

Mike Hlas
Gazette
sports
columnist

Not much beef this autumn

The Iowa football program knows how to work a crowd.

You go to a comedy club, they don't bring out the funniest comedian first.

You go to a rock concert, they don't open with the hottest band on the bill.

You go to a restaurant, they don't start you with the filet mignon.

You have season tickets to see the Hawkeye footballers, they aren't going to give you the season's best pairing right out of the box.

With no disrespect toward Northern Iowa — which is ranked a lot higher in Division I-AA (4th) than Iowa is in Division I-A (20th) — but this is an opening act, an appetizer.

The problem with this year's Iowa schedule is that you can't find the beef. And if you do consider the remaining home games of Tulsa, Illinois, Indiana, Purdue and Minnesota beef, it might be the kind that E. coli bacteria call home.

How can every I-A team on your home schedule be coming off a losing season? How can all four conference home games feature teams that achieved so little in 1996 that their coaches were exiled?

It is not true that the ticket slogan at Iowa this year is "Come See Us Kick People (When They're Down)."

The Big Ten schedule isn't Iowa's fault, of course. Last year, the Hawks caught eventual league co-champions Ohio State and Northwestern at home.

As for playing Northern Iowa, well, it doesn't seem all that appealing now, but it was a move that was widely praised at the time it was made. Better to give the visitors' slice of the gate to an in-state amigo rather than Central Michigan, Northern Illinois or some other non-conference pushover.

That sentiment still stands, but it would be nice if Iowa didn't see the need to bring in a featherweight at all. Central Michigan comes back to Iowa City in 1998, and Northern Illinois returns this way the following year.

In the real world of college football, though, Nebraska rolled out the red carpet for Akron last Saturday and will warmly greet Central Florida next Saturday. Ohio State should send its own jet to Bowling Green to fly the Falcons to Columbus next Saturday.

Still, the fact 8,000 tickets remained for Saturday's game at Kinnick as of Tuesday tells you that you can't fool all of the people all of the time. Iowa will probably end up with a crowd of 65,000 for UNI, a whole lot of folks no matter how you slice it.

One does wonder how many seats would be sold for that game if Iowa didn't peddle season tickets. A lot of fans pay for the bad games to be assured seats for the better ones. Most would go to all of them anyway for the total college football experience, but some would skip Saturday's contest if they weren't already buying it.

In fact, some will skip it, especially since the game is televised. If you don't want to fork over \$26 at the box office, you might be able to get a last-minute ticket from someone for, oh, \$25.50. Or \$25. Do I hear \$20? . . .

WHILE UNI-IOWA is one of many probable mismatches across this week-end's college football landscape, Los Angeles is the site of two luscious inter-regional clashes Saturday.

Florida State plays USC at the L.A. Coliseum and Tennessee visits UCLA at the Rose Bowl.

Big crowds, big excitement.

What if USC or UCLA opened up with a Division I-AA team? They would be ignored by a public with a thousand other entertainment options.

You do what you can get away with. Iowa and Nebraska are among those college programs that are the only game in town. If Iowa's football program moved to Los Angeles, two things would change in a hurry.

One, it wouldn't be called "Iowa" anymore. Two, the Northerns and Centrals of the world would never be seen again.

Davis jumps to starting role

Ex-ISU standout earns shot in 2nd game for Saints

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Recognition has never come easy for Troy Davis. He finished second in Heisman Trophy balloting last year and second for the Doak Walker Award.

On the field, though, he's always been No. 1 and he's back there again — moving into the starting spot for the

New Orleans Saints one game into his NFL career.

"I never thought it would come this soon," Davis said. "I knew it would happen, but I

PRO FOOTBALL

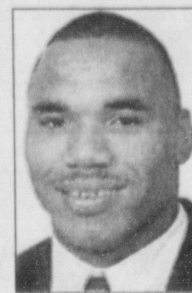
thought it would be down the road."

That's not bragging. Davis was just being realistic about his abilities. After all, he was a 2,000-yard rusher in high school. And at Iowa State, Davis led the nation in rush-

ing the past two years, gaining 2,185 yards last season and 2,010 the year before, when he became the first sophomore to reach 2,000.

