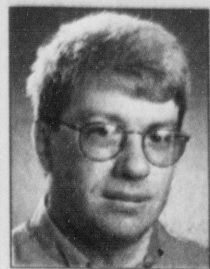


SPORTS



Mike Hlas
Gazette
sports
columnist

Hard to fly when too high

IOWA CITY — Athletes walk fine lines when approaching important contests.

You have to compete with emotion. Come out too cool, you'll get your head handed to you. But the more pumped up you are, the quicker you can deflate.

Iowa's football team says it was too excited for last year's game against Ohio State in Iowa City. A week after departing Penn State with a 21-20 upset win, the Hawkeyes hosted the No. 2-ranked Buckeyes. A win would have given Iowa a 4-0 Big Ten record.

Ohio State triumphed, 38-26. The Buckeyes built their 31-6 halftime lead on a recovery of a blocked punt in the end zone, two touchdown passes set up by interceptions and a kickoff the Hawks never saw, let alone recovered.

Iowa fought back gallantly in the second half, but was doomed by its early self-destruction against a very talented, very opportunistic team.

"Making mistakes because we wanted it so badly," was how Iowa Coach Hayden Fry remembered it this week.

How could the Hawks not have wanted it so badly? How can they not want Saturday's game at Ohio State so badly?

"I have to be real careful and my coaches have to be careful, and my players have to understand that we have a legitimate shot of winning the game this year if we step it up to another level," Fry said. "How do you step it up without becoming emotional and all that? It's a difficult thing. I don't have the answer."

But maybe he does. Maybe the answer is "Men, remember the way we went out half-cocked last year against Ohio State? Well, don't do that again. Just play ball and have fun, you silly geese."

Not being dopes, Iowa's players surely learned from the OSU loss of 1996.

"We're a pretty veteran team," Iowa's Tim Dwight said. "I think we understand what we have to do. We understand the best we play and when we play well is when we just go out there and not worry about who we're playing, and play the game as best we can."

"You've got to understand if you get too hyped up and things don't go well, then you falter. Like last year, we were way too high for the game. Then things didn't go our way in the first half and we just kind of fell apart. We know what it feels like to get too high."

Iowa almost surely won't rumble into Ohio Stadium and beat the Buckeyes from pillar to post. After calling all the tunes and dancing all the dances for four games, the Hawks will face adversity in Columbus. To have any chance of winning, poise is essential.

"We just have to relax and go on with the attitude that things are gonna happen and they're gonna put us in some bad situations," Dwight said.

This ought to be a time when Fry preaches a corny joke will work better for a pre-game talk than fire and brimstone.

"I'm sure not gonna give them any pep talks or anything like that," Fry said. "If we just go out there and play our regular game, we've got a good football team. We'll be pretty good."

"There's no speeches that need to be made for this game," Dwight agreed. "I'm sure they're not getting all rah-rah, either."

Championship teams keep even keels. They don't hold lesser teams like Illinois in contempt or place powers like Ohio State on pedestals. They prepare for and respect everyone.

That isn't to say this Iowa squad is championship material. It has, however, been all business for four games. If it was looking ahead to the Buckeyes, it did a masterful job of disguising it.

Now the biggest game of the season (so far, anyhow) is at hand. If you see the Hawks break out of their swarm and start flying around like nutjobs as they come out for Saturday's opening kickoff, bet on the Bucks. If they stay together and appear calm, you may want to avoid any wagering.



Gazette file photo by John F. Martin

Iowa quarterback Matt Sherman, hollering out an audible last month against UNI in Iowa City, leads the Hawks in a Big Ten showdown this Saturday at Ohio State. Although Sherman is one of the winningest quarterbacks in school history, he has yet to be completely embraced by all of the Hawkeye faithful.

Proven winner can't win fans

Win at OSU could bring them all into Sherman's camp

By Jim Ecker
Gazette sportswriter

IOWA CITY — Matt Sherman might be the best unloved quarterback in Iowa history. He's compiled an impressive body of work, yet some fans have been slow to embrace the senior from St. Ansgar.

That could change Saturday with a signature victory over the seventh-ranked Ohio State Buckeyes.

Iowa Coach Hayden Fry laughs at the suggestion. He thinks Sherman has proven himself in enough tough games to merit a special spot in school annals.

"I don't think Matt needs to do anything," Fry insisted. "It's the other folks who write about him or evaluate him or whatever."

"He's doing his thing. His statistics speak for themselves. It's just a matter of recognition."

That's it exactly: Recognition. It has eluded Sherman most of his career, for whatever reason.

He would get plenty Saturday if he leads the 11th-ranked Hawkeyes to an upset victory over the seventh-ranked Buckeyes at Ohio Stadium.

Sherman has never craved special recognition. He's happy to let Tim Dwight and Tavian Banks share the applause.

He just wants to do his job and help Iowa win games. He doesn't think he needs a signa-

QB RATINGS

Iowa quarterback Matt Sherman ranks second in school history in touchdown passes and fourth in school history in passing yards:

TD passes

Player	Yrs	TDs
Chuck Long	1981-85	74
Matt Sherman	1994-97	42
Matt Rodgers	1988-91	41
Chuck Hartlieb	1986-88	37
Randy Duncan	1956-58	23

