

Cougars win, but home playoff game unlikely

Prairie upset of Xavier could lead to rematch of 42nd Street rivals

By Jeff Johnson
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Let's play two at Kingston Stadium? It doesn't appear that'll happen Wednesday night.

Cedar Rapids Kennedy set up the possibility of a postseason double-header at the venerable old stadium by down-

ing Dubuque Wahlert, 24-7, in a soggy, muddy, messy regular-season finale last night at Kingston Stadium.

Going into Week 9, Cedar Rapids Washington had clinched a Class 4A substate home game. Kennedy (6-3) got the victory it appeared to need to also get home-field advantage, but Cedar Rapids Prairie's upset of Cedar Rapids Xavier spoiled the twin-bill fun.

The Iowa High School Athletic Association hadn't of-

ficially confirmed any postseason pairings by deadline, but it's believed Kennedy will travel up 42nd Street to face Xavier for the second time this season. The Saints won the first encounter.

"As long as we get into the playoffs, man," said Kennedy linebacker Bond Harman. "You just want to be playing at the end of the season."

"The nice thing is you're playing in a short week but against a team you're familiar with," said Kennedy Coach

Tim Lewis. "It would be different if you were playing a team from the MAC (Mississippi Athletic Conference) that you don't know much about."

Kennedy and Wahlert (4-5) have qualified for substate games. The Golden Eagles finished with a sub-.500 record and had to overcome the resignation/firing of head coach Chuck Korte a couple of weeks ago but showed they are postseason worthy.

In fact, you didn't have to stretch your imagination

to see Wahlert winning this game.

The Golden Eagles missed two first-half field goals but still had a 7-3 halftime lead and were driving for more points in the third quarter when quarterback Eric May — a University of Iowa basketball recruit — was picked off in the end zone by Grant Brennenman.

Kennedy then marched for the go-ahead touchdown, a 7-yard Royce Bell run.

Bell finished with 137 yards

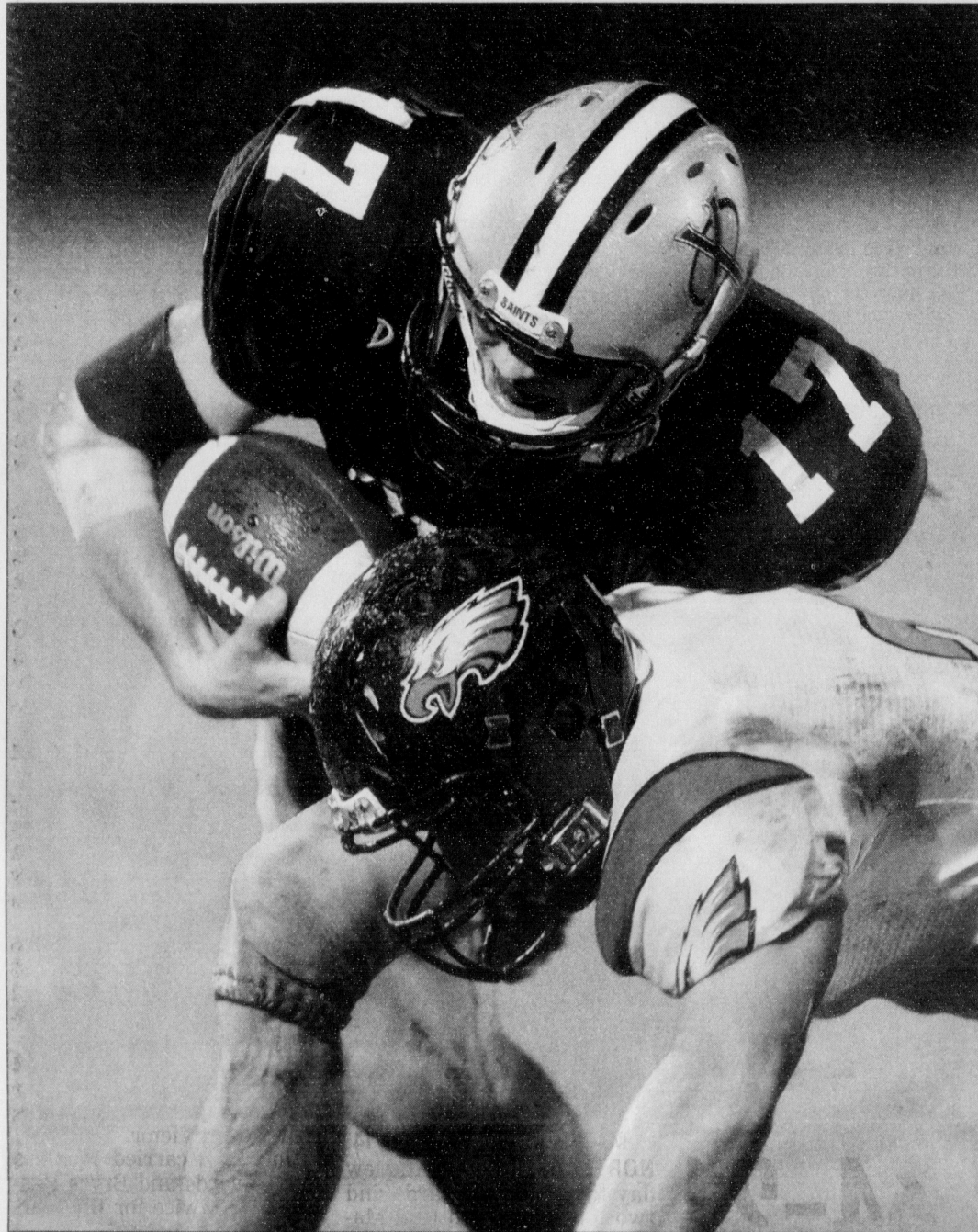
on 24 carries.

