from a 1-3 start. This year's seniors started their sophomore campaign 0-4 and finished 4-4-1.

"At 1-3, we could've tanked the season," he said. "All we did was gut it out. I knew our guys wouldn't quit."

Regis scored on its first two possessions, holding the football for 11 of the

first 13 minutes. In taking a 13-0 lead, the Royals ran 23 plays to Washington's three.

The Warriors responded with a 10-play drive of their own, capped by the Lesmeister-to-Cornish aerial on third-and-goal. But later in the second period, Washington failed on downs at the Regis three and fumbled into the end zone on fourth-and-goal at the

one, with the Royals' Dave Celichowski recovering.

Regis also wasted two scoring chances inside Washington's 5-yard line in the fourth period. But a nine-play, 35-yard march — capped by Bowers' 1-yard TD — iced the Regis win.

Hill

■ From page 3C

great job of finding me."

Price was excellent, hitting 12 of 18 passes for 166 yards and three touchdowns. Holland ran 24 times for 115 yards and a touchdown. The combination wore down the Trojans and gave City High its most balanced attack of the season against the best team on its schedule.

"We knew we had to be physical with these guys, they're a great defensive line, they've got great defensive players," Hill said.

Hill, a senior who already is getting Division I scholarship offers from the likes of Iowa, Arizona State, Kansas State and Washington, also punted twice, both times pinning the Trojans inside the 10-yard line.

And, he said, he keeps getting better.

"You're not doing your job if you're not getting better each week," he said. "We worked on it all week, I got my routes down a little better and we came out and got the job done."

City High

■ From page 3C

came from the Price-to-Hill connection.

The Little Hawks put the game away in the third quarter.

City High opened the period with an onside kick, which it recovered on its own 49. Ten plays later, Hill went high in the air at the back of the end zone to haul in a 15-yard TD pass from Price, and the momentum was definitely on City's side.

West, seemingly deflated by the turn of events, ran just seven offensive plays in the third period.

City High's passing game was set up by a solid rushing effort from Holland, who finished with 115 yards on 42 carries. He also had a 40-yard kickoff return to start the game.

"From day one when we lost to them last year (in the playoffs), everybody was talking about getting the boot back and making it back to state," Holland said. "I think we opened a lot of people's eyes tonight, stopping Vong Xaykosal and Carlos Honore. I mean, it was incredible, and our defense, I think,

"I think we opened a lot of people's eyes tonight, stopping Vong Xaykosal and Carlos Honore. I mean, it was incredible, and our defense, I think, was the key tonight."

City High running back
Jesse Holland

was the key tonight."

Xaykosal and Honore entered the game as the MVC's No. 2 and No. 3 rushers, and found nothing but frustration all night. Honore, a two-time all-state fullback, finished with 50 yards on 16 carries and Xaykosal 11 yards on five carries.

They were also responsible for several of the West fumbles.

"We made a lot of mistakes, and you can't make mistakes in a big game like this," said West Coach Reese Morgan. "But we'll be back. We have some quality kids and I know we'll be back."

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SPORTSDAY

EVENTS OF AREA INTEREST

College football

- Michigan State at Iowa, 11:20 a.m.
- Grinnell at Coe, 1:30 p.m.
- Knox at Cornell, 2 p.m.
- Dubuque at Luther, 1:30 p.m.
- Simpson at Upper Iowa, 1:30 p.m.

High school cross country

- Washington at Clinton Classic

High school girls' swimming

- Washington, Kennedy, Jefferson at Tiger Invitational in Cedar Falls

High school volleyball

- Washington at Bettendorf Invitational
- Linn-Mar at Cedar Falls NU High

College cross country

- Cornell, Luther, Mount Mercy, Coe at Loras Invitational
- Iowa, Grinnell (women) at Loyola-Chicago Invitational
- Grinnell (men) at Carleton Invitational

College men's soccer

- Teikyo Westmar at Mount Mercy, 1 p.m.
- Monmouth at Cornell, 10 a.m.
- Coe at Knox

College softball

- Northern Iowa hosting UNI-Dome Invitational
- Iowa State in Big 12 Preview at Kansas City

College volleyball

- Iowa Wesleyan at Cornell, 10 a.m.
- Illinois State at Northern Iowa, 7 p.m.
- Wisconsin at Iowa, 7 p.m.
- Colorado at Iowa State, 7:30 p.m.
- Luther, Illinois College, Buena Vista at Grinnell
- Coe at Simpson Invitational
- Mount Mercy at Wartburg tournament
- Kirkwood at Southwestern Invitational

College women's golf

- Midwest Conference meet hosted by Cornell
- Iowa Conference meet in Pella

College women's soccer

- Wisconsin-River Falls at Luther, 1 p.m.
- Monmouth at Cornell, 1 p.m.
- Wheaton at Grinnell, 2 p.m.

