

J-Hawks take a walk to remember

Jefferson savors first win of the season over Waterloo East

By Jim Ecker
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — The Cedar Rapids Jefferson football team normally rides the bus back to school after a game at Kingston Stadium, but not last night.

Last night was special. It promised to be a crisp walk in the chilly night air, but the J-Hawks were happy to do it after beating Waterloo East, 35-6, for their first win of the season.

"We're going to savor it and walk back there and just hold onto that win as long as we can," said junior Derek Bronner, who scored a pair of

touchdowns for Jefferson.

The J-Hawks (1-6) had lost all six of their games this season and had a seven-game losing streak dating back to last year. Waterloo East (0-7) proved to be the perfect tonic.

The Trojans have lost 43 straight games and have yet to win a game in the 21st Century.

"We understand that we didn't beat a conference contender," Coach Jim Womochil said. "What we said to our kids each and every week of the season, let's get better. Let's finish strong and be competitive."

Jefferson had lost 17 of its last 18 games, but this night belonged to the kids from the west side of town. Josh Faaborg passed for three touchdowns, Kyle Walker rushed

for 108 yards and the J-Hawk defense held East to a grand total of 49 yards of total offense.

The J-Hawks did not do a lot of whooping and hollering after the game, but the victory felt good.

"We're excited about it," Faaborg said. "We got our confidence back. That's what we wanted to do. We knew our day would come."

Waterloo East jumped to a quick 6-0 lead with a 48-yard return of the opening kickoff and a 28-yard touchdown drive, but the rest of the game belonged to Jefferson.

"I'm very, very happy for our kids," said Womochil, in his fourth year at Jefferson. "They have worked hard. They've put in a lot of time and effort. They deserve it.

"It's nice to see smiles on their faces."

Bronner scored on a 4-yard run and Mike Polaski kicked the extra point, giving Jefferson a 7-6 lead with 6:16 left in the first quarter.

The J-Hawks recovered an onside kick and marched 38 yards for a touchdown, scoring on a 13-yard pass from Faaborg to Bryant Kucera. Polaski kicked the PAT for 14 points in less than 3 minutes and the rout was on.

Peter Lewison scored on a 10-yard pass from Faaborg and Bronner tallied on a 4-yard pass from Faaborg and the J-Hawks led, 28-6, at half-time.

Walker finished the scoring with a 15-yard run in the third quarter.

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MVC standings

Miss. Division	Conf	All
Iowa City High	5-2	5-2
Linn-Mar	4-3	4-3
Dub. Hempstead	4-3	4-3
C.R. Xavier	3-4	3-4
Dubuque Senior	2-5	2-5
C.R. Jefferson	1-6	1-6
Waterloo East	0-7	0-7

Valley Division	Conf.	All
C.R. Prairie	7-0	7-0
Cedar Falls	7-0	7-0
Dub. Wahlert	4-3	4-3
C.R. Kennedy	4-3	4-3
Iowa City West	3-4	3-4
C.R. Washington	3-4	3-4
Waterloo West	2-5	2-5

THURSDAY

Cedar Falls 23, Wahlert 7

FRIDAY

Prairie 24, City High 21
Hempstead 21, Waterloo West 6
Kennedy 21, I.C. West 20 OT
Linn-Mar 56, Washington 55 OT
Jefferson 35, Waterloo East 6
Dubuque Senior 50, Xavier 30

Murphy's 380 doom Saints

DUBUQUE — Jayme Murphy rushed 30 times for 380 yards and scored seven touchdowns to lead Dubuque Senior past Cedar Rapids Xavier, 50-30, in a prep football game last night.

Murphy scored on runs of 76, 3, 21, 38, 18, 10 and 76 yards, and also run for a two-point conversion for the Rams (2-5).

Tommy Breitbach had six receptions for 162 yards and scored on a 50-yard pass and returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown for Xavier. Dane Gilmour completed 12 of 20 passes for 229 yards and one touchdown for the Saints.

Jon Geppert rushed 19 times for 108 yards and scored on a 52-yard run and threw a 10-yard TD pass to Gilmour for Xavier (3-4).

Prairie/O-line opened up field for Hawks

► FROM PAGE 1C

"The offensive line was tough tonight," Reutzel said. "I can't compliment them enough."

Reutzel did most of his damage running to the left side behind Brad Maalatek, Matt Trosky and Bryan Ilg.

"Our offensive line is a strong group of guys who have worked together for a long time," Jelinek said.