Yards

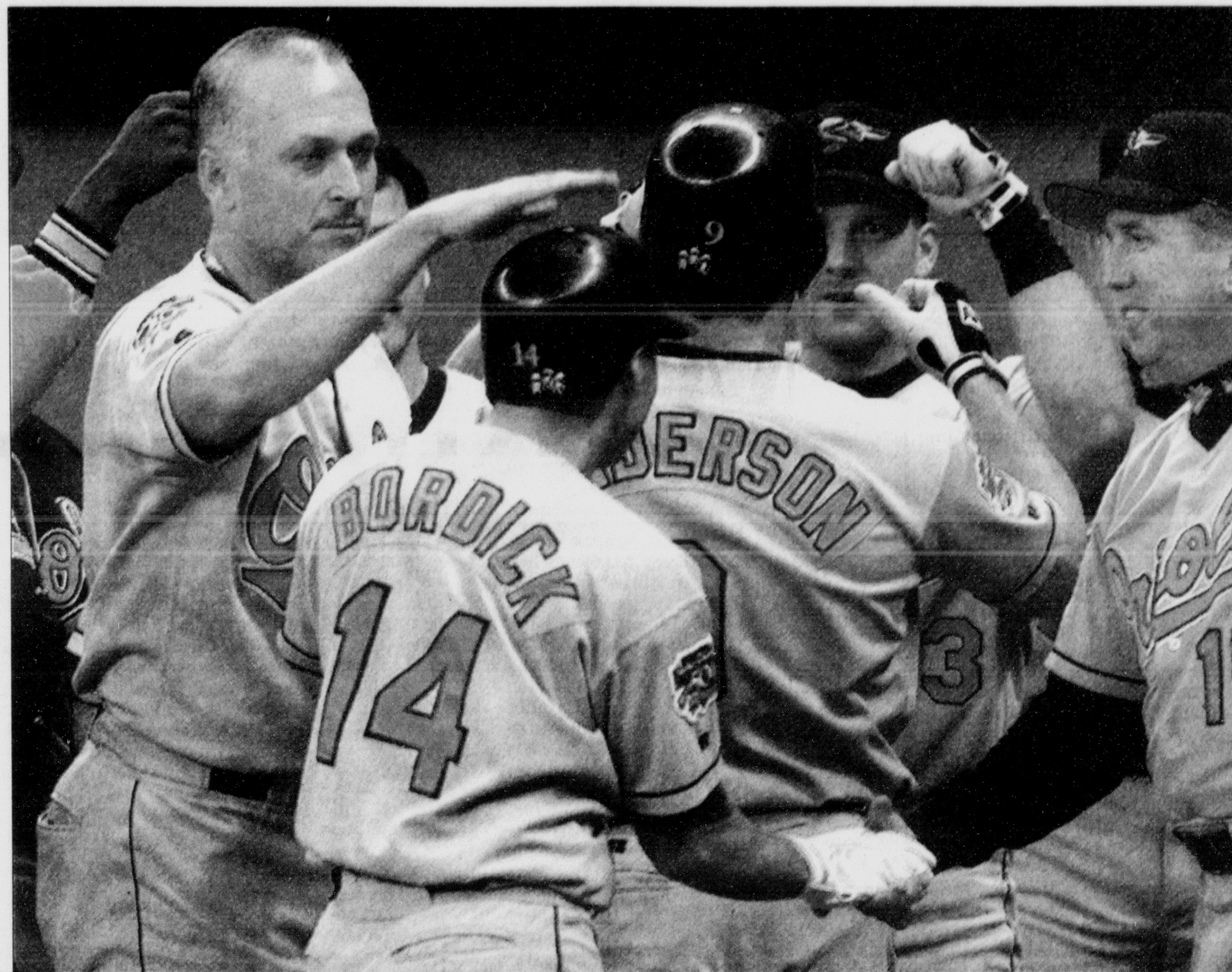
Player	Yrs	Yards
Long	1981-85	10,461
Hartlieb	1986-88	6,934
Rodgers	1988-91	6,725
Sherman	1994-97	6,004
Gary Snook	1963-65	3,738

ture victory over the Buckeyes to cement his spot in school history, and doesn't seem to care.

"Maybe some people say that, but I think what I've done for this team is spoken in the records," he said.

■ Turn to 3C: **Sherman**

Orioles rip bullpen



AP photo

Baltimore Orioles Brady Anderson and Mike Bordick are greeted by teammates Thursday after scoring on a Roberto Alomar double in the fifth inning at Seattle. Baltimore defeated the Mariners, 9-3, to take a 2-0 lead in their American League Division Series.

Seattle fades quickly after Moyer injury

SEATTLE (AP) — An elbow injury did what the Baltimore Orioles couldn't do — knock Jamie Moyer out of the game.

As soon as the left-hander walked off the mound Thursday, the Orioles began their march to another easy win over the Seattle Mariners.

Baffled by Moyer's offspeed pitches for half the game, Baltimore went ahead immediately after the 17-game winner was forced out with a strained flexor muscle in his left elbow. The Orioles rocked Seattle's struggling bullpen for six runs, and their second straight 9-3 rout sent them home with a 2-0 lead in the best-of-5 series.

Baltimore can advance to the AL championship series

■ Cleveland tops Yankees, 2C

for a second straight year with a win Saturday at Camden Yards. The Orioles, who got homers from Harold Baines and Brady Anderson, are 9-4 against the Mariners.

Roberto Alomar was 0-for-2 against Moyer when he stepped to the plate with Baltimore trailing 2-1 in the fifth inning. Alomar couldn't be-

■ Turn to 2C: **Orioles**

Bassett to Hinrichs a winner

Kennedy strikes late to pull out win over East

By Jeff Dahn
Gazette sportswriter

With the game on the line, Kyle Bassett threw a rope.

Working on a fourth-and-seven from the Waterloo East 9-yard line with 1:08 left in the game, Bassett fired a strike over the middle to a streaking Randall Hinrichs who plunged into the end zone at the 1:04 mark to give Cedar Rapids Kennedy a 21-18 victory Thursday night at Kingston Stadium.