College women's tennis

- Wartburg at Cornell, 9 a.m.
- Grinnell, Illinois College at Knox
- Iowa at Notre Dame Invitational
- Bradley at Northern Iowa

ON TELEVISION

(Live and first-run events only)

Auto racing

- NASCAR Sears Auto Centers 250, Noon (TNN)
- NASCAR All-Pro Bumper-to-Bumper 300, 12:05 p.m. (TBS)

Baseball

- AL Division Series, Baltimore at Cleveland, Game 4, Noon (ESPN2)
- AL Division Series, New York at Texas, Game 4, Noon (ESPN)
- NL Division Series, Los Angeles at Atlanta, Game 3, 3 p.m. (FOX)
- NL Division Series, St. Louis at San Diego, Game 3, 6:30 p.m. (NBC)

College football

- Michigan State at Iowa, 11:20 a.m. (KGAN)
- Kansas at Oklahoma, 11:30 a.m. (FOX)
- Penn State at Ohio State, 2:30 p.m. (ABC)
- South Carolina at Auburn, 2:30 p.m. CBS
- Texas Christian at Tulane, 5:30 p.m. (FX)
- Clemson at Florida State, 6 p.m. (ESPN)
- Georgia at Mississippi State, 6 p.m. (ESPN2)

Golf

- LPGA JAL Big Apple Classic, 1 p.m. (NBC)
- Las Vegas Invitational, 3 p.m. (ESPN)

Horse racing

- Breeders' Cup Preview, 3:30 p.m. (NBC)

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MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Friday

NOTRE DAME INVITATIONAL

At South Bend, Ind.

Teams — 1. Michigan 61; 2. Notre Dame

3. Duke 46; 4. North Central 17; 5. Cincinnati 18; 6. Wisconsin 27; 7. Calvin 216; 8. Lewis 26; 9. Augustana 278; 10. Truman State 294; 11. Taylor 294; 12. West Virginia 296; 13. Hillsdale 309; 14. Northern Iowa 327; 15. Malone 339; 16. East Carolina 339; 17. Rochester Institute of Technology 394.

Individuals — 1. James Majorone (Taylor), 23:30; 2. John Mortimer (Michigan), 23:42; 3. Ambo Ball (Augustana), 23:58; 4. Mac Knoch (West Virginia), 24:00; 5. Jason Kering (Notre Dame), 24:02.

Northern Iowa — 10; Jay Brock, 24:27; 10. Ray Semelroth, 25:23; 7. Sam Burkett, 25:41; 9. Eric Potter, 26:08; 10. Marshall Bailey, 26:26.

TRANSACTIONS

Friday

BASEBALL

American League

Detrol Tigers — Claimed LHP Glenn

Dishman off waivers from the Philadelphia Phillies

Kansas City Royals — Released LHP

Mike Magnante. Activated RHP Kris

Roston from the 40-day disabled list.

Oakland Athletics — Claimed RHP

Dave Johnson off waivers from the Toronto Blue Jays.

National League

Cincinnati Reds — Claimed LHP Glenn

Murray off waivers from the Philadelphia Phillies

Colorado Rockies — Activated LHP

Lance Palmer from the 15-day disabled list.

San Francisco Giants — Bought out

the contract of 2nd RHP Bobby Thompson,

making him a free agent.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NFL — Suspended New Orleans Saints

DE Darren Mickel for four games for

violating the NFL's substance abuse pol-

icy.

New Orleans Saints — Suspended RB

Ray Zeigler from Sunday's game against

Jacksonville for conduct detrimental to

the club. Added LB Don Davis to the

active roster.

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

(All Iowa times)

DIVISION SERIES

(Best-of-5)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Friday's Results

Cleveland 9, Baltimore 4

(Baltimore leads series, 2-1)

New York 3, Texas 2

(New York leads series, 2-1)

Today's Games

New York at Texas, 12:07 p.m. (ESPN)

Baltimore at Cleveland, 12:07 p.m. (ESPN2)

Sunday's Games

(if necessary)

New York at Texas, 3:07 p.m. (ESPN)

Baltimore at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

TODAY'S GAMES

American League Playoffs

Game

Pitchers

W-L ERA

TEAM REC

LAST 3 STARTS

W-L IP ERA

Game

Pitchers

W-L ERA

TEAM REC

LAST 3 STARTS

W-L IP ERA

Game

Pitchers

W-L ERA

TEAM REC

LAST 3 STARTS

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PRO GOLF

Friday

LAS VEGAS INVITATIONAL

At Las Vegas

(Played on 3 courses)

Third round leaders

Rick Fehr

44-49=195

Davis Love III

44-49=195

Freddie Rodriguez

44-49=195

David Ogden

44-49=195

Marco Dawson

44-49=195

Keith Fergus

44-49=195

John Cook

44-49=195

Tommy Toles

44-49=195

Tiger Woods

44-49=195

Paul Azinger

44-49=195

Brian Tansman

44-49=195

Dave Stockton

44-49=195

Craig Stadler

44-49=195