The backbreaker came on the ensuing possession, when Harman stepped in front of a May pass near midfield and ran 51 yards for a TD and a 17-7 Cougars lead.

"I saw him looking at the receiver," Harman said. "I just stepped in front."

"The (first interception) was big, but the pick-6 was ... unpleasant," said Wahlert interim coach Mike Mahoney.

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Liz Martin/The Gazette

Cedar Rapids Xavier quarterback Steven Travis (left), is tackled by Cedar Rapids Prairie's Scott Schebler during the first half of last night's game at Saints Field in Cedar Rapids. Prairie defeated Xavier, 14-7.

Prairie/Wins on late TD pass

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"We were waiting to pass the ball; we had been running all night," Schebler said of his sixth touchdown reception of the season. "We were waiting for an opportunity and the line did a perfect job of holding them back because they were blitzing all night. It was a perfect pass. I didn't do anything too special besides run the route."

Despite having only 58 seconds left, Xavier made it interesting after starting on its own 34. Chase Cooling caught a 17-yard pass from Steven Travis, and Eric Shreck hauled in consecutive 14- and 9-yarders, and soon the Saints had a first-and-10 on the Hawks' 21.

That's where the possession — and ultimately the game — ended.

Prairie entered the game with the Mississippi Valley Conference's second-ranked defense and it was outstanding again last night, led by Ryan Harrelson, Caleb Wetherall and Chris Jansen. The Saints finished with just 135 yards of total offense and seven first downs.

"The coaches had great practices all week and they taught us a lot of stuff to prepare us well," said Harrelson, a 6-foot-1, 230-pound senior tackle. "We ended coming through with the win, a big win."

Prairie finished with 262 total yards with 197 of those on the ground.

Kremer finished with 84 yards on 13 carries, Lindley 80 on 21.

The teams slugged it out through the rain and rotten

conditions to a scoreless first half that was remarkably turnover-free.

The Hawks' deepest penetration of the half was the Saint 24, where they gave it up on a loss of downs. Xavier's deepest penetration was the Prairie 47 where it sat when the half came to a close.

That changed quickly in the third period when Kremer broke loose for a 42-yard touchdown at the 3:31 mark of the third period to give the Hawks 7-0 lead. It was short-lived.

Patrick Lewis fielded the ensuing kickoff on the 15-yard-line and returned it 85 yards for a touchdown to knot the score at seven, where it remained until Prairie's winning play.

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Jefferson.

The substate round will be played Wednesday. The pairings were announced late last night after deadline.

"This is awesome. This is an excellent league," Sabers said of his team's MVC title. "We didn't dodge anybody."

Those are all good football teams. This is a helluva accomplishment."

For a while last night, it looked like City High might stub its toe.