The 5-foot-8, 180-pounder is Iowa State's career leader in rushing (4,382) and all-purpose yardage (5,177). He has 20 games in which he gained 100 yards, a school record. He holds Iowa State's single-game rushing record of 378 yards, set against Missouri last year.

His yardage figure last year at Iowa State was the third-



"I've got a big heart. I'll take on anybody in the world."

Saints running back Troy Davis

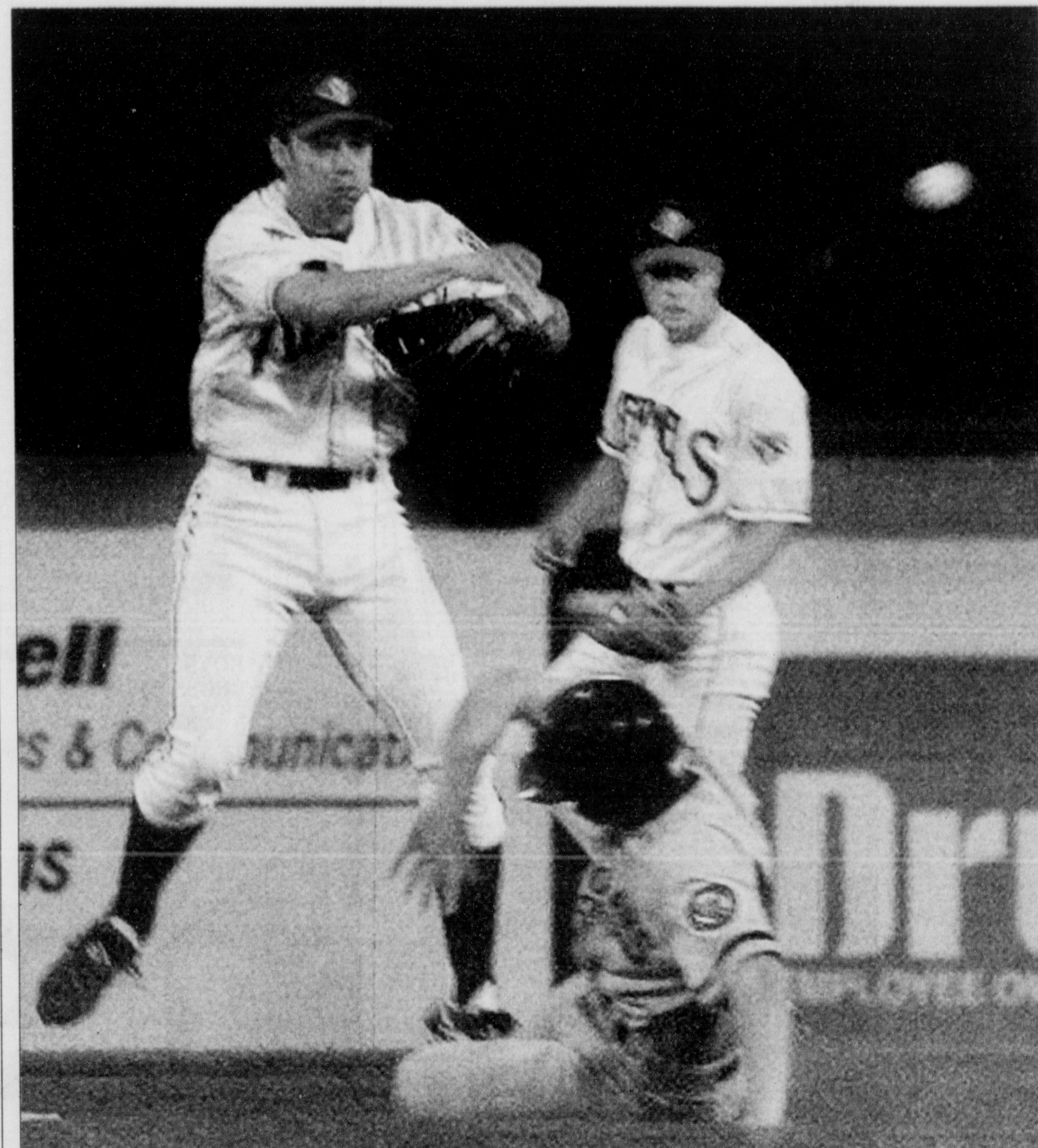
highest in NCAA history and his 402 carries were just one less than Marcus Allen's NCAA record.