"I was a little bit nervous," Hinrichs said of the winning play. "(Bassett) said he was going to be throwing it to me, and I said, 'Well, I'll get open.' He got it there and

PREP FOOTBALL

luckily I caught it.

"I broke open right at the right time and he got it there right at the right time. The line blocked good and it was a great pass."

The touchdown capped a 14-play, 77-yard Kennedy drive that ate 5 minutes and 24 seconds off the clock. The win, the Cougars' second straight, lifted them to 3-2 in the Mississippi Valley Conference while East fell to 1-4.

East, which missed an extra point kick and a pair of two-point conversion tries, took an 18-14 lead with 6:37 left in the game. Stephan Schauf had recovered a Kennedy fumble —

■ Turn to 5C: **Kennedy**

CITY HIGH VS. WEST

The results of the last six meetings between Iowa City High and Iowa City West in prep football. They play again tonight: Preview, 5C.

1994			
Game	Outcome	W-L, Finish	
Reg. Season	City High 28, West 7	City High 13-0, state champ	
Playoffs	City High 26, West 21	West 6-4, 1st round	
1995			
Game	Outcome	W-L, Finish	
Reg. Season	West 14, City High 0	West 13-0, state champ	
Playoffs	West 14, City High 3	City High 10-2, semifinals	
1996			
Game	Outcome	W-L, Finish	
Reg. Season	City High 28, West 7	City High 13-0, state champ	
Playoffs	City High 19, West 14	West 8-2, 1st round	
NOTE: City High leads the regular season series, 21-7, and the playoff series, 2-1.			

NOTE: City High leads the regular season series, 21-7, and the playoff series, 2-1.

Ellis back to SuperSonics

SEATTLE (AP) — Dale Ellis is a Seattle SuperSonic again.

The Sonics acquired the swingman Thursday from the Denver Nuggets for Greg Graham and center Steve Scheffler.

The Sonics also will give the Nuggets the least favorable of their two second-round picks in the 1998 draft and a conditional second-round pick in either 1999 or 2002.

Ellis, 37, played four seasons with the Sonics starting in the 1986-87 season, before being traded in February 1991 to Milwaukee.



Ellis

TODAY'S TIPOFF

TELEVISION

■ **Baseball playoffs** — Atlanta at Houston, 3 p.m., ESPN; Florida at San Francisco, 7 p.m., NBC
 ■ **Soccer** — World Cup Qualifier: Jamaica at United States, 6:30 p.m. ESPN

Complete listing, page 4C

CITYLINE

For sports updates, dial 363-7000 in Cedar Rapids or 337-7000 in Iowa City and enter a category number:

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 ■ Pro Tennis 3085
 ■ Sports Headlines 3125
 ■ NFL Report 3050
 ■ Fates & Fortunes 3010
 ■ Energy Express 4640
 ■ Pro Golf Report 3075
 ■ Baseball Update 3308

EVENTS IN THE AREA

■ **Prep football** — Midland at LaSalle, 7:30 p.m.
 Complete listing, page 4C

QUOTE OF THE DAY

■ "Bob Cousy and those guys (who played years ago) must be sick to their stomachs. The check is going to be big. I just want to pick one of those up and look at it."

— **Stephon Marbury** about teammate **Kevin Garnett's** contract extension with the Timberwolves that averages to about \$254,000 a game.

TRIVIA QUESTION

■ When was the last time the Iowa football team won in Columbus, Ohio?

Answer, Page 4C

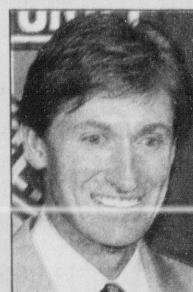
Gretzky going out in N.Y.

NEW YORK (AP) — Wayne Gretzky has made his last move.

No, the Great One isn't retiring. He's just staying put.

The NHL's all-time leading scorer has signed a contract extension with the New York Rangers that guarantees he will finish his career with the team.

The contract extension will keep the 36-year-old scoring king with the Rangers for at least two more seasons. Gretzky reportedly will earn \$6.5 million this season and \$5 million the following year.



Gretzky

GAME DAY Preps

IOWA CITY WEST at IOWA CITY HIGH

■ **SITE:** Bates Field, Iowa City
 ■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
 ■ **RADIO:** KKIC-AM (800); KCJJ-AM (1560)
 ■ **RECORDS:** West 4-0, City High 3-1
 ■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** The 29th "Battle for the Boot" is once again a huge game in terms of Mississippi Valley Conference divisional titles and state bragging rights. Class 4A second-ranked West enters with the MVC's top-ranked offense (358.0 yards per game) led by quarterback Nick Whistler (26-50, 468 yards, 4 TDs, no interceptions) and running backs Bruce Davis and Matt Weldon (177 ypg combined). No. 4 City High counters with an explosive offense of its own (353.2 ypg) led by quarterback Tony Burner (35.5 passing ypg) and backs Nathan Haag and Justin Coyer (157 rushing ypg combined). West has outscored its first four foes, 121-39. City High its first four 119-36. These are two very evenly matched teams that should put on quite a show.

C.R. REGIS at C.R. WASHINGTON

■ **SITE:** Kingston Stadium. Washington is the home team and its fans are asked to sit on the west (press box) side of the stadium.
 ■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
 ■ **RADIO:** KCRG-AM (1600), KTOF-AM (1360)
 ■ **RECORDS:** Regis 0-4, Washington 1-3
 ■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** These two east side neighbors will meet for the final time before Regis combines with LaSalle to form Xavier High School next fall. Washington leads the overall series, 13-10, after winning four of the last five meetings. Both teams have struggled this season, but both have also improved over the last four weeks. Regis fought third-ranked Prairie to the wire before falling, 21-13, a week ago, when quarterback Matt Vaughn proved to be the master of the short pass to several receivers. Washington dropped a hard-fought 28-25 decision to Linn-Mar in a game that could have gone either way. So could this one.