Eyman finished with 199 passing yards with the brunt coming in the final 7 minutes. Until then, Prairie's defense was solid, including goal-line stands after the Little Hawks had moved to the 4-yard line following an 86-yard kickoff return by Phil Kenney to start the second half, and another one after City High had a first-and-goal on the Prairie 3-yard line late in the third period.

The Hawks were simply unstoppable and the Little Hawks were simply inept as Prairie built a 24-0 halftime lead.

The onslaught started on the Hawks' second possession working headlong into the fierce wind, when Reutzel accounted for 64 yards on

nine carries in Prairie's 84-yard scoring drive. He capped it with a 2-yard TD run at the 3:40 mark of the first quarter.

Working with the wind in the second quarter, the Hawks tacked on 17 more points.

The first TD came on an 8-yard touchdown pass off play action from Joe Cooper to Drew Blahnik.

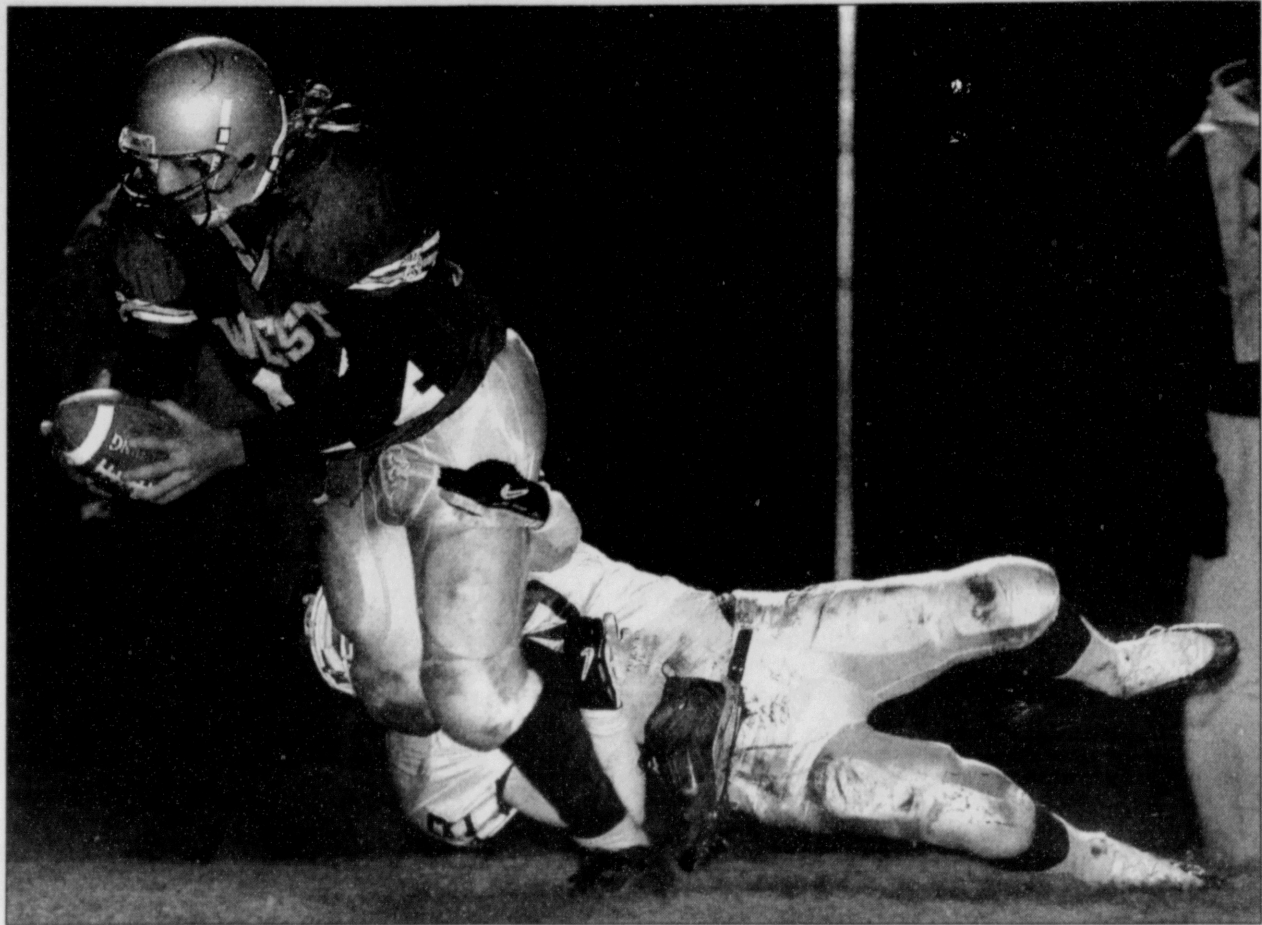
Prairie got the ball back on the City High 48 thanks to a Glen Fox pass interception — his first of two — and five plays later Reutzel booted a 32-yard field goal to make it 17-0.