"I never got credit for what

I did," Davis said without any bitterness. "People said I got all my yards in the third and

■ Turn to 5C: Davis

Kernels a miracle shy



Cedar Rapids second baseman Chuck Abbott turns the double play against the sliding Jeff Venghaus of Kane County last night at Memorial Stadium. Kane County won, 6-5, in the first game of a playoff series.

9th-inning magic comes up a run short in a 6-5 playoff loss

By Mike Koolbeck
Gazette sportswriter

The Cedar Rapids Kernels finally ran out of comebacks Thursday night at Memorial Stadium.

Now the question is, will they be run out of the Midwest League playoff games tonight.

The Kernels, who pulled off one of the all-time great comebacks Monday by scoring nine runs in the bottom of the ninth to beat Burlington, left the winning run at second base last night and were beaten by Kane County, 6-5. The Cougars, powered by a five-run seventh inning, took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-3 semifinal round series.

Game 2 is tonight at 7 at Elfstrom Stadium in Geneva, Ill., where the Kernels are 4-0 this season. The Kernels will send right-hander

MIDWEST LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

Jerrold Riggan, who was 9-8 with a 4.89 ERA during the regular season, against Kane County right-hander Bobby Rodgers, who was 8-10 with a 3.86 ERA. Riggan was 1-0 in his only start against the Cougars. Rodgers was 0-1 against the Kernels.

If a third game is necessary it will be played Saturday night at Kane County.

"We're looking pretty good right now," admitted Kane County Manager Lynn Jones. "But tomorrow's another day. They could come out smokin'. They swing the bat and that worries me."

The Kernels swung the bat Thursday, rapping out 12 hits. But they squandered three home runs and a nifty pitching performance by southpaw Jason Stockstill in suffering their first loss in three postseason games. They swept Burlington to reach the semis.

The Kernels trailed, 6-4, with one out in the ninth inning when Juan Rodriguez and Eric Gillespie stroked back-to-back singles. Shawn Wooten then greeted Kane County reliever Mark Richards with an RBI double into the left-field corner that put the tying run at third and winning run at second.

Jones opted to intentionally walk Jeff Guiel, whose two-run home run in the fourth inning had given the Kernels a 2-1 lead.

The strategy paid off when Kevin Ham shot a

■ Turn to 4C: Playoffs

Kennedy piles up yards in opening defeat of Regis

By Jeff Dahn
Gazette sportswriter

The usual rough edges and mental mistakes that come with any season-opener were often in full view, but count Cedar Rapids Kennedy football coach Don Knock among those feeling pretty good about things today.

"The kids played pretty well for a first game," Knock said Thursday night. "Anytime you can get a win in this league, you'll take it. And a win over Regis is especially nice because that hasn't happened for a while."

Kennedy's J.C. Steinburg rambled and rolled for 216 yards on 27 carries, Joel Andrew rushed for 103 and Kyle Bassett passed for 123 more as Kennedy beat eastside rival Regis, 36-21, in a Mississippi Valley Conference opener at Kings-

PREP FOOTBALL

ton Stadium.