DUBUQUE SENIOR at C.R. PRAIRIE

■ **SITE:** John Wall Field
 ■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
 ■ **RECORDS:** Senior 3-1, Prairie 4-0
 ■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** The Class 4A third-ranked Hawks had to use every ounce of muscle they could muster in beating winless Regis last week, and their players vowed to come out with more fire this week. Upstart Senior, a 38-14 winner over Waterloo West a week ago, trails only Prairie and is tied with Iowa City High and Dubuque Wahlert for second place in the MVC's Valley Division. The Rams have the league's third-ranked defense (214.2 ypg) and the offense has clicked behind running back Scott Boleyn (108.8 ypg). Prairie's Ben Sanderson is second in the conference in rushing (126.6 ypg), and teammate Dustin Coufal ranks sixth (99.8).

LINN-MAR at DUBUQUE HEMPSTEAD

■ **SITE:** Datzell Field, Dubuque
 ■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
 ■ **RECORDS:** Linn-Mar 1-3, Hempstead 3-1
 ■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Hempstead spent some time in the Class 4A top-10 before losing to crosstown rival Wahlert last week, 26-0. The Mustangs' option attack can be deadly, led by backs Chad Soppe (89.8 ypg), Andrew McCready (73.8) and quarterback Jeremy Kasper (29.3). Linn-Mar avoided the first 0-4 start in Coach Greg Purnell's lengthy tenure by beating Washington, 28-25, last week, and will be eager to keep things rolling.

MARION at WESTERN DUBUQUE

■ **SITE:** Epworth
 ■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
 ■ **RADIO:** KDST-FM (99.3)
 ■ **RECORDS:** Marion 3-1, 1-1; Western Dubuque 4-0, 2-0
 ■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Class 3A fourth-ranked Western Dubuque will be looking to put some cushion between itself and the other contenders in District 4, and the outcome of this week's games will be very telling. The Bobcats have won with a solid defense that is allowing an average of only 2.5 points per game. Marion boasts an offensive attack that has put an average of 22.3 points a game on the board. A loss to unbeaten Maquoketa hurt the Indians' chance at a district title, but they can remain in the hunt with a win tonight.

BENTON COMMUNITY at MAQUOKETA

■ **SITE:** Maquoketa
 ■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
 ■ **RADIO:** WMT-AM (600)
 ■ **RECORDS:** Benton 1-3, 1-1; Maquoketa 4-0, 2-0
 ■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** This is the other big game in Class 3A District 4 tonight. Don't be fooled by Benton's record — the Bobcats three losses have come by a total of seven points and they were in a position to win all three. Seventh-ranked Maquoketa has coasted to date but is embarking on a crucial three-game portion of its schedule that has games at South Tama next Friday and at home against Western Dubuque on Oct. 17.

MIDLAND at C.R. LASALLE

■ **SITE:** Lancer Field
 ■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
 ■ **RECORDS:** Midland 0-4, 0-2; LaSalle 2-2, 2-0
 ■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** It's been an unpredictable season for LaSalle, which has looked very good at times, very sloppy at others. Still, the Lancers are at the top of the Class 1A District 6 standings, trying to keep pace with unbeaten Northeast. If they can avoid the turnovers that plagued them in last week's 12-6 overtime victory over Guttenberg, this is a game the Lancers should win handily.

WAUKON at INDEPENDENCE

■ **SITE:** Independence
 ■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
 ■ **RECORDS:** Waukon 3-1, 2-0; Independence 3-1, 1-1
 ■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Waukon joins Decorah as the only unbeaten teams in Class 3A District 3, and would love to have that record in tact when the Vikings come to Waukon next Friday night. The Indians have had excellent balance offensively, led by running back Jeremy Mohwinkel, quarterback Nick Rissman and receiver Brian White. Independence, a 41-21 loser to Crestwood last week, is led by running back Justin Beatty but may need to throw the ball to be successful tonight.

CENTRAL CITY-SPRINGVILLE at UNION

■ **SITE:** LaPorte City
 ■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
 ■ **RECORDS:** CC-Springville 3-1, 1-1; Union 4-0, 2-0
 ■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Class 2A eighth-ranked Union has a potent rushing attack led by Garrett Gingerich, Mike Loveless and Eric Pettengill, all of whom average over seven yards a carry. The Knights spanked Central Point-Urbana, 41-14, last week and have been out-scoring their opponents by an average of 33 points. Central City-Springville is still in the hunt in District 4 after a 28-7 win over Jesup last week.

NORTH CEDAR at MOUNT VERNON

■ **SITE:** Mount Vernon
 ■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
 ■ **RECORDS:** North Cedar 2-2, 1-1; Mount Vernon 3-1, 2-0
 ■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** The race is on in Class 2A District 5, with each game getting bigger and bigger with each passing week. Tenth-ranked Mount Vernon has been impressive in shutout wins over Monticello and Durant-Bennett the last two weeks but now faces a more difficult stretch in its schedule.

NORTH MAHASKA at BELLE PLAINE

■ **SITE:** Belle Plaine
 ■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
 ■ **RECORDS:** North Mahaska 2-2, 2-0; Belle Plaine 4-0, 2-0
 ■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Class 1A sixth-ranked Belle Plaine can eliminate one of the contenders from the title chase in District 7 with a win tonight. The Plainsman have been impressive behind the considerable running talents of Bill Walton. Walton rushed for 292 yards and five touchdowns in their 35-21 win over Iowa Valley last week.

