

## Tigers cruise past Xavier

Derek Fourtner scored three touchdowns and Nick Nelson passed for 183 yards and two touchdowns as Cedar Falls defeated Cedar Rapids Xavier, 35-16, in a Mississippi Valley Conference football game Friday at the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls.

The Tigers (6-3) led, 28-3, at halftime.

Jason Sweet rushed 26 times for 174 yards for Xavier (3-6), with 95 yards coming in the

### METRO ROUNDUP

third quarter.

Sweet threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to Mike Kuennen and Kyle Webber scored on a 2-yard run for the Saints.

Andrew Davis kicked a 40-yard field goal in the first half for Xavier.

■ **MARION 32, MAQUOKETA 12** — Marion racked up 428 yards of total offense and scored at least six points in every quarter in the win at Maquoketa.

Marion (4-5, 2-5 in 3A-4) led, 18-12, at halftime, then held Maquoketa scoreless in the second half.

Jordan Forkner scored on a 3-yard run and Jamie Bolsinger caught a 5-yard pass for Marion's first-half touchdowns.

Ryne Tope kicked two field goals for the Indians.

■ **KENNEDY 65, WATERLOO EAST 28** — Cedar Rapids Kennedy exploded for 37 second-quarter points and cruised at Waterloo Memorial Stadium.

Mike Russell scored four touchdowns for the Cougars (3-6) and Blake Fisher three.

"We've known all year long that offensively, we were just on the edge of doing some great things," said Cougar Coach Tim Lewis. "We could never take it to the next level. We were hoping that one day, we'd break out. We broke out tonight."

Kennedy finished with 355 yards in total offense. Fisher rushed for 160 to lead the ground game.

East finished the 2002 season at 0-9. Overall, the Trojans have lost 27 in a row.

### MVC standings

MISS. DIV.	Conf	All
Dub. Hempstead	8-1	8-1
C.R. Prairie	7-2	7-2
Iowa City West	7-2	7-2
Waterloo West	3-6	3-6
C.R. Kennedy	3-6	3-6
Linn-Mar	1-8	1-8
Waterloo East	0-9	0-9

VALLEY DIV.	Conf.	All
C.R. Washington	9-0	9-0
Dub. Wahlert	6-3	6-3
Cedar Falls	6-3	6-3
Iowa City High	4-5	4-5
C.R. Jefferson	3-6	3-6
C.R. Xavier	3-6	3-6
Dubuque Senior	3-6	3-6

#### FRIDAY

Washington 33, Wahlert 13  
Prairie 29, City High 7  
West 40, Jefferson 14  
Hempstead 48, Linn-Mar 14  
Kennedy 65, Waterloo East 28  
Cedar Falls 35, Xavier 16  
Senior 27, Waterloo West 14



Iowa City West senior Rich Thompson gets tackled by Jefferson defenders Jordan Goforth (3) and Araf Evans (18) during Friday night's game at Iowa City West.

## West back in playoffs with rout of J-Hawks

By John Riehl  
The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Welcome back to the playoffs, Iowa City West.

Two seasons of sitting at home must have seemed like two lifetimes for the Trojans, who made six straight playoff appearances from 1994 to 1999. They won state titles in 1995, '98 and '99.

West punched its 2002 postseason ticket Friday evening with a 40-14 victory over Cedar Rapids Jefferson on Senior Night at Trojan Field.

"Things just weren't right the last two years, but they're clicking now," said junior Greg Coleman. "(West) Coach (Dan) Dvorak, like (Iowa) Coach (Kirk) Ferentz, took time to build (the program) up, and now it's back."

The Trojans (7-2) will take a six-game winning streak into their Class 4A first-round playoff game at 7 p.m. Wednesday against an opponent to be determined. Pairings were announced late Friday after deadline.

Coleman was the star of the show Friday. The all-star wrapped up the Mississippi Valley Conference rushing title, gaining 259 yards on 23 carries and scoring five touchdowns, which tied the single-game school record held by Carlos Honore (1994) and Chris Richardson (1998).

"That is all the offensive line," said Coleman, who finished the regular season with 1,684 yards on 208 carries and 19 touchdowns.

West, which has improved every week in Dvorak's opinion, has outscored its last six opponents by more than 21 points per game.

