

Win clinches playoff spot for Kennedy

By Craig Murphy

News correspondent

CEDAR RAPIDS — Kennedy made it into the playoffs with a dominant, 27-6, prep football win over Waterloo East last night at Kingston Stadium.

But, despite the lopsided score, this was an ugly, drawn out game.

How ugly? Kennedy missed three extra points, two field goals and committed 18 penalties for 126 yards.

"Every week we try to raise the bar," Kennedy Coach Tim Lewis said. "We didn't raise the bar tonight. It was very frustrating, especially all the personal fouls. It was an emotional game, and sometimes that's part of the game."

Even though the game gave the Cougars a 7-2 record and put Kennedy into the playoffs, Lewis admitted the penalties made the game less satisfying.

"It does take away a little (from the win)," he said. "Penalties have been hurting us all year. We try to preach each week playing with class. That makes the personal fouls especially bad."

"It's the ninth game of the year. You can't have that many penalties. I was surprised we had that many, especially because we had so few last week."

Kennedy quarterback Guy Martino gave some

credit to his team.

"We had a lot of penalties," said the junior, who threw for 137 yards on the night. "We had to work through it. The running backs did a great job."

Two of those running backs, Tim Johnson and Herve Cantrell, each ran for two touchdowns.

Martino also gave credit to his line.

"I had a lot of time to throw," he said. "The line did a good job picking up the blitzes."

Johnson, who scored on runs of 6 and 1 yards, said emotions sometimes got the better part of his team.

"With all the penalties, we let our coaches down," he said. "We can't let stuff get to us. We came out so-so at the start, but we picked it up."

Martino also noted his team wasn't totally prepared at the start.

"We played down to our opponents a little bit," he said. "We're 7-2, and we won the game 27-6. That's not a bad way to enter the playoffs."

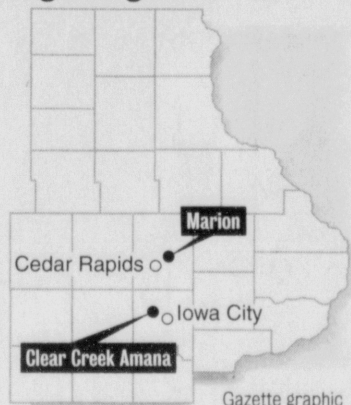
That's the message Lewis emphasized as well.

"I'm excited," he said.

"We're in the playoffs and we're 7-2. Those are hard to come by. This is great for the seniors. They didn't have a lot of success their freshmen or sophomore years, so I'm happy for them."

Marion caps perfect run

Regional game of the week



Gazette graphic

Class 3A playoffs next for unbeaten Indians

By Nick Richards

News correspondent

TIFFIN — Tony Perkins got a cold shower last night. It was refreshing on a cold night.

Perkins' team racked up 360 yards of offense and overpowered Clear Creek Amana's offense, forcing five turnovers in a 55-0 prep football victory last night.

The win gave the Indians (9-0) a perfect regular season, the sixth team in Marion history to go undefeated.