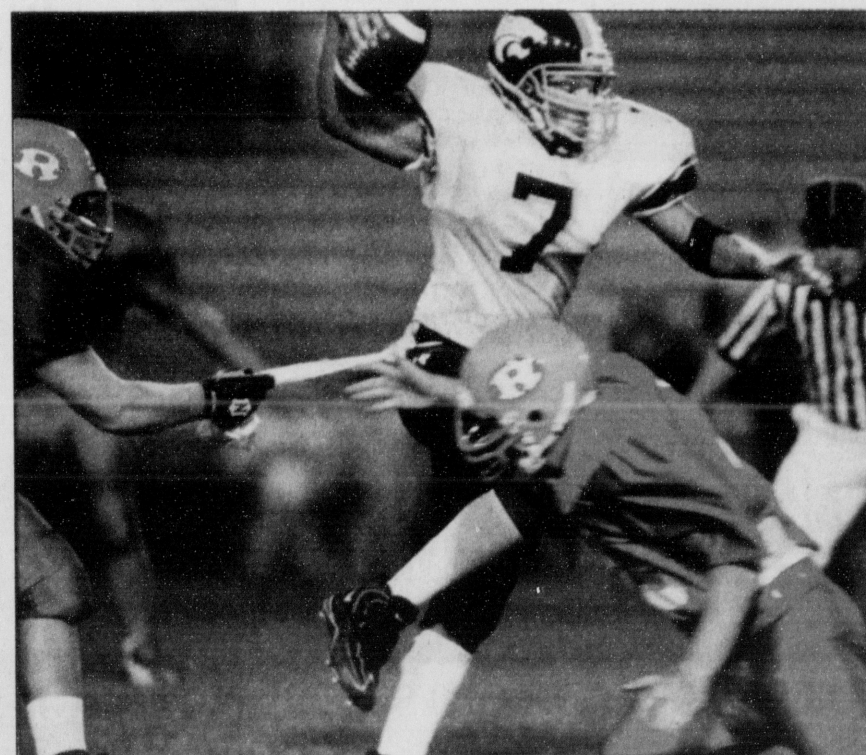
The Cougars were much more dominant on the stat sheet than on the scoreboard because of numerous penalties and some mistakes on special-team play.

Regis was able to turn a couple of the special-team blunders into TDs.

"For as much time as we spend on our special team play, we made far too many mistakes," Knock said. "Our defense didn't really give up those points, our special teams did."

The Cougars were penalized 11 times for 111 yards and had two long touchdown plays negated by

■ Turn to 4C: Preps



Kyle Bassett of Cedar Rapids Kennedy tries to slip out of the towel hold applied by Seth Scott of Cedar Rapids Regis last night at Kingston Stadium. Kennedy opened the Mississippi Valley season with a 36-21 victory over the Royals.

Gazette photoby David Lee Hartlage

Vital ingredients in mix for good cooking by '97 Hawks

By Jim Ecker
Gazette sportswriter

IOWA CITY — The University of Iowa could have a good football team this year. Maybe very good. Maybe exceptional.

The Hawkeyes have the talent, experi-

ANALYSIS

ence, leadership, motivation and coaching to compete for the Big Ten title.

Their road schedule could be a detriment, there isn't much depth at some spots, and the kicking game is unsettled heading into Saturday's opener against UNI.

Here's a comprehensive look at the Hawkeyes of 1997:

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks — Matt Sherman is fully healthy and appears poised for a big year. He's thrown for 5,200 yards and 32 TDs and could finish No. 2 on the all-time charts behind Chuck Long. The fifth-year senior from St. Ansgar is 19-7 as the starter. If Sherman gets hurt, the Hawkeyes could have trouble on the road. Randy Reiners, Kory Hauser, Scott Mullen and Kyle McCann have no experience.

Tailbacks — The Hawkeyes lost Sedrick Shaw, their all-time leading rusher, but Tavian Banks steps in and gives

Iowa one of the best runners in the Big Ten. Banks can turn any play into a touchdown with his explosive ability. He led the Hawks in scoring last year, unusual for a No. 2 guy. He has 1,286 yards and 16 career TDs. The question is depth. Banks was a great replacement when Shaw got hurt last year. Now Rob Thein and Doug Miller must be able to do the same.

Fullbacks — Michael Burger is a solid blocker, runner and receiver. He could be a big weapon when defenses concentrate on Banks and Tim Dwight. Thein, who rotates between tailback and fullback, is the No. 2 guy here, according to Coach Hayden Fry, even though Trevor

Bollers is listed on the depth chart.

Wide receivers — Dwight is Mr. Excitement. The darkhorse candidate for the Heisman Trophy enters his final campaign with 97 catches for 1,567 yards and 13 TDs. He could finish No. 1 in school history in all categories. He's also dangerous on reverses. Fellow seniors Damon Gibson, Richard Carter and Richard Willock have made big catches and have the experience to blossom. Tony Collins is an exciting youngster. Alexe Rodopoulos left school to seek playing time elsewhere.

Tight ends — Chris Knipper stuck to

■ Turn to 5C: '97 Hawks

- THE TEAMS: Iowa vs. Northern Iowa
- THE PLACE: Kinnick Stadium
- KICKOFF: 11:35 a.m.
- TV: KGAN (Channel 2)
- TICKETS: Available, \$26
- GO!GazetteOnline for more Iowa/UNI football coverage at <http://www.GazetteOnline.com/hawkeyes/football/>



■ **THE TEAMS:** Iowa State vs. Wyoming

■ **THE PLACE:** Laramie, Wyo.

