

Jefferson survives

By Jeff Linder
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Just when it appeared Cedar Rapids Jefferson might become the dubious answer to a trivia question, Bobby Stegall and Anthony Trosky got the J-Hawks off the hook.

Stegall blocked a punt to set up a fourth-quarter touchdown, and Trosky intercepted a pass for another score less than a minute later as Jefferson escaped Waterloo East, 22-14, in a Mississippi Valley Conference football game last night at Kingston Stadium.

The outcome extended East's losing streak to 60 games.

"I'm very proud of our resilience," said Jefferson Coach Jim Womochil. "A win is a win, and we'll take it."

Jefferson (4-2) is doing something it hasn't done in six years — playing meaningful football games in October. The remaining schedule is a haul: Cedar Rapids Kennedy next week, followed by Cedar Rapids Xavier and Iowa City High.

But there's a pot of gold on the other side of those three mountains. A 7-2 record surely would make the J-Hawks playoff-eligible, and 6-3 might give them a chance.

"That's all we've been wanting since I came here," Womochil said. "We wanted to say we've got a shot late in the season. Now we've got that."

"There's definitely something out there to strive for," Trosky said. "Going to the playoffs, that would be huge to our school."

East (0-6) nearly squashed those hopes and lifted a burden — the Trojans haven't won since Oct. 29, 1999.

But the J-Hawks got away. "This was gut-wrenching because we had it," said East Coach Charlie Aldrich. "A couple key plays at a couple key times didn't go our way."

Credit Stegall. And Trosky.

With East holding an 8-6 advantage early in the fourth quarter, Stegall got a finger on Drew Robinson's punt. The net result was an 8-yard boot, and the J-Hawks took possession at the East 29.

"I guess I got a finger on it, hardly a finger," Stegall said. "It was just enough to stop it a little."

R.J. Shubatt connected with Cal Faul on a slant pattern for the go-ahead touchdown on the next play. Faul's two-point conversion run gave Jefferson a 14-8 advantage.

Three plays after the ensuing kickoff, Trosky picked off Ely Ackles' overthrown pass and returned it 19 yards for the backbreaking score.

"Actually, I wasn't playing very good defense on the play. I was playing soft coverage, but the guys got a good rush and forced (Ackles) to rush the pass," Trosky said. "It all happened so fast. Once I caught it, I had blockers and I knew I was going to score."

Another two-point run, this time by Terrell McBride, made it 22-8. And East's window of hope had all but closed.

The Trojans got within 22-14 on a 36-yard TD pass from Ackles to Trice Scott with 4:31 left, and got the ball back at the East 12 with 2:14 to go. But Ryan Bennett's interception sealed it, and the J-Hawks ran out the clock.

The J-Hawks prevailed despite the absence of a running game. They managed just 59 ground yards on 42 carries. Shubatt completed 9 of 14 passes for 159 yards.

Jefferson led 6-0 at halftime on the strength of Josh Lorenzen's 1-yard run and a dominant defense. The J-Hawks allowed 48 yards of offense in the first half, and nearly half of that came on one play.

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Quick-striking Kennedy rules

By John Riehl
The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Who cares about time of possession, anyway?

Certainly not Cedar Rapids Kennedy. The Cougars ran only nine plays on five touchdown drives in a 41-21 victory last night to spoil Iowa City West's homecoming at Trojan Field.

"We had been depending on our defense and special teams to score points," Cougar junior Tim Johnson said.

Not anymore.

Kennedy (4-2) kicked off the winning effort with some razzle-dazzle on its first play from scrimmage, pulling a flea-flicker screen pass out of its bag of tricks.

Quarterback Guy Martino dumped the ball off to running back Herve Cantrell, who sprinted the sideline for a 32-yard touchdown with 9 minutes, 59 seconds left in the first quarter.

Time of drive: 15 seconds.

"The first play was one we practiced before the season, but we had never run it," Cantrell said.

"We came out and surprised them and scored first."

West countered with a seven-play drive that culminated in Gavin Smith's 32-yard TD scamper. The extra point was blocked, and Kennedy held a 7-6 lead.

Kennedy wasted no time with its next possession when Teddy Shonka turned a short pass from Martino into a 40-yard touchdown with 6:30 remaining.

Time of drive: 32 seconds.