However, the Trojans were sleep-walking through a turnover-plagued first quarter and a half. They lost two fumbles and had an interception returned 70 yards for a touchdown by Araf Evans with 6:22 remaining in the first half, tying the game at 6.

West awoke from its slumber after Jefferson's

IOWA CITY WEST	40
C.R. JEFFERSON	14

big defensive play.

On their next possession, the Trojans drove 60 yards on eight plays, with Coleman scoring on a 15-yard run with 3:06 remaining. Chris Sorrell's extra point gave West a 13-6 lead.

The Trojans scored again almost immediately. Senior fullback Rich Thompson did the honors from 2 yards out at the 1:32 mark. The touchdown, which gave West a 20-6 halftime lead, was set up by junior tight end Eric Smith's 33-yard reception.

"We knew we had to win the game to make the playoffs, and we weren't playing too well," said West senior quarterback Aaron Vincent. "We knew we had to step it up because Jefferson has a great team. We stepped it up and won the game."

Coleman made sure the Trojans weren't challenged in the second half, scoring on runs of 64, 30 and 8 yards. He gained 171 yards on 10 carries in the half.

"We just picked it up," Coleman said. "This team has grown up and it's learned how to play under pressure. We have to keep working hard. If we keep working hard, good things will happen."

West's defense also stepped up, allowing only a 6-yard touchdown run by J-Hawk Ashton Northern with 3:34 remaining.

Northern, who needed 159 yards to reach the 1,000-yard plateau for the season, gained 82 yards on 19 carries.

Jefferson finished the season with a 3-6 record.

Contact the writer: (319) 339-3177 or john.riehl@gazettecommunications.com

## Celebration for Hempstead

Mustangs down  
Lions to earn  
division crown

By Jeff Johnson  
The Gazette

MARION — One by one, each player lined up to give the gold trophy a kiss. Happy parents were everywhere on the field, taking photograph after photograph of all the hoopla.

It's a big deal when you win an outright conference football championship. Especially when you haven't done it for almost 20 years.

"It's been so long since we've felt like this at Hempstead," said Dubuque Hempstead quarterback Matt Frommelt after he helped his team to a 48-14 trouncing of Linn-Mar Friday night at Armstrong Field. "It feels so good. Our class has really pulled together. We've been on a mission since our

DUB. HEMPSTEAD	48
LINN-MAR	14

freshman year to do this. And it just feels great to be able to accomplish it."

Fifth-ranked Hempstead takes an 8-1 record into its Class 4A first-round playoff game Wednesday night against an undetermined foe. A ton of momentum, too, considering the Mustangs gained their first postseason berth since 1995 and the Mississippi Valley Conference's Valley Division title to boot.

It was Hempstead's first outright MVC football championship since 1983.

"The kids have done a great job," said third-year Hempstead coach Mark Ehlers, a former assistant at Linn-Mar. "And the community, as you can see with all the people here, they have embraced us and allowed us to coach."

"What we've got here is a community team, and that's what I really like about what we've got going here. I'm very proud of what's going on."

Hempstead battered Linn-Mar with 508 total yards, 391

rushing yards — including 133 and a touchdown from halfback B.J. Eiben and 108 and a touchdown from Frommelt. The quick and shifty Frommelt was solid through the air, too, completing 6 of 15 passes for 117 yards and one score.

Hempstead broke open at 7-7 game with 20 unanswered points in the second quarter. Linn-Mar scored on its first possession of the third quarter to cut the Mustang lead to 27-14, but lineman Nick Roth fell on a Lion fumble in the end zone about a minute later for a fortuitous Hempstead touchdown.

Long touchdown runs from Eiben (44 yards) and fullback Aaron Wulfekuhle (43 runs) soon followed to turn it into a Mustang rout.

"Hempstead's a very good team," said Linn-Mar Coach Bob Read. "They just beat us up physically tonight."

Linn-Mar (1-8) won its season opener but dropped its final eight games. The Lions were in several of those contests late but were done in continually by mistakes and misfortune.

Linn-Mar suffered four turnovers Friday, leading to 20 Hempstead points. Andy Zeal — Linn-Mar's leading rusher — tore a tendon in his finger in the first quarter and couldn't carry the ball after that.

His replacement at running back, Deric Mickens, had both Lion touchdowns — a 36-yard run in the first quarter and a 1-yard run in the third.