■ **KICKOFF:** 3 p.m.

■ **TV:** None

■ **GO!** *GazetteOnline* for more Iowa State/Wyoming football coverage at <http://www.GazetteOnline.com/cyclones/football/>

Rotating QBs face Cyclones

By Mike Koolbeck
Gazette sportswriter

Uh-oh. Here comes another case of quarterback roulette for the Iowa State football team's defense.

Wyoming Coach Dana Dimel said Thursday he plans to rotate quarterbacks Jeremy Silcox and Jay Stoner when the Cowboys host Iowa State. Kickoff is 3 p.m. (Iowa time) Saturday at War Memorial Stadium in Laramie, Wyo.

Dimel said he was pleased with the play of Silcox, a fifth-year senior, in the Cowboys' season-opening, 24-10, loss at Ohio State last week. But he said Stoner, a red-shirt freshman, has been coming on strong in practice and deserves a chance to play.

"I know I talked about going with one guy before the season started," said Dimel, Wyoming's first-year coach. "And Jeremy's a senior I feel very comfortable about. But Jay Stoner has just

CYCLONE FOOTBALL

been doing a fantastic job and getting better and better with every practice.

"So, we're going to start Jeremy, but we're going to play Jay just as much, at least for this first game. That's the formula that took Ohio State to the No. 2 spot in the nation last year."

Dimel said the two most likely will alternate quarters against Iowa State. But in future games, he'll play them both and "then go with whoever has the hot hand."

Oklahoma State employed a similar strategy against Iowa State last Saturday night at Ames, when red-shirt freshman Tony Lindsay came off the bench and guided the Cowboys to a 21-14 come-from-behind victory.

Both quarterbacks are likely to be well prepared for the Cyclones (0-1). Dimel, at 34 the youngest coach in NCAA Division I-A, was offensive coordinator at Kansas State the past two seasons when the Wildcats whipped the Dan McCarney-coached Cyclones by an aggregate score of 84-27.

"At K-State we were one of those teams, just because of the mentality of our head coach, that while most teams watch four games from the season, we'd watch all of them," Dimel said. "So I've seen every game Iowa State's played since McCarney's been there. We're really familiar with what they do."

Last year, Kansas State's Mike Lawrence ran for 256 yards against Iowa State and Wyoming quarterback Josh Wallwork passed for 386 yards.

"Our offense is so diverse, that they don't know each week what we're going to come out in," he said. "We could come out this week with no backs or we could come out with two backs and run the ball."

Late Models run for title

Gazette staff report
Hawkeye Downs Speedway will host its season championship in the Late Model division tonight.

The Modifieds, Sportsman and Hobby Stock divisions will have

AUTO RACING

their season championships Sept. 12 and will run regular points races as part of tonight's program.

Racing begins tonight with hot laps at 6 and Late Model time trials at 7:15. The first heat race should begin about 7:30.

Max Corporon of Marion is positioned to unseat Johnny Spaw of Cedar Rapids as the Late Model track champion. Spaw has won five straight track titles but trails Corporon by 24 points, 569-545, entering tonight's racing.

Kevin Korsmo of Hiawatha (529), Curt Martin of Independence (524) and John Robinson of West Des Moines (508) round out the top five.

Nelson travels to 'home' game

By J.R. Ogden
Gazette assistant sports editor
Northern Iowa's Erik Nelson has mixed emotions about Saturday's football game against the Iowa Hawkeyes.

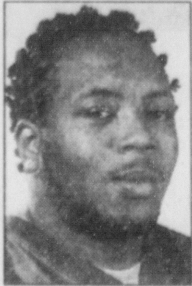
He loves the chance to play in Kinnick Stadium — a place where his father, Jerry, played from 1968 to '73 — and to show some old friends how far he's come since his days at City High.

"But I know the same people who were cheering for me in high school will be cheering against me now," said the junior defensive end.

Plus, he added, the Hawkeye lineup has a couple of old friends and teammates. Tim Dwight and Rob Thien both played with Nelson at City High and freshman Carlos Honore is a good friend.