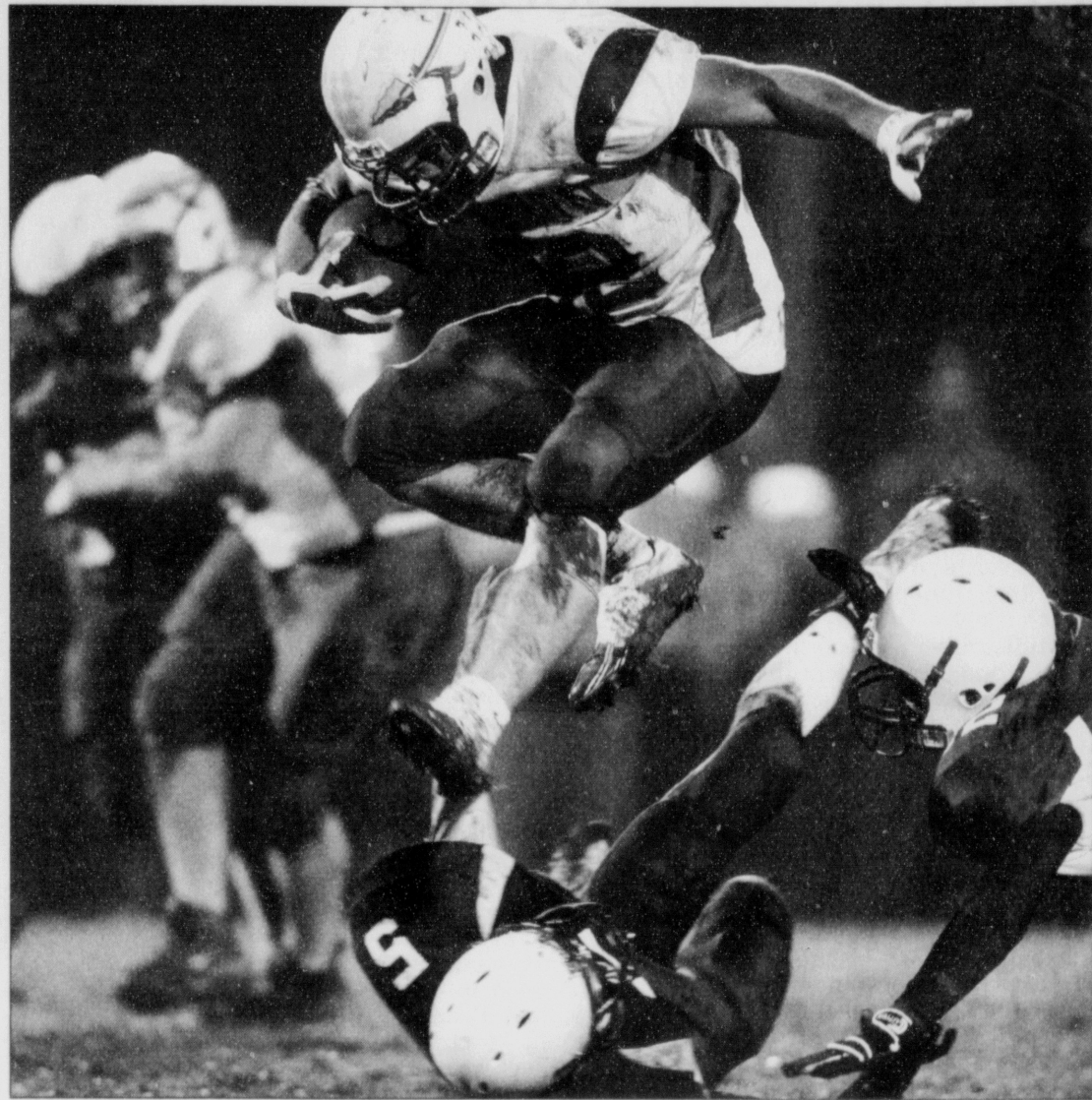
The Indians will host Waukon in a Class 3A first-round playoff game Wednesday.

"Nine-and-0 is special because it's happened only five other times in Marion history," Perkins said after his team doused him with a cooler of water. "To be the sixth is really special considering all the teams that have come before, and no one can take that away from you. You're immortalized with that 9-0."

Quarterback Josh Busenbark also made history, breaking the Marion record for touchdown passes in a season, throwing four to break the record held by his uncle, Travis Fuller.

Busenbark completed 8 of 14 for 125 yards. Three of his four scores went to Allen Reisner.

"It was held by my uncle, so it meant a lot," Busenbark



Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette

Marion's Cyrus Coffman leaps over Clear Creek Amana's Tony Chipman (5) during the first half last night at Kenneth J. Burns Stadium at Clear Creek Amana High School in Tiffin.

said. "Coach told me before the game that he was going to try his hardest to let me get it."

Clear Creek battled in the first quarter, driving to the Marion 27 before failing to convert on a fourth down. The Clipper defense stood tall, forcing a quick three-and-out. Three plays later, however, quarterback Todd Alexander was picked off by Alec Kiburz, and it was all Marion from there.

The Indians scored on their next seven possessions.

Busenbark threw his first

touchdown of the night, a 33-yard strike to Kiburz. The Indian defense forced a three-and-out and went on a seven-play drive, capped by a 1-yard run by Broc Dobling.