HLV at IOWA CITY REGINA

■ **SITE:** I.C. Regina
 ■ **GAME TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
 ■ **RECORDS:** HLV 4-0, 2-0; Regina 2-2, 1-1
 ■ **WHAT TO EXPECT:** HLV has been an offensive machine in its first four games, averaging 407 yards an outing. The Warriors, 54-0 winners over North Linn last week, are led by running back Michael Claeys (636 yards, 11 TDs). HLV's defense hasn't been too shabby, either, and ranks second in the district. Regina's passing combination of quarterback Mike Turning to receiver Tim Corbett is among the district's best.

It's not just another game

When City High, West meet the winner tends to capture a state title

By Jeff Dahn
 Gazette sportswriter

The "Battle for the Boot" is just one of nine regular season games the football teams from Iowa City West and Iowa City High will play this season, but historically it's certainly been the most significant.

The last three winners of the annual meeting — tonight's rendition is the 29th — have gone on to win the Class 4A state championship. The schools have met in the playoffs each of those years, with the same outcome as the regular season.

West Coach Reese Morgan tries to keep the game in perspective.

"It is just another game, and one team will be successful and the other won't," Morgan said. "But because of what has happened the last few

years there are a lot of distractions. It's a part of this game and part of the rivalry in the community."

Tonight's kickoff in the Mississippi Valley Conference inter-divisional game is 7:30 p.m. at City High's Bates Field. Annually a sell-out, another standing-room-only crowd is expected tonight.

West enters the game 4-0 and ranked second in Class 4A. City High has won three straight games to improve to 3-1 and has moved up to fourth in the rankings.

That's a little off the pace of the last two seasons.

CITY HIGH WAS ranked No. 1 and West No. 2 when they battled for the "Boot" in 1995, a game West won, 14-0. West was No. 1 and City High No. 2 when they met in the playoff semifinals that same year, with West winning, 14-3.

It happened again in last year's regular season meeting.

West was No. 1 and City High

PREP FOOTBALL

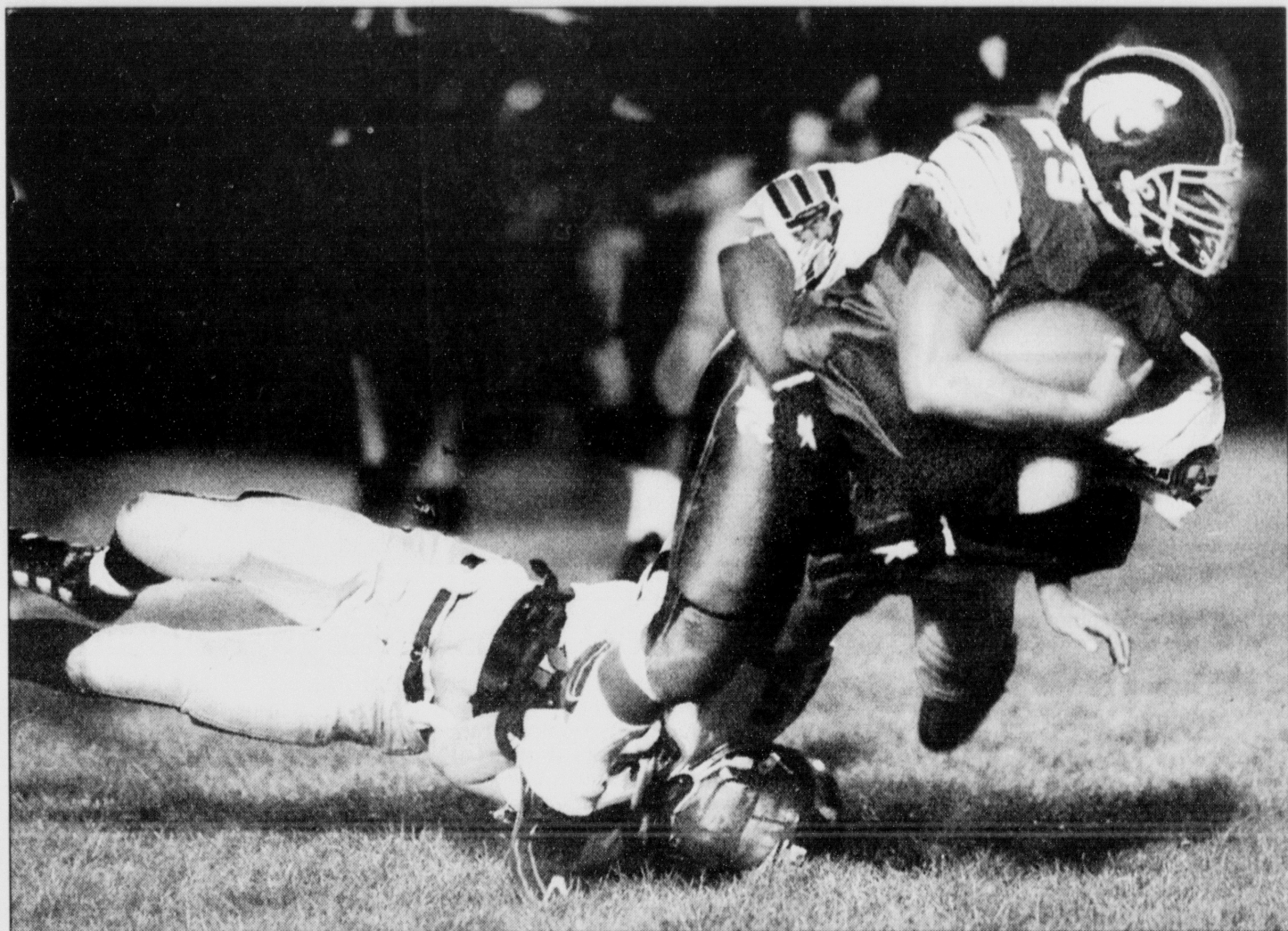
No. 2 coming in, and City High won, 28-7. The Little Hawks were top-ranked when they beat No. 3 West, 19-14, in the first round of the 1996 playoffs.