"You don't wish them the worst, but you really don't want them to win," he said.

Unlike several UNI players, Nelson isn't worried about showing the Iowa



Erik Nelson
Heading home

PANTHER FOOTBALL

staff what they missed. Nelson started his collegiate career at Nebraska after being turned down by Big Ten teams because "I basically needed a Spanish class.

"I would have picked Nebraska over Iowa anytime," he said.

Although he said "I have nothing to prove," Nelson said he'd like to show the state — and nation, for that matter — that Northern Iowa is a good team.

"We haven't been given any respect," he said. "Nobody's picking us to win. I guess nobody should expect us to win but us.

"We're not going to let the underdog role take us under."

And don't tell Nelson the Panthers have nothing to lose.

"We want to win, too," he said. "Nobody likes to lose."

In his first year at UNI, the 6-foot-1, 263-pound Nelson made quite an impact. Starting just five of UNI's 14 games last fall, he finished with 41 tackles and four sacks to earn a spot on the Gateway Conference's all-Newcomer team.

He's looking for even better things

this fall, but isn't real concerned with flashy numbers.

"I would like to have all that (post-season) recognition, but it's not going to rain on my season if I don't," he said. "I just want to win games."

And he wants another ring.

He won two national championship rings while at Nebraska — including one his red-shirt year — and last year picked up another ring when UNI won the Gateway title.

"If I would have stayed at Nebraska last year, I wouldn't have gotten a ring," he said.

"Every year I get ring. Hopefully, I'll get another ring."

Life in Cedar Falls has been a big adjustment for Nelson, who lived in San Diego before moving to Iowa City during his sophomore year.

"It's all right," he said. "It's smaller than Nebraska (and) the social life is not like San Diego.

"But it's a nice environment to get your education. The guys on the team help me survive."

And getting some serious playing time — something he missed at Nebraska, precipitating his transfer — is nice, too.

"It's a lot easier to take," he said.

Preps: Season opener

■ From page 1C

the yellow flags.

On the bright side, Kennedy finished with 560 yards of offense — 437 on the ground — and totaled 27 first downs.

Regis had 99 yards and four first downs to show for its offensive output.

"OUR LINE BLOCKED real good and our defense played real good," said Bassett, a strong-armed Kennedy senior who completed 10 of 19 passes, threw for a pair of touchdowns and rushed for another. "Our only breakdowns were on special teams."

Two of Regis' three touchdowns came directly from those breakdowns.

The first was a stylish 93-yard kickoff return by Dave Celichowski with 7:43 left in the first half, and the second came with 8:35 left in the game after the Royals blocked a punt and took possession at the Kennedy 12.

Celichowski also caught a 12-yard touchdown pass from Matt Vaughn for Regis' first TD.

Kennedy's scores came from everyone and everywhere.

Bassett ran for an 18-yard TD and fired scoring passes of nine yards to Trevor Zahn and B.J. Hachey.

Steinburg popped through a huge hole up the middle to cover 36 yards for a second-quarter TD and Andrew powered his way up the gut for a 50-yard score early in the third period.

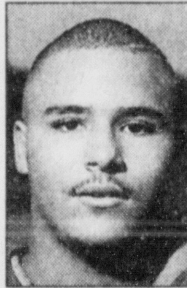
Scott Therkelson added a 24-yard first half field goal.

"WE REALLY THOUGHT we'd play better defensively than what we did," said Regis Coach Mike Winker.

"We're going to have to learn to play some defense because every team in this league can move the ball."

Thursday's game was the last meeting between the two Metro schools.

Regis will merge with LaSalle next year to form Xavier High School.



J.C. Steinburg
216 yards rushing

GAME DAY Preps

LINN-MAR at C.R. JEFFERSON

■ **SITE:** Kingston Stadium
■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
■ **RADIO:** KTOF-AM (1360), KCRG-AM (1600) periodic updates during Kernels broadcast
■ **RECORDS:** Linn-Mar 0-0, Jefferson 0-0
■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Jefferson ushers in the Dave Jacobson era in this Mississippi Valley Conference and season opener, which means its difficult to know what to expect. Jacobson's West Delaware teams of the early 1990s featured wide-open offense and classic, aggressive defense. Linn-Mar has one of its better teams of the last several seasons led by a junior class that has never lost a football game.