"That's just the way our year has gone," Read said. "The breaks have gone against us, but I give our kids credit. We started with 41 guys, and we ended with 41 guys. And they played hard all year long."

"I think Linn-Mar is a good team," Ehlers said. "They've got a bright future. But I thought tonight we really played hard up front. They had a good scheme, too, but I just think we came to play. I was really happy with the guys."

Contact the writer: (319) 398-8259 or jeff.johnson@gazettecommunications.com

## Warriors: Big second half

■ From page 1C

cluding touchdown receptions that covered 59 and 37 yards.

"We went into the locker room at halftime and none of us were happy with the way we had played," Arrington said of first half which saw the Warriors trailing, 7-6, at the break. "We told ourselves we were going to come out and play as hard as we could, and we did."

Suess, who was 2-for-9 passing in the first half, completed 7-of-8 in the second half — including his final seven — for a career-high 249 yards.

"Warren is starting to relax a lot more. At the beginning of the season he was a little tense," Arrington said. "He's developing into the quarterback we all knew he could be."

Another Washington player who continues to impress is senior tailback Poul Collins, who etched his name into Washington's record book Friday night. Collins rushed 28

times for an unofficial 170 yards, giving him a single-season school record of 1,415 yards.

The previous mark of 1,400 yards was set by Greg Bjornsen in 11 games in 1980.

Washington got field goals of 27 and 35 yards from Michael Herzberger for its only scoring in the first half and Wahlert took the lead on an 18-yard TD pass from John Baumhover to Chris Averkamp with 2:41 left in the second quarter.

After that, it was all Washington. Arrington and Suess hooked up twice for their long touchdowns and Suess scored on a 4-yard run, all in the third quarter. Collins scored on a 17-yard run 2½ minutes into the fourth quarter.

Wahlert added a late TD on a 3-yard run by Ryan Cosgrove against Washington reserves with 3:20 left in the game.

Contact the writer: (319) 368-8841 or jeff.dahn@gazettecommunications.com

## West Branch captures 1A district crown

By Chad Dare  
The Gazette

WEST BRANCH — West Branch Coach Butch Pedersen instructed the press box 18 minutes before kickoff to crank up the song "Takin' Care of Business" by Bachman Turner Overdrive.

About two hours later, his Bears had done just that.

West Branch captured the Class 1A, District 5 title with a 21-9 upset victory over Class 1A No. 7 Northeast at the Oliphant Street Field on a frigid Friday night.

"It must have been our theme song because we definitely took care of business tonight," said Pedersen, who

WEST BRANCH	21
NORTHEAST	9

will lead his 12th West Branch team into the playoffs. The opponent and site for Wednesday's first-round Class 1A contest were announced late Friday night.

"The experts said at the beginning of the year we would win two or three games," Pedersen said. "Instead we are district champions and we are going to the state playoffs."

The Bears (7-2 overall, 6-1 in district) got to the playoffs with an early quick strike offense and a tenacious defense that allowed the Rebels (8-2, 6-1) 206

yards of total offense.

West Branch's offense was red-hot on a bone chilly night. The Bears needed just eight plays to build a 14-0 lead.

Senior wing back Justin Hamilton got things started with a 64-yard touchdown scamper down the near sideline off a counter reverse. Hamilton, who had 162 yards on five carries last week, capped a four-play, 78-yard drive for the Bears.

"Getting a touchdown on the first drive was crucial," Pedersen said. "They had a two-hour bus ride. We knew if we could get them down a little bit, maybe we could get them doing some things they don't want to

do on offense."

West Branch's next four-play scoring drive didn't need a big run after taking possession on the Northeast 39. But the Bears did need a heads-up play from senior running back Brian Hamer.

Quarterback Kyle Ewald fumbled the ball on an option. Hamer was in the right place at the right time to fall on the ball in the end zone for the 14-0 lead.

"It was supposed to be an option," Hamer said. "The ball got knocked out and it spun around in the end zone. I just jumped on it."

Contact the writer: (319) 339-3169 or chad.dare@gazettecommunications.com



Dubuque Wahlert running back Peter Link tries to slip in some extra yardage while teammate Dan Ernst (55) blocks Cedar Rapids Washington's Nathan Shultz during Friday night's game at Kingston Stadium. Washington won, 33-13.

Gazette photo by Andrew Loehman