The flood gates opened quickly, with the Indians recovering a Tony Chipman fumble at the Clear Creek 12. Reisner snagged a 12-yard pass on the next play for a 21-0 lead. Dobling made it 28-0 on the next drive with another 1-yard plunge. Busenbark threw his third strike of the game, hitting Reisner for a 9-yard score.

Dobling added his third touchdown of the game from five yards out to make it 42-0 at halftime.

Perkins gave Busenbark one more drive to break the record, and he did six plays into the second half, hitting Reisner again to set the mark.

"They are such a close-knit bunch of guys that, really, this isn't enough, and that takes a special athlete when they get to the end of the season, and they want to go on, and they want to try for everything," Perkins said.

Monticello rallies for 2A win

Monticello scored 16 unanswered points after falling behind early to topple Maquoketa Valley, 23-12, in a Class

AREA ROUNDUP

2A District 5 prep football game last night in Delhi.

Mike Klostermann set up Maquoketa Valley's first touchdown with a 36-yard interception return before Monticello (8-1, 6-1) went on its run.

Scott Hoeger scored both touchdowns for the Wildcats (5-4, 4-3 2A-5).

Jake Thompson returned an interception 13 yards for a touchdown and ran 23 yards for another score for the Panthers (8-1, 6-1). Todd Tueken hauled in a 36-yard TD pass from Ben Welsch for Monticello.

WEST BRANCH 49, BELLE PLAINE 0 — West Branch quarterback Caleb Walter completed 12 of 17 passes for 256 yards and four touchdowns, including a 70-yarder to Zach Eagle, to lead the Bears (8-1, 6-1) over the Plainsmen.

GRINNELL 37, WEST DELAWARE 27 — The Tigers scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns at home and earn a trip to the Class 3A playoffs.

Ahead 24-21 at the end of the third, Grinnell (8-1, 6-1 in 3A-4) scored on a 44-yard pass from Scotty Roth to Will Eilert and 16-yard run by Cole Henderson to pull away. B.J. Hermesen scored on a 4-yard run to pull the Hawks within 10, but the two-point conversion failed, as did an on-sides kick.

Grinnell totaled 480 yards of offense, getting 175 on the ground from Kyle Lidtke.

West Delaware (7-2, 5-2) had 460 yards on offense, 369 from the arm of Hermesen. He completed 27 of 41 passes with three touchdowns.

Zach McCool caught 10 of Hermesen's passes for 132 yards, including a 13-yard touchdown. Austin Cole and Nate Lynch scored on 16- and 26-yard passes, respectively. (News correspondent Bill Logan reported this game)

OLON 42, CAMANCHE 0 — Reece Jedlicka rushed for 151 yards and two touchdowns as Solon (8-1, 6-1 2A-5) built a 35-0 halftime lead and won at Camanche.

Colin Sleeper added two rushing TDs and Matt Lesan hauled in two scoring passes from Matt Morrison for the Spartans.

WAPSIE VALLEY 48, EAST BUCHANAN 7 — Matt Meyers rushed for 123 yards and three touchdowns as Class A

third-ranked Wapsie Valley (9-0, 8-0 A-5) took a 42-0 halftime lead at home.

Garrett McGrane had a 90-yard punt return for a touchdown for the Warriors.

Jared Grover scored a third-quarter touchdown for the Buccaneers (1-8, 1-7).

VALLEY COMMUNITY 46, DUNKERTON 7 — Aaron Strong ran for 183 yards and four scores on 19 carries as Valley Community (4-5) finished its season with a victory at home.

Jacob Eades led Dunkerton (0-9) with 160 yards rushing and a touchdown.

CASCADE 46, NORTH CEDAR 0 — Calvin Rea passed for 253 yards and four touchdowns as Cascade won at home.

Brennan Melloy hauled in four passes for 125 yards and three scores and Nate Meyer had four catches for 100 yards and a touchdown.

Casey Redmond had 117 yards rushing and two touchdowns for the Cougars.