IOWA CITY HIGH at C.R. PRAIRIE

■ **SITE:** Wall Field
■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
■ **RADIO:** KXIC-AM (800), KCJJ-AM (1560)
■ **RECORDS:** City High 0-0, Prairie 0-0
■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** This should be one of the best openers in the MVC. City High won the Class 4A state championship with a 13-0 mark in 1996, and although graduation took its toll, the Little Hawks look to be the team to beat once again. Prairie, 5-4 a year ago, is looking to return to the playoffs behind experienced line play and lots of returning talent at the skill positions.

CENTRAL CITY-SPRINGVILLE at C.R. LASALLE

■ **SITE:** Lancer Field
■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
■ **RECORDS:** Central City-Springville 0-0, LaSalle 0-0
■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Class 1A LaSalle rolled to a 9-0 regular-season record in 1996, including a 33-7 win over Class 2A Central City-Springville (2-7). Steve Kelous and Alan Read are in their first seasons as co-coaches for the CatBirds. The Lancers lost talent to graduation, but Coach Duane Schulte thinks he has the talent to make another run for the playoffs.

C.R. WASHINGTON at IOWA CITY WEST

■ **SITE:** Trojan Field, Iowa City
■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
■ **RADIO:** WMT-AM (600)
■ **RECORDS:** Washington 0-0, West 0-0
■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** West is again considered one of the favorites in the MVC's Mississippi Division after posting back-to-back championships. The Trojans lost a couple of outstanding running backs to graduation but return quarterback Nick Whisler, probably the league's best. Washington was able to score a lot of points in 1996 but will have to shore up its defense if it hopes to compete with the league's upper-echelon teams.

MARION at ANAMOSA

■ **SITE:** Anamosa
■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
■ **RECORDS:** Marion 0-0, Anamosa 0-0
■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Class 3A Marion limped through a 1-8 campaign last season while Class 2A Anamosa won its last three games to finish 6-3. The Indians are looking to open things up offensively behind returning quarterback Alex Dvorsky.

MID-PRAIRIE at MOUNT VERNON

■ **SITE:** Mustang Field, Mount Vernon
■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
■ **RECORDS:** Mid-Prairie 0-0, Mount Vernon 0-0
■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Perennial Class 2A playoff qualifier Mount Vernon opens the season against a Class 2A Mid-Prairie team that looks to be much stronger than last year's 3-6 group. This is a non-district game, but these former Eastern Iowa Hawkeye Conference foes always go at each other tooth-and-nail.

WEST BRANCH at CENTER PT.-URBANA

■ **SITE:** Center Point
■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
■ **RECORDS:** West Branch 0-0, Center Pt.-Urbana 0-0
■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Class 2A West Branch (9-1 in 1996) has boasted one of the state's top programs under Coach Butch Pedersen (120-25) and has 62 straight regular-season wins. The Bears are among the favorites in District 6. The Stormin' Pointers (5-4 last year) are among the favorites in 2A-4, making this one of the night's premier non-district matchups.

BENTON COMMUNITY at INDEPENDENCE

■ **SITE:** Independence
■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
■ **RECORDS:** Benton Community 0-0, Independence 0-0
■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** The first two weeks of the season enable teams to take on old rivals outside of their district, and this is one of them. Benton Coach Kai Goodrich may have one of his best teams, which is something since the Bobcats were 7-2 in 1996. Independence was just 2-7 last season, but Coach John DenHartog has a lot of talent back, led by tailback Justin Beatty.

MONTICELLO at WEST DELAWARE

■ **SITE:** Manchester
■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
■ **RECORDS:** Monticello 0-0, West Delaware 0-0
■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Coach Sam Anderson has compiled a 20-3 record in two seasons at Class 3A West Delaware, and the Hawks should be strong again. This game begins a trying stretch for Class 2A Monticello, which hosts 3A Maquoketa in Week 2 before starting district play against traditional powers Mount Vernon and Solon.

