

C.R. Xavier romps past Hempstead

By Jeff Johnson
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Sometimes certain statistics in football can be incredibly misleading.

Take first downs, for instance. They're overrated.

The Cedar Rapids Xavier Saints had but nine last night, three fewer than Dubuque Hempstead. Yet it was Xavier that had much the better of the play on both sides of the ball in a 35-7 romp.

Go figure.

At any rate, it was an important win and not just because it was homecoming. It was the Saints' second victory in a row, moving them to 3-2 and within playoff striking distance at what could be called the halfway point of the prep season.

"Interview any coach in the Mississippi Valley Conference, and they'll tell you any win is a big win," said Xavier Coach Duane Schulte. "But from that aspect, yeah, this was a big win for us — to get above .500 and to reward the kids. That's what it's all about. They worked hard this week."

It took three plays for Xavier to take control on a perfect fall evening. On 3rd-and-6, the Saints split the field with multiple receivers but handed off straight up the gut to running back Will Martin, who sprinted into the clear 76 yards for a touchdown.

Martin later went 51 yards for another score, en route to a 154-yard rushing night on just nine carries. That's a lofty 17-yard per-carry average.

Nate Schulte's extra point made it 7-0 Xavier just 1:28 in.

"My line ... there was a huge hole, they gave me a huge pathway," Martin said. "I just thank God I have those guys on the line. It wasn't like I did anything (special). They just opened up a huge hole for me, and I just ran."

"I thought that was a big play with Will," Coach Schulte said. "Our line did a nice job blocking on that play. Then our defense played real solid."

The Saints exploded for three more scores in a five-minute span of the second quarter for a commanding 28-0 halftime lead. The first touchdown came defensively when junior end Erich Boomgarden had a fumble by Hempstead backup quarterback Karl Dolter hit the ground and bounce straight to the left, right into his hands.

Boomgarden, who was away from the play on end containment, appeared shocked for a split-second after the ball bounced to him. He quickly gathered his wits and rolled 33 yards untouched for the easy touchdown and a 14-0 Xavier lead after Nate Schulte's extra point. "That was lucky," Boomgarden said. "I have to credit my tackles there that pulled everything in the middle. They forced the quarterback to make a mistake and allowed me to make a play there. It was all them, not me."

After Martin's second TD, quarterback Matt Lukan hooked up on a 15-yard scoring pass with tight end T.J. Sayre. That score was set up on a 30-yard pass from Lukan to Geoff Wagner two plays earlier.

A Lukan 3-yard TD run early in the third quarter got the clock moving non-stop via the state's 35-point rule. Hempstead averted a shutout with a late fourth-quarter drive against Xavier's second-teamers, culminated by a 9-yard Seth Hoerner-to-Robert Foley touchdown pass.

Xavier outgained Hempstead, 254-161, and stuffed the Mustangs' Wing-T attack, limiting them to 65 rushing yards on 34 attempts. Hempstead (2-3) was hurt, literally, at the quarterback position when starter Nicholas Edwards injured a leg on the Mustangs' first offensive possession and was replaced by Dolter.

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David Lienemann/The Gazette

Linn-Mar junior Hunter Smoak (40) carries the ball while being tackled from behind by Cedar Rapids Jefferson's Kaleb Admire (right) and Ryan Garman (34) during the game last night at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

Lions topple J-Hawks

Balanced offense keeps Linn-Mar's playoff hopes alive

By Jeff Dahn
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — It was a game both teams thought they could win, a game both teams needed to win, albeit

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for different reasons.

Linn-Mar did just enough to get the job done.

The Lions used an intricate blend of the run and the pass to amass 306 yards and topped a determined Cedar Rapids Jefferson, 24-14, in a Mississippi Valley Conference duel last night on a lovely evening at Kingston Stadium.

Linn-Mar improved to 3-2, keeping its playoff hopes alive with a big game against Class 4A Iowa City High next Friday. Other than being penalized nine times for 75 yards, the Lions looked pretty good on both sides of the ball.

"I'm really proud of these guys," Linn-Mar Coach Bob Read said. "We kept battling

and we know Jefferson. They kept coming back at us all night."

The Lions were holding on to a precarious 21-14 lead until sophomore kicker Grant Mahoney booted a 20-yard field goal with 1:58 left to finally salt it.

"We came out and played real well," said Linn-Mar senior Blair Harris, who rushed 10 times for 44 yards, caught three passes for 38 yards and returned a kickoff 41 yards to set up Linn-Mar's third touchdown. "We didn't overlook Jefferson. We knew they would come out and play hard."

Jefferson fell to 0-5 despite a solid effort, and Coach Jim Womachil was left searching for answers.

"It's disappointing," Womachil said. "Just playing tough is not acceptable. That's a football team we thought we could beat. We had opportunities and we squandered them."

"It's just unfortunate. It's been one thing or another this year."

Linn-Mar was led by Har-

ris, the passing of junior quarterback Mark Rigby, the receiving prowess of senior tight end Michael Biechler and a defense led by senior Derek Sindelar.