The Hawks' second touchdown of the quarter was as bizarre as it was beautiful.

City High punted from its own 32, the ball landed on the ground and bounced backward, where it was plucked by Paul Jansa. He headed south, charging down the right sideline untouched to make it 24-0 with just over 3 minutes left in the half.

"The whole team got ahead of the ball and I got a backward hop," Jansa said. "I think the rest of the team was stunned. I got lucky on that one."

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Greg Undeen/The Gazette

Iowa City West's Richie Amendola carries Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Andy Mohling and the ball into the end zone in the second quarter for West's second touchdown of the game Friday at Trojan Field in Iowa City. The Cougars won, 21-20, in overtime.

Kennedy keeps alive postseason hopes

Cougars come from behind for overtime win over Iowa City West

By Barry Pump
News correspondent

IOWA CITY — After Kennedy quarterback Tyler Thompson connected with fellow senior Ben Lamaak for the sixth time last night, Lamaak pushed, shoved and reached to cross the goal line to complete a 10-yard pass that gave the Cougars a 21-20 overtime victory against Mississippi Valley Conference rival Iowa City West.

"I have all the confidence in the world in Lamaak, and I knew they were giving him a big cushion, so we let it out there to him and he made the play," Thompson said. "It surprised me every time I went back and he was open. You have to get the ball in the hands of our receivers to make plays, and he was open."

Lamaak went 6-of-15 for 95 yards and two touchdowns, while Thompson led the Kennedy offense with a 20-for-40 performance for 196 yards and all three Cougar scores. The victory keeps Kennedy's postseason hopes alive, but ends West's chances in the tournament.

"We started out a little slow, but the line started to give me time," Thompson said. "We talked all week about how the line had to give me time to get the ball in the receivers' hands and let them make plays. That's what we did."

For Kennedy Coach Tim Lewis, the come-from-behind victory was the exact opposite of what hap-

pened to his team against Prairie.

"We battled back," he said. "We were in the same situation against Prairie, and we used that over at the sidelines for motivation. I knew we were going to struggle on offense, so I knew we were going to do something else, and throwing the ball was what I was hoping."

"Fortunately, our receivers made big plays when they had to. I'm proud of our kids."

West High went up 14-0 in the second quarter, but Kennedy was brought back into the game when a high snap overshot West punter Evan Maifield and put the Cougars at the home team's 9-yard line.

Thompson hit up Lamaak for a 9-yard TD pass and brought it to 14-7 to end the half.

Kennedy continued to neutralize the Trojan running game, and West continued to give up their lead. On Kennedy's final drive, the Trojans handed the Cougars a facemask penalty and a pass interference call that kept them on the warpath.

With just over a minute left in the game, Thompson connected with Ben Mohwinkle to tie the game and send it into overtime.

The Trojans won the toss and scored on their first possession. However, Jeremy Shibata's extra point went wide right and gave Kennedy the opening they needed.

Going into Friday's matchup, West running back Alex Kanellis had a commanding 976 yards this season, including 182 yards against Dubuque Wahlert last week.

"Fortunately, our receivers made big plays when they had to. I'm proud of our kids."

Tim Lewis

Kennedy Coach

But Kennedy keyed in on the senior and muzzled him with a 6-3, man-to-man defense that kept Kanellis with 19 carries for just 67 yards.

Kanellis' most significant run of the first half — a 10-yarder late in first quarter — kept the Trojans in a 13-play, 52-yard drive that culminated with a 16-yard TD pass from Marcus Ahrens to Richie Amendola for the first score of the game at 10:21 in the second quarter.

Sophomore James Teel and senior Bobby Windauer tried to step up for Kanellis in the first half, with eight carries for 65 yards and six carries for 52 yards, respectively. Teel also had a 15-yard touchdown run to put West up 14-0 with 6:22 left in the half.

But the unorthodox defense kept West successfully at bay.

"That's not a defense that anyone runs," West High Coach Dan Dvorak said. "Give Kennedy credit for something they put in this week."

West (3-4) hosts C.R. Jefferson next week, and Kennedy (4-3) travels to Dubuque Wahlert.

TODAY

Iowa State @ Colorado

NY Yankees @ Boston

10:45AM

6:15PM

ESPN RADIO 1600 AM