WACO 42, ENGLISH VALLEYS 7 — Austin McBeth passed for 174 yards and two touchdowns, completing 10 of 11 passes, and Chayse Roth rushed 16 times for 138 yards and a score as WACO (8-1) won at North English.

The English Valleys (0-9) touchdown was scored by Pat Lalla on a 30-yard run.

INDEPENDENCE 27, VINTON-SHELLSBURG 26 — Vinton-Shellsburg scored a touchdown with no time remaining but a two-point conversion pass attempt was caught out of bounds as host Independence escaped.

Independence scored a touchdown with a little over a minute remaining to take the lead.

POSTVILLE 14, LANSING KEE 8 — Sam Polfer rushed for two touchdowns as Postville won at home.

Andy Beck passed for 147 yards, including a 31-yard TD pass to Evan Bottorff for Lansing Kee.

EDGEWOOD-COLESBURG 44, CLAYTON RIDGE 6 — Ryan Putz passed for two touchdowns to Brian Daker as Ed-Co upset Clayton Ridge at Guttenberg.

Colton Rhines ran for two scores for the Vikings.

Noah Sadewasser scored the Eagles' lone touchdown.

MFL MARMAC 28, SOUTH WINNESHIEK 20 — Mark Berns rushed for 131 yards and four touchdowns as the Bulldogs won at Calmar.

Brent Miller ran for 181 yards for MFL MarMac (2-7, 1-6).

Strong second half propels City High

By John Riehl

The Gazette

IOWA CITY — The time for Iowa City High to be inspired by emotional halftime talks is over.

If the Little Hawks are going to pack a postseason punch, they will have to search within themselves for motivation. That very thing happened at halftime of last night's regular-season finale, as Class 4A 10th-ranked City High came out strong in the third quarter on its way to a 34-16 win over Cedar Rapids Jefferson at Bates Field.

The Little Hawks (7-2) scored two touchdowns in the first five-plus minutes of the third quarter to expand on a precarious 20-16 halftime lead and establish some momentum heading into the first round of the playoffs Wednesday.

"At this time of the year, we tell our kids this is your football team now and you guys have to take care of it," said City High Coach Dan Sabers, who has led teams to four straight playoff berths. "I think overall we did a pretty good job of that, because Jefferson has some good people. Their quarterback threw well and they have some guys with speed."

City High capitalized on a Jefferson special teams blunder for its first score of the second half. J-Hawk punter Ryan Garman couldn't handle a bad snap and was tackled at the 9-yard line. After an offside penalty, running back Arcidius Robinson scored on a 4-yard TD run with 7:14 left.

The Little Hawks recovered the ensuing kickoff at the J-Hawk 34, pouncing on a squib kick. Two plays later, Robinson caught a 25-yard scoring strike from quarterback Ted Schmidt with 6:25 remaining for a 34-16 lead.

Robinson, a 6-foot-1, 230-pound senior, made an immediate impact after sitting out the first half for disciplinary reasons.