With so much prestige and a city's bragging rights riding on the outcome, you'd think the kids would be sky high. City High Coach Larry Brown, who has led the Little Hawks to three of the last four Class 4A state titles, said that isn't necessarily the case.

"It's easier to keep the kids on an even keel than the community," he said. "The kids have been playing against each other since they were in seventh grade. They know each other real well."

"We just want to go out and execute as well as we can and the game will take care of itself."

Morgan said he understands all the hype.



Gazette photo by David Lee Hartlage

J.C. Steinburg of Cedar Rapids Kennedy plows over Waterloo East defender Ryan Regenal for a first down last night at Kingston Stadium. Kennedy scored in the waning moments on a pass from Kyle Bassett to Randall Hinrichs to top East, 21-18. Kennedy, which improved its season record to 3-2, rallied from a 12-0 deficit at halftime to take the lead at 14-12. But East scored with 6:37 left to set up Kennedy's dramatic late drive.

Kennedy: Wins it with late drive

■ From page 1C

its third turnover of the game — at the Cougar 31, and three plays later speedy Darren Ball zipped 20 yards for a TD.

The Cougars sputtered at the outset of the drive, moving 9 yards on three plays, but then began to click. Bassett completed passes of 16 and 10 yards to Ryan Pauly and J.C. Steinburg popped runs of 12 and eight to highlight the march.

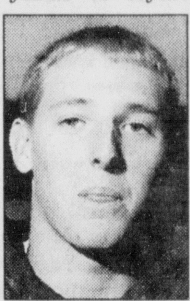
"We sucked it up, and we blocked pretty well on that last drive," Kennedy Coach Don Knock said. "I wish we would have blocked that well earlier in the night. We moved the ball down the field and we got some big pass plays. We got lucky."

Paul's 10-yard reception gave Kennedy a 1st-and-10 on the Trojan 12, but two running plays and an incompletion moved the ball only three yards.

That set up the winning play.

"We were kind of scrambling, and they were doubling Pauly," Knock said. "Ryan's done a great job out there . . . but we came back to Hinrichs on the inside route and it was there."

"We got lucky, because East played a heck of a ballgame. (Coach) Brian Joens



Randall Hinrichs
 Winning catch

did a great job of getting those kids ready to play."

East built a 6-0 first quarter lead after Kennedy surrendered the ball on downs at the Trojan 38 with 4:11 remaining. A holding penalty moved the line of scrimmage back to the 24, but two plays later Lance Meeks swept to his left, took a pitch from quarterback Bill Kugler and zipped 50 yards for a touchdown.

On Kennedy's next possession, Willie Bradford jumped on a Steinburg fumble on the Trojans' 23, a chunk of turf Ball covered on East's first play from scrimmage. That made it 12-0, East.

Kennedy moved with five on a 1-yard sneak by Bassett with 9:27 left in the first half, then the Cougar defense rose to the occasion when Josh Eaton intercepted Kugler pass in the Kennedy end zone with 3:09 remaining.

"The defense had some big plays," Knock said. "Before half, I thought they had a great interception in the end zone — that would have been disastrous if (East) would have scored there."

Steinburg finished with 142 yards on 26 carries, but coughed the ball up four times. Bassett was 11-for-19 passing for 108 yards and the TD, and Pauly caught six throws for 69 yards.

• *Next Friday: C.R. Washington at Kennedy; Cedar Falls at East.*

Kicker scoffs at Monday jinx

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — A Monday night jinx on kickers? New England's Adam Vinatieri, who has the NFL's longest current streak of successful field-goal attempts, scoffs at the idea.

Let's see what he says in a few days after he plays in his first Monday night game.

Two of the last three ended in potential winning field goals that were botched by a bad hold and a bad snap.

"You feel bad for the kicker," Vinatieri said. "I don't think about that and don't think our holder or snapper is going to do that."

Sept. 15, Philadelphia's Tom Hutton bobbled a good snap and ruined Chris Boniol's attempt at a 22-yard field goal that would have beaten Dallas 23-21.

Sept. 22, Pittsburgh's Jim Sweeney made a bad snap that led to Norm Johnson's blocked 40-yard attempt with Jacksonville ahead 23-21 with six seconds left. It was returned for a touchdown.

In both cases, the road team lost. The Patriots will be on the road Monday night in Denver in a matchup of the AFC's only two unbeaten teams.

PRO FOOTBALL

But Vinatieri, a rookie last season, hasn't missed in nine games, tying Tony Franklin's club record of 14 consecutive successful field-goal tries. His last miss came Nov. 17. The opponent: Denver.

In fact, the only blemish on his regular-season record since then is the bruise on holder Tom Tupa's hand. That occurred two weeks ago in a 31-3 win over Chicago when the whistle blew for a delay of game after the ball was snapped. As Tupa pulled the ball away, Vinatieri followed through anyway and kicked his holder.

"I apologized several times, but I guess that's part of the game," Vinatieri said.

His most important field goal of the season was a 34-yarder in overtime that beat the Jets 27-24. He got a chance to try that because New York's John Hall missed from 29 yards with 16 seconds left in regulation.

Having already made a pressure kick could help Vinatieri Monday if he gets another chance to win on the last play.