Jefferson (4-5) controlled the first half, outgaining the Little Hawks in total yards, 262-160.

The J-Hawks scored both of their first-half touchdowns on fourth-down passes by quarterback Drew Higgins. The first was a 20-yard toss to Ben Swenson on 4th-and-16 with 2:03 left in the first quarter. The second came on a 1-yard pass to Eric Kleinheinz, giving Jefferson a 15-12 halftime lead.

"Obviously, we were happy with our performance in the first half, but unfortunately our kids were content,"

Jefferson Coach Jim Womochil said. "We didn't come out with a lot of zip in the second half."

And City High capitalized. Tailback Eric Washpun put the Little Hawks ahead for good on a 7-yard TD run with 7:16 left in the third.

Just when the J-Hawks appeared headed for a go-ahead score, they shot themselves in the foot.

Trailing 19-15 early in the fourth, Jefferson marched to the City High 44-yard line, only to commit back-to-back penalties with illegal procedure and holding, putting itself in a 1st-and-25 hole.

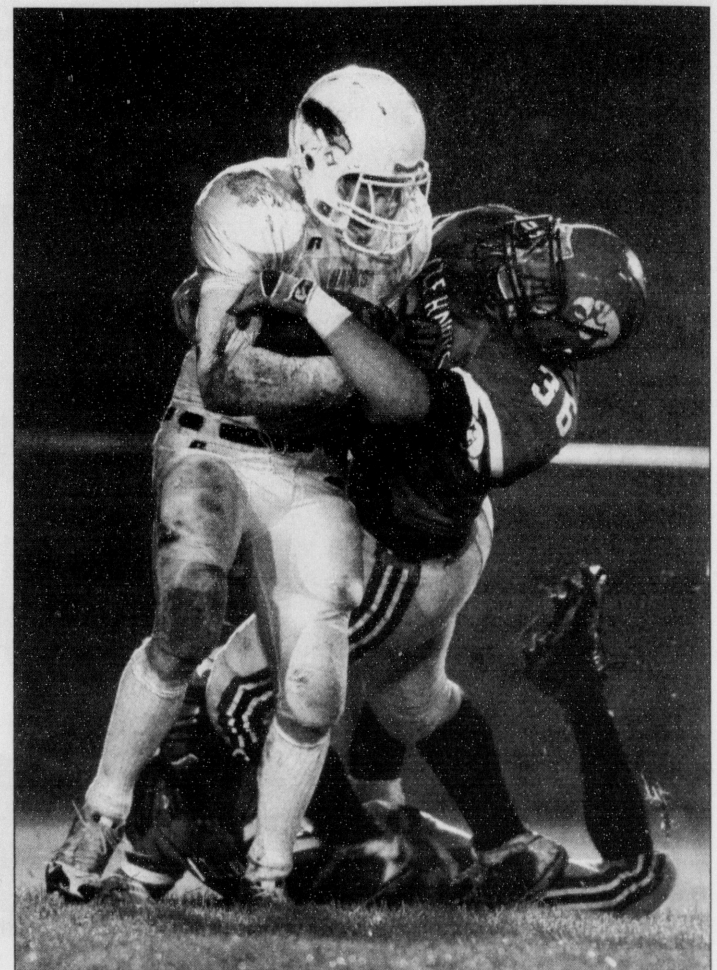
The J-Hawks ended up turning the ball over on downs at the Little Hawk 43.

On the next play, City High quarterback A.J. Derby scampered 57 yards for a touchdown, extending the lead to 26-15 with 8:52 remaining.

"We're pleased with our effort and we executed some things really well," Womochil said. "Our offense let us down twice tonight big and bad with two holding penalties."

Lightning struck again for the Little Hawks on their next play, as Washpun dashed 70 yards for his third touchdown at the 7:32 mark.

Washpun finished with 164 yards on 14 carries. Derby added 124 yards on 14 attempts.



Amanda LaRae Larkin photos / The Gazette



TOP: Iowa City High's Adam Prybil pulls down Cedar Rapids Jefferson's Tyler Evans as Evans tried to return a kickoff last night at Bates Field in Iowa City. No. 3 City High completed a 9-0 regular season with a 33-23 win over the J-Hawks. BOTTOM: Iowa City High's Eric Washpun pushes away Cedar Rapids Jefferson's Tyler Evans en route to a touchdown during last night's game.