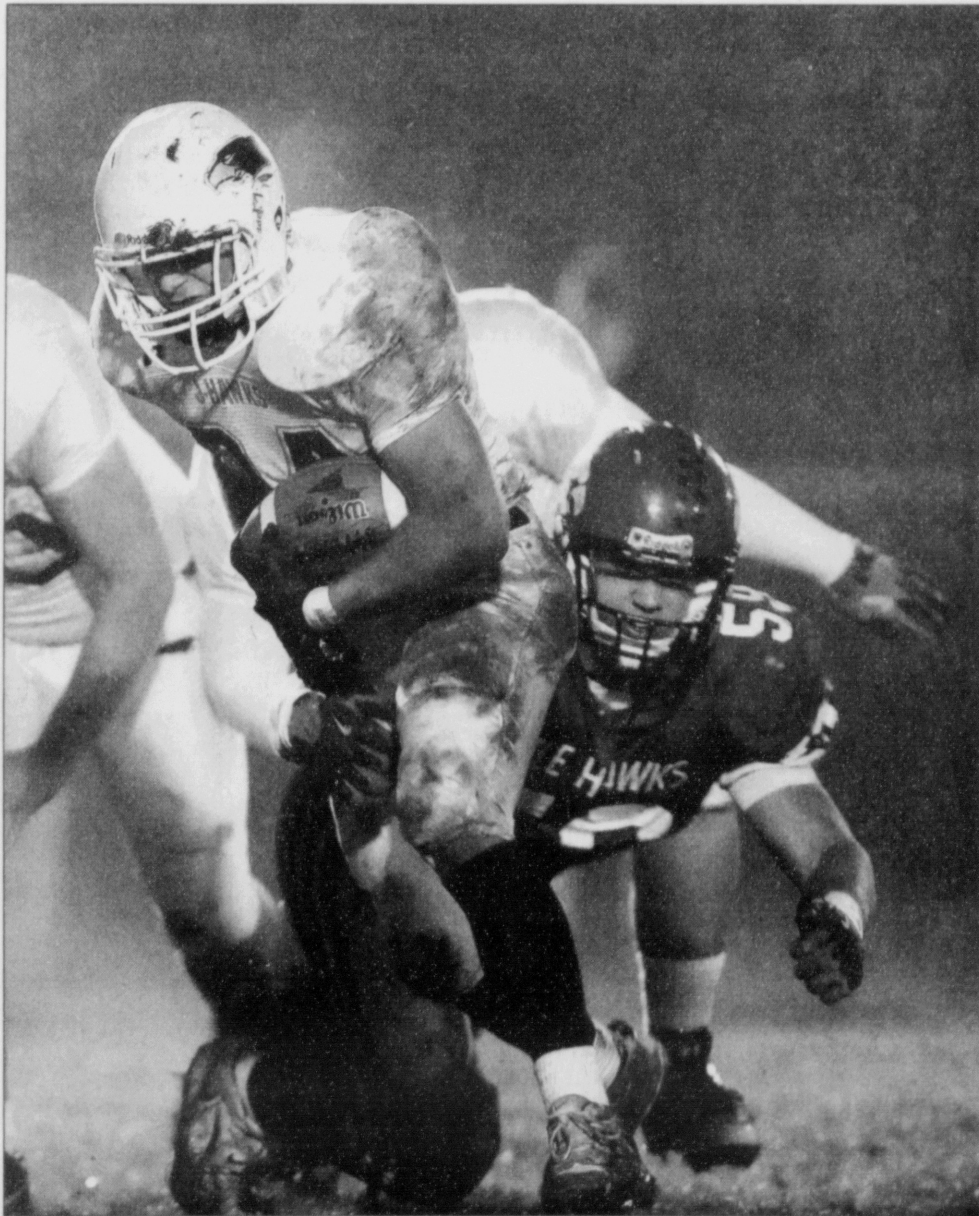
"He's a special athlete with a good frame and he runs tough," Sabers said.

City High's starting tailback, Travis Gobush, missed the game with an injured hand. Sabers said Gobush "has a chance" to play Wednesday.

Jefferson (4-5) was on the verge of getting blown out in the second quarter until linebacker Cy Bradshaw recovered a City High fumble at his 5-yard line with 4:03 left and his team trailing, 20-3.

J-Hawk quarterback R.J. Shubatt proceeded to carve up the City High secondary. The senior completed a 70-yard pass to Harrison Gerber, with Garman then scored on a 2-yard run to cut the deficit to 20-9 at the 1:31 mark.

After the Little Hawks went three



Brian Ray/The Gazette

Iowa City High's James Ferentz (right) makes a hit on Cedar Rapids Jefferson's Ryan Garman during their game last night in Iowa City.

plays and out, Shubatt completed a pretty 36-yard TD toss over the middle to Terrell McBride with 2.6 seconds left. All of a sudden, Jefferson trailed only 20-16 at halftime.

For the game, Shubatt completed 12 of 28 passes for 258 yards, with one touchdown and three interceptions.

City High defensive back Eric Wright intercepted two passes, including one he returned 35 yards for a TD with 11:03 left in the second quarter.

"That's the best feeling you can get, getting to the end zone off a big play,"

said Wright, who added that Sabers told him before the game he wanted the defense to score.

Now it's off to the playoffs for the Little Hawks.

"We have playmakers coming back and our defense will be hyped up. I believe we can step it up in the playoffs," Wright said.

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