Rigby completed 11 of 18 passes for 148 yards and a touchdown, and Biechler caught four passes for 71 yards with a 28-yard touchdown reception.

Rigby and Biechler have been hooking up a lot lately.

"I want him to throw me the ball," Biechler said. "If I'm open, throw me the ball and I'll see what I can do with it."

Two determined, sustained drives from Linn-Mar and one big play from Jefferson provided the scoring in the first half.

The J-Hawks got things started from their 20-yard line on the first play from scrimmage.

Ryan Garman, a 5-10, 175-pound junior, took the hand-off from Travis Bennett and disappeared into a wall of humanity at the line of scrimmage. After breaking at least three or four tackles, Garman

emerged from the pack and raced 80 yards down the right sideline for a touchdown just 26 seconds into the game.

Garman finished with 120 yards on 18 carries.

Linn-Mar got on the board on its second possession, marching 68 yards on an 11-play drive, capped by a 1-yard plunge over left tackle by Hunter Smoak with 2:31 left in the first quarter.

The teams basically exchanged punches the rest of the quarter until the Lions once again put together a nice, basically mistake-free drive.

Smoak did most of the set-up work as Linn-Mar marched to the Jefferson 28 where Rigby found tight end Michael Biechler in a crossing pattern, and Harris broke three solo tackle attempts for a 28-yard touchdown at the 1:23 mark of the second quarter.

The J-Hawks used an eight-play, 81-yard drive capped by a 34-yard run by quarterback Travis Bennett to tie the game at 14 with 4:55 left in the third period.

Mississippi Valley Conference standings

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

Valley Division	Conf.	All
Cedar Falls	5-0	5-0
C.R. Kennedy	4-1	4-1
C.R. Prairie	4-1	4-1
C.R. Washington	3-2	3-2
Waterloo West	2-3	2-3
Dub. Wahlert	1-4	1-4
Iowa City West	1-4	1-4

THURSDAY

C.R. Prairie 23, Wahlert 12

FRIDAY

Xavier 35, Hempstead 7
City High 31, I.C. West 10
Kennedy 50, Waterloo West 6
Linn-Mar 24, Jefferson 14
Cedar Falls 35, Washington 0
Senior 24, Waterloo East 0

But Harris' kickoff return led to another 1-yard Smoak touchdown plunge with 2:08 left that put Linn-Mar up for good.

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Boot/City High dominates West High

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"That's a good group, and there are some veterans there and they do some good things."

City dominated West (1-4) in every statistical category. Outside of Maifeld's field goal in the second quarter, the Trojans couldn't score until 2:27 remained in the game on a 1-yard James Teal run. Teal led West, now on a four-game losing skid, with 43 yards on 15 carries.

"(West players) played with a lot of intensity and emotion, and we've got so many kids banged up right now and the kids were playing with a great amount of heart and we just love them for that," West High Coach Dan Dvorak said. "(City) controlled the line of scrimmage when they needed to and we didn't stop them when we needed to, and then you add Gobush on top of that and Dorian Davis and it's a very lethal combination."

The Little Hawks put away the Trojans in the third quarter with Gobush's two scores on the ground. In the fourth quarter, Evans, the receiver, caught a 55-yard pass from Gilmore to go up 31-3. City's Andrew Schutt kicked a 31-yard field goal in the first quarter and converted four



Brian Ray/The Gazette

Iowa City High's Chad Waltz (81) and Dorian Davis (32) wrap up Iowa City West's James Teel (36) during their game Friday at City High School in Iowa City.

points after.

Gobush said his City team wanted the victory after last year's defeat at West.

"We wanted it more than they did. We came out and just kept powering the ball and opening up the holes," he said. "We have a big O-line

going for us. They just get the job done the way it needs to be."

Dvorak credited West's scrappiness in the first half of the game to its desire to retain the Boot.

"The kids know the importance of this game," the coach

said. "They know these kids and play every other sport with them. It's a great rivalry and you don't have to do a lot to get them up for this. City High made the plays when they needed to and we didn't."

Cougars crush Wahawks

Cordale Baker scored two touchdowns last night as Cedar Rapids Kennedy rolled to a 50-6 Mississippi Valley Conference football win at Waterloo West.

Baker scored Kennedy's first TD on a 4-yard run and later scored on a 30-yard blocked punt return. Kennedy (4-1) led 43-0 at halftime.

Matt Carey passed for 115 yards, completing 7 of 12 passes, and Herve Cantrell rushed for 71 on 9 carries.

Luke Dolan scored twice for Kennedy, on an 8-yard run and 15-yard fumble return.

REGINA 29, BELLE PLAINE 2 — Daniel Murray caught a 46-yard touchdown pass and booted a 52-yard field goal and Nate Kingery returned an interception 25 yards for a score as Class 1A sixth-ranked Regina (3-1, 1-1 1A-6) won at Belle Plaine.

CEDAR FALLS 35, WASHINGTON 0 — Cedar Falls improved to 5-0 with a shutout of the Warriors (3-2) in the UNI-Dome. Washington had its three-game winning streak snapped.