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 24 HOURS-A-DAY



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Financial Markets Overview	1570	Days of Our Lives	General	
Industry Reports	1310	General Hospital	AP Sports	3000
Economic Indicators	1545	Gauding Light	Fates & Fortunes	3010
Local Mortgage Rate Menu	1700	One Life to Live	Hunting & Fishing	3050
Mutual Fund Report	1535	Port Charles	Sports Commentary	3390
U.S. Corporate Bonds	1525	Young & Restless	Sports on TV	3005
ENTERTAINMENT		Evening Events	Sports Invo	4725
Adventureland Information	3865	Beverly Hills 90210	Freden Inc. NASCAR Hotline	3740
Tim Boyle Comedy Minute	4444	Chicago Hope	Kennels Hotline	3350
Entertainment Headlines	4000	ER	Softball Report	3500
Movie Times	4200	Melrose Place	Energy Express	4640
Top Ten Lists	4140	NYPD Blue	Pro	
Book Reviews	4430	X-Files	Baseball Report	3308
Book Talk	4433	KIDSTUFF	Boxing Report	3053
On the Net	4188	Kids Video Review	NFL Report	3050
CITYLINE Trivia	4200	All About America	NHL Report	3050
Joke of the Day	4490	Gazette KIDSLINE	Motor Sports	3750
Today in History	4695	I Wonder Why	Pro Golf	3075
HOROSCOPES		KID Power	Pro Tennis	3075
Aquarius	4401	Time for Trivia	Pro Wrestling	3005
Pisces	4402	World Around Us	NBA Report	3070
Aries	4403	World of Words	College	
Taurus	4404	Sports Trivia	Big 10 Conference	3040
Gemini	4405	Just for Kids Menu	Big 12 Conference	3045
Cancer	4406	Ghost Story Club	Hawk Talk	4295
Leo	4407	Kids World	SUN Options	3110
Virgo	4408	TRAVEL/EVENTS	UNI Panthers	3120
Libra	4409	Travel Weather	NCAA Trip 25	3220
Scorpio	4410	Calendar of Events	CITYLINE Help	
Sagittarius	4411	Places to Go/Midwest	CITYLINE Directory	8060
Capricorn	4412		How to Use CITYLINE	8061
Birthday Horoscope	4413		What's New on CITYLINE	1234
Inside Video Games	4185			
Movie Charts	4141			
Movie Reviews	4240			
Video Charts	4149			
Video Reviews	4155			
Country Music Reports	4175			
Pop Music World	4160			

The Gazette

The Gazette
CITYLINE

SCORES & MORE

SPORTSDAY

EVENTS OF AREA INTEREST

Prep football

- Midland at LaSalle, 7:30 p.m.
- Dubuque Senior at Prairie, 7:30 p.m.
- Regis vs. Washington at Kingston Stadium, 7:30 p.m.
- Linn-Mar at Dubuque Hempstead
- Marion at Western Dubuque

Boys' prep golf

- Bettendorf, Davenport West, Kennedy at Twin Pines, 3:15 p.m.

College volleyball

- Purdue at Iowa, 7 p.m.
- Iowa State at Nebraska
- Northern Iowa at Indiana State

College field hockey

- Ohio State at Iowa, 3:30 p.m.

Women's college soccer

- Indiana at Iowa, 3 p.m.
- Kansas at Iowa State, 4 p.m.
- Grinnell at Wheaton

Women's college tennis

- Western Illinois at Northern Iowa, 4 p.m.
- Iowa at Notre Dame Invitational
- Luther hosting Rolex ITA Regional

Men's college golf

- Northern Iowa hosting UNI Fall Classic

Women's college golf

- Mount Mercy in Midwest Classic Conference tournament at Iowa City
- Luther, Cornell, Upper Iowa, Coe in Iowa Conference tournament at Dubuque

ON TELEVISION

(Live and first-run events only)

Auto racing

- USAR Hooters Cup Series. (Tape) 2 p.m. (ESPN2)

Baseball

- National League Division Series: Atlanta Braves at Houston Astros, Game Three. 3 p.m. (ESPN)
- National League Division Series: Florida Marlins at San Francisco Giants, Game Three. 7 p.m. (NBC)

Boxing

- Fight Time on FOX. 7 p.m. (SportsChannel)

Drag racing

- NHRA Pennzoil Nationals Qualifying. 7 p.m. (ESPN2)

Golf

- Buick Challenge. Noon (ESPN)

Pro hockey

- NHL: Vancouver Canucks at Anaheim Mighty Ducks. 10 p.m. (ESPN2)

Soccer

- World Cup Qualifier: Jamaica at United States. 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

CITYLINE

DIAL: 363-7000 or 337-7000

- AP network sports — 3000
- Pro golf report — 3075
- Pro tennis report — 3085
- Sports headlines — 3125
- Pro baseball report — 3308
- Softball report — 3500
- Fishing report — 3650
- Motor sports — 3750

CONTACT US

- Sports desk (local) — 398-8258
- Sports desk (WATS) — 1-800-397-8258
- Sports editor (Mark Dukes) — 398-8269
- Sports FAX — 398-5861
- E-mail — gazsport@fyiowa.infi.net

YOUR 2 CENTS ONLINE

Discuss the sports issues of the day on "Your Two Cents," Fylova's online talk forum at www.fyiowa.com.

Current sports discussion topics

- Are the Hawkeyes ready to face Ohio State?
- Can the Cyclones turn things around?
- Was Mary Albert treated fairly?