West's defense, which struggled most of the night, then made a big play when linebacker Zach Derby scooped up a Cantrell fumble and rumbled 38 yards for a touchdown. A two-point conversion pass tied the game at 14 with 7:03 left in the first half.

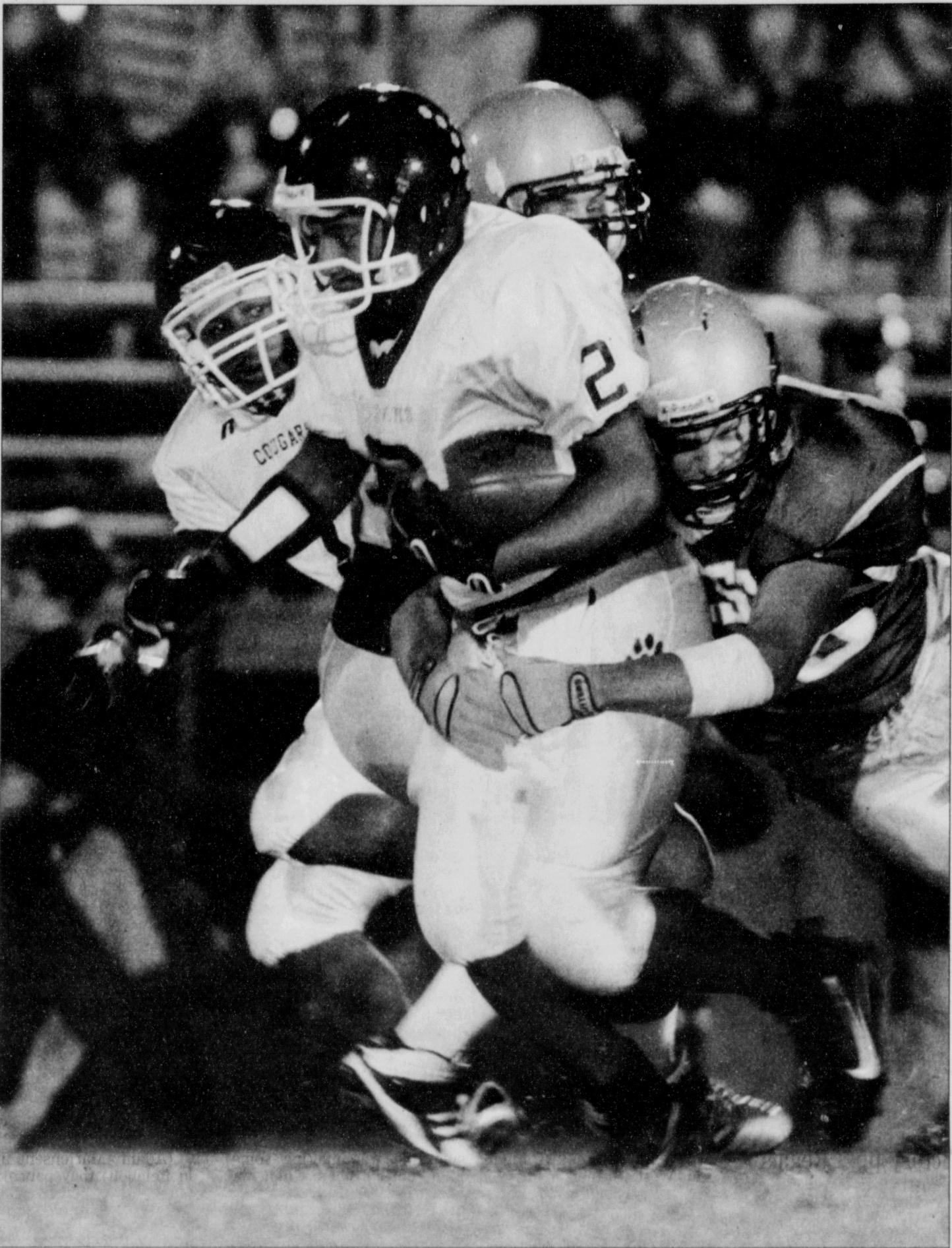
Kennedy, which snapped a two-game losing streak, didn't let the score remain tied for long. Two plays and 52 seconds later, Johnson was celebrating in the end zone after his 49-yard TD run. Kennedy had the lead for good at 21-14.

"Credit West for battling back," Kennedy Coach Tim Lewis said. "Momentum is such a huge thing at the high school level."

And the Cougars never relinquished it.