Higgins completed 20-of-38 passes for 262 yards, with three touchdowns and one interception. Tailback Tyler Evans gained 164 yards on 27 rushes.

"We feel this team is the best team in this side of the state. We'll use that as a confidence builder," Womochil said.

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MVC standings

SCHOOL	CONF	ALL
Mississippi Division		
Cedar Rapids Washington	8-1	8-1
Cedar Falls	8-1	8-1
Cedar Rapids Prairie	6-3	6-3
Cedar Rapids Jefferson	4-5	4-5
Linn-Mar	3-6	3-6
Dubuque Senior	1-8	1-8
Waterloo East	1-8	1-8
Valley Division		
Iowa City High	9-0	9-0
Cedar Rapids Xavier	6-3	6-3
Cedar Rapids Kennedy	6-3	6-3
Dubuque Hempstead	5-4	5-4
Dubuque Wahlert	4-5	4-5
Waterloo West	3-6	3-6
Iowa City West	0-9	0-9

THURSDAY
Dubuque Hempstead 19, Waterloo West 6

FRIDAY
Cedar Falls 42, Dubuque Senior 0
Iowa City High 33, C.R. Jefferson 23
C.R. Prairie 14, C.R. Xavier 7
C.R. Washington 41, Waterloo East 0
C.R. Kennedy 24, Dubuque Wahlert 7
Linn-Mar 21, Iowa City West 19

Garman, Pedersen carry Linn-Mar past West, 21-19

Late interception seals victory for Lions in season finale

MARION — Jer Garman rushed for 241 yards and two touchdowns and Jacob Ped-

METRO ROUNDUP

ersen picked off an Iowa City West pass with eight seconds left as Linn-Mar ended the 2008 Mississippi Valley Conference prep football season with a 21-19 win last night at Armstrong Field.

The Lions missed three field goals and had a turnover in the red zone, but first-year Lions Coach Bob Forsyth was just "glad to get a win."

The Lions (3-6) held the winless but potent Trojans (0-9) to

125 passing yards.

"Our kids just did a great job tonight," Forsyth said.

Forsyth helped turn the Lions' fortunes around this fall, snapping a three-year losing streak earlier.

He hoped to make the substate round of the playoffs, but said a three-win season is a step in the right direction.

"We've made some strides," he said. "We've made some really good strides this year."

Winning the season finale will make the off-season easier to get the players' attention, he said.

"It's a really big deal," he said of the three-win season for the Lions.

CEDAR RAPIDS WASHINGTON 41, WATERLOO EAST 0 — It didn't take the Warriors very long to extinguish the

Trojans' flame as they torched East at Memorial Stadium last night in Waterloo.

"We wanted to come in here and get some of our kids more playing time and work on our no-huddle offense," Warrior Coach Tony Lombardi said. "But that East High team always comes in ready to play and they made us work for it."

"We had some stints early there where they just laid it to us and forced some turnovers. I never take playing East for granted as they are making good strides over there and they will hit you."

The game began on a high



Keenan Davis
Catches 2 TD passes

Playoff qualifiers

■ The field for Wednesday's football substate wasn't available at press time. Visit www.gazetteonline.com to see who's in the substate

note for the Trojans (0-9) as they registered three sacks and forced a turnover on the Warriors initial possession.

The Warriors (8-1) marched 76 yards on their next series and scored on a four-yard run by Andre' Dawson.

Dawson also capped a short field with a 19 yard jaunt to the end zone and a 13-0 lead.

"We had a little trouble to start but we got it going and began doing what we wanted to do," Lombardi said. "One of our goals was to get the ball to Keenan Davis who has been

the heart of this team. He exemplifies what commitment to the sport is all about."

Davis, who has committed to play collegiately at the University of Iowa, hauled in a pair of Suess scoring tosses of 25 and 22 yards.

"It was fun getting back out here with my team and making a contribution," the senior receiver said. "I haven't really played much this year and I wanted to get out and do what I love to do and that is to play football."

Davis has been nursing a calcium buildup in his left shin and feels he is ready for the playoffs.

"That's what it is about. I am maybe 90 percent now and I want to be ready for the playoffs," Davis said.

— Waterloo Courier