WEST LIBERTY at SOLON

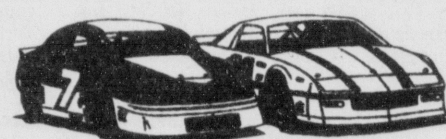
■ **SITE:** Spartan Field, Solon
■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
■ **RECORDS:** West Liberty 0-0, Solon 0-0
■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** A strange thing happened in 1996: Solon (6-3) missed the playoffs. Coach Hansen thinks this year's group will be improved and will be a factor in the Class 2A District 5 title hunt. West Liberty was 4-5 last year but Coach Steve Kuhl also thinks he has a much-improved team.

TONIGHT!

BRINGS YOU

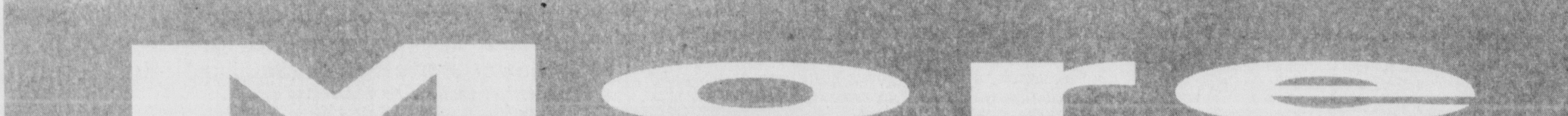
LATE-MODEL CHAMPIONSHIP

TIMES	ADMISSION
Grandstand Opens 6 p.m.	Adults\$8.00
Time Trials7:15 p.m.	Seniors over 60\$5.00
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SPORTSDAY

EVENTS OF AREA INTEREST

Prep football

- Lin-Mar vs. Jefferson at Kingston Stadium, 7:30 p.m.
- Iowa City High at Prairie, 7:30 p.m.
- Central City-Springville at LaSalle, 7:30 p.m.
- Washington at Iowa City West
- Marion at Anamosa

Women's college golf

- Mount Mercy, Luther, Coe, Cornell, Grinnell in Mount Mercy Invitational at St. Andrews, 11 a.m.

College volleyball

- Hawkeye Classic in Iowa City (Iowa vs. Cal State-Sacramento), 5 & 7 p.m.
- Viterbo at Upper Iowa, 7 p.m.
- Grinnell at Westminster tournament
- Luther at Wisconsin-Platteville tournament
- Iowa State at Hofstra tournament
- Northern Iowa at Loyola-Chicago tournament

Women's college soccer

- Iowa State at Air Force
- Iowa at Kent State

Women's college tennis

- Upper Iowa at Wartburg quadrangular
- Grinnell at Lake Forest

Auto racing

- Late Model Season Championships at Hawkeye Downs, 7 p.m.

Dragon boats

- International Dragon Boats Festival at Robins Lake in Ellis Park.

Midwest League playoffs

- Game 2: Cedar Rapids Kernels at Kane County, 7 p.m.

ON TELEVISION

(Live and first-run events only)

Auto racing

- NASCAR Miller 400 Qualifying, 4:30 p.m. ESPN2
- NASCAR Autolite Platinum 250, 6:30 p.m., ESPN.

Bowling

- U.S. Amateur Championship, 3 p.m., SportsChannel

Boxing

- Friday Night Fights, 7 p.m., ESPN2

Cycling

- National Championships, 7 p.m., SportsChannel

Horse racing

- American Championship Harness Series, 9 p.m., ESPN2

Pro baseball

- New York Mets at Chicago Cubs, 2 p.m., WGN

- Chicago White Sox at Cleveland Indians, 6 p.m., WGN

- Atlanta Braves at San Diego Padres, 9:35 p.m., TBS

Pro golf

- Bell Canadian Open, Second Round, 3 p.m., ESPN

Pro tennis

- U.S. Open, Women's Semifinals, 10 a.m., CBS

- U.S. Open, Women's Semifinal, 11:30 a.m., CBS

Soccer

- Pro Beach League, 4 p.m., SportsChannel

Softball

- Miller Beer Super 16" League, Noon, SportsChannel

Triathlon

- Escape From Alcatraz, 1 a.m., SportsChannel

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- Motor sports — 3750

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- E-mail — gazsport@iowaonline.net

DIAL: 363-7000 or 337-7000

- AP network sports — 3000
- Pro golf report — 3075
- Pro tennis report — 3085
- Sports headlines — 3125
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