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

DIVISION SERIES (Best-of-5)

Thursday's Results

Baltimore 9, Seattle 3
(Baltimore leads series, 2-0)

Cleveland 7, New York 5
(Series tied, 1-1)

Saturday's Games

Seattle (Fassero 16-9) at Baltimore (Key 16-10), 3:30 p.m. (FOX)
New York (Wells 16-10) at Cleveland (Nagy 15-10), 6:37 p.m. (NBC)

Sunday's Games

Seattle at Baltimore, 3:07 p.m., if necessary (ESPN)
New York at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

Monday's Games

Seattle at Baltimore, 3:07 p.m., if necessary (ESPN)
New York at Cleveland, 7:11 p.m., if necessary (FOX)

NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

DIVISION SERIES (Best-of-5)

Today's Games

Atlanta (Smoltz 15-12) at Houston (Reynolds 9-10), 3:07 p.m. (ESPN)
(Atlanta leads series, 2-0)

Florida (Fernandez 17-12) at San Francisco (Alvarez 4-3), 7:07 p.m. (NBC)
(Florida leads series, 2-0)

Saturday's Games

Atlanta (Neagle 20-5) at Houston, 12:07 p.m., if necessary (ESPN)
Florida (Saunders 4-6) at San Francisco, 10:07 p.m., if necessary (ESPN)

Sunday's Games

Atlanta at Houston, 12:07 p.m., if necessary (ESPN)
Florida at San Francisco, 10:07 p.m., if necessary (ESPN)

(As provided by the league)

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Cincinnati (1-3) at Jacksonville (3-1) — Bengali: DOUBTFUL. 5. Tramm Mack (left). QUESTIONABLE: RB K-Jean Carter (shoulder). LB Tom Tumulty (thigh).

Dallas (3-1) at N.Y. Giants (2-3) — Cowboys: QUESTIONABLE: DE Brock Brannock (knee). LB Bryan Schwartz (shoulder). LB Steve Tasker (hamstring). DT Chad Hennings (groin).

San Francisco (1-3) at Oakland (2-3) — Raiders: QUESTIONABLE: DE Phil Hansen (right). LB Sam Rogers (hamstring). WR Steve Tasker (hamstring). LB Brian Smith (knee).

San Diego (2-3) at Buffalo (2-1) — Lions: OUT: TE Pete Chrysiewicz (shoulder). RB Kevin Smith (knee). DOUBTFUL: P Robb Griggs (knee). QB Derek Engler (ankle). CB Brian Williams (eye). DOUBTFUL: CB Barber (knee). RB Rocky Hamilton (knee). QUESTIONABLE: LB Marcus Bucky (thigh). WR Thomas Lewis (eye).

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PRO FOOTBALL

National Football League

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PPFA
New England	4	0	0	1.000	130-40
N.Y. Jets	3	2	0	.600	141-77
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	143-113
Miami	2	2	0	.500	71-74
Indianapolis	0	4	0	.000	54-115

Central	W	L	T	Pct.	PPFA
Jacksonville	3	1	0	.750	110-85
Baltimore	3	1	0	.750	110-85
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	.500	79-104
Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250	68-113
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	71-119

West	W	L	T	Pct.	PPFA
Denver	5	0	0	1.000	156-72
Kansas City	4	1	0	.800	108-93
Oakland	2	3	0	.400	141-123
San Diego	2	3	0	.400	77-116
Seattle	2	3	0	.400	91-121

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PPFA
Dallas	3	1	0	.750	107-55
Washington	3	1	0	.750	80-49
N.Y. Giants	2	3	0	.400	84-103
Arizona	2	3	0	.400	84-103
Philadelphia	1	3	0	.250	66-89

Central	W	L	T	Pct.	PPFA
Tampa Bay	5	0	0	1.000	115-76
Detroit	3	2	0	.600	120-98
Green Bay	3	2	0	.600	122-119
Minnesota	3	2	0	.600	132-122
Chicago	0	5	0	.000	61-155

West	W	L	T	Pct.	PPFA
San Francisco	4	1	0	.800	122-50
Seattle	2	3	0	.400	80-106
St. Louis	2	3	0	.400	94-112
New Orleans	1	4	0	.200	81-122
San Diego	1	4	0	.200	82-136

SUNDAY'S GAMES (Iowa times)

Cincinnati at Jacksonville, noon
Dallas at New York Giants, noon
Detroit at Buffalo, noon
Kansas City at Miami, noon
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, noon
Tampa Bay at Green Bay, 1:30 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, noon
Tennessee at Seattle, 3 p.m.
Minnesota at Arizona, 3:30 p.m.
New York Jets at Indianapolis, 3 p.m.
San Diego at Oakland, 3 p.m.
New Orleans at Chicago, 7 p.m.

MONDAY'S GAME

New England at Denver, 8 p.m.
Open date: Atlanta, Carolina, St. Louis, San Francisco

NFL Injury Report

(As provided by the league)

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Cincinnati (1-3) at Jacksonville (3-1) — Bengals: DOUBTFUL: 5. Tramm Mack (left). QUESTIONABLE: RB K-Jean Carter (shoulder). LB Tom Tumulty (thigh).

Dallas (3-1) at N.Y. Giants (2-3) — Cowboys: QUESTIONABLE: DE Brock Brannock (knee). LB Bryan Schwartz (shoulder). LB Steve Tasker (hamstring). DT Chad Hennings (groin).

San Francisco (1-3) at Oakland (2-3) — Raiders: QUESTIONABLE: DE Phil Hansen (right). LB Sam Rogers (hamstring). WR Steve Tasker (hamstring). LB Brian Smith (knee).

San Diego (2-3) at Buffalo (2-1) — Lions: OUT: TE Pete Chrysiewicz (shoulder). RB Kevin Smith (knee). DOUBTFUL: P Robb Griggs (knee). QB Derek Engler (ankle). CB Brian Williams (eye). DOUBTFUL: CB Barber (knee). RB Rocky Hamilton (knee). QUESTIONABLE: LB Marcus Bucky (thigh). WR Thomas Lewis (eye).

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