Kennedy took a 31-14 lead into the locker room after capitalizing on a West fumble in the final minute, with Cantrell doing the honors on a 19-yard TD run with 33 seconds left.

Cantrell wasn't done with



Liz Martin/The Gazette
Cedar Rapids Kennedy running back Herve Cantrell tries to pull away from Iowa City West linebacker Zach Derby (right) during the first half of their game last night in Iowa City. Kennedy won, 41-21.

his exploit just yet. Martino hooked up with him again on a 34-yard TD toss with 5:19 left in the third, pushing the Cougars' lead to 41-14.

That drive took all of two plays and 38 seconds.

"Offensively, we've struggled. We knew it would take awhile to get going," Lewis said. "Hopefully, this is a breakout game for us."

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Saints/Xavier applies pressure

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a 30-yard pass from Schmall, Martin had TD runs of 5, 4, and 73 yards, and Joe Bedard kicked a 35-yard field goal and scored on a 4-yard run.

How did it happen so quickly? Washington played a huge role.

The Warriors (4-2) fumbled eight times, losing five, and quarterback Barney O'Donnell was intercepted once. That's six turnovers against one of the most opportunistic teams in the state.

"They physically dominated us in the second half," Washington Coach Tony Lombardi said. "They're a good program, I've said that all along. They played extremely well, and they forced turnovers, and our kids coughed the ball up, and you just can't do that."

O'Donnell had another stellar night but was under constant pressure. He completed 13 of 18 passes for 158 yards and a TD, but that was about it for the Warriors. O'Donnell was 10 of 13 for 132 yards in the first half.

"They came out hard in the first half and we had to get our stuff together in the locker room (at halftime)," Xavier all-state defensive back Zach Schulte said. "Wash is a good team and I'll give them credit, but we came out fired up and ready to go in the second half."



Leila Navidi/The Gazette
Michael Small (left) of Cedar Rapids Washington is hit by Cedar Rapids Xavier defender Michael Pederson as a pass arrives last night in Cedar Rapids.

Because of the Washington turnovers, Xavier enjoyed great field possession, but there also were big plays, including Martin touchdown runs of 41 and 73 yards. He had 216 yards on 27 carries.

"We took advantage some opportunities off some turnovers and that was a big key," Schulte said. "I don't know if the final score is indicative of how tough a football game that was."

The first half was a series of big-time plays made by big-time playmakers and ended with Xavier ahead, 14-10.

Martin got things started when he ran for 16 and 41 yards on his first two carries, the latter after he bounced outside and sprinted into the end zone.

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Mississippi Valley Conference standings

Miss. Division	Conf	All
Cedar Falls	5-1	5-1
Iowa City High	5-1	5-1
Dub. Hempstead	5-1	5-1
C.R. Prairie	4-2	4-2
Iowa City West	1-5	1-5
Dubuque Wahlert	1-5	1-5
Linn-Mar	0-6	0-6
Valley Division	Conf.	All
C.R. Xavier	6-0	6-0
C.R. Washington	4-2	4-2
C.R. Kennedy	4-2	4-2
C.R. Jefferson	4-2	4-2
Waterloo West	2-4	2-4
Dubuque Senior	1-5	1-5
Waterloo East	0-6	0-6

THURSDAY

Wahlert 29, Linn-Mar 17

FRIDAY

Xavier 52, Washington 10
City High 23, Prairie 0
Kennedy 41, Iowa City West 21
Jefferson 22, Waterloo East 14
Cedar Falls 35, Waterloo West 7
Hempstead 41, Senior 10

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City High/Little Hawks held down, but still beat Prairie

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team. Dan always has excellent defensive teams, and you cannot make mistakes against excellent teams."

If you had told Jelinek his

team would limit City High to under 200 yards, he would have taken it in a heartbeat. The Little Hawks finished with 197, 153 rushing, but that was still more than enough.

Gobush had 102 hard-earned yards on 16 carries, including a 46-yard run in the second quarter for the game's first touchdown.

City High didn't exactly play a clean game itself with

eight penalties and a lost fumble when a short Klith punt hit off the back of a City High blocker.

"We don't really single one guy out, but definitely Klith is a great player," said City

High defensive tackle James Ferentz. "He played a great game, (but) he had a tough time getting things going. They're a good team."

"But once again, it comes down to our scout team. We

knew what they were doing because of the looks our scout team gave us, and that's the key to getting things done."

