

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

CLASS 4A

Iowa City West bulldozes Davenport North, 42-14

By Susan Harman, correspondent

IOWA CITY — Iowa City West picked a perfect homecoming foe, but the way the Trojans played last night they might have handled a much better opponent. West scored on five of its first six possessions and rolled to a 42-14 victory over Davenport North. The victory sets up next week’s showdown with Pleasant Valley for the

district championship. “There are some similarities between Davenport North and Pleasant Valley on offense,” West Coach Garrett Hartwig said. “But we gave Davenport North our full attention. We got the win tonight and now it’s time to talk about the biggest game we’ve played all year.” The Trojan offensive line (Logan Stevens, Joe Ranard, Alex Kleinow, Hayden Hen-

dricks, Griffin Blackhurst) was dominant from the first play, blowing open big holes for various running backs and providing cloak-like protection for quarterback Aaron Bleil. “The line did an amazing job,” senior running back Michael Krupp said. “We really picked it up this week, and they made big holes when we needed them. This is the first game I’ve really gotten in and

I knew I had to step up, and the line did a great job.” Krupp rushed just six times but gained 110 yards and scored two touchdowns. On the one drive in the first half in which the Trojans (5-3) had a fourth-down play, they executed a fake punt and up-back Connor Greene passed to Bryson Adcock for the first down. Four plays later Greene ran seven yards over right tackle into the end zone to

boost the lead to 35-0 just before halftime. “I learned from the best: Nate Boland and Aaron Bleil,” Greene joked. “It’s something we picked up in practice, and it was a good time to use it.” Bleil was 7-for-7 passing for 113 yards, all in the first half. The Wildcats (1-7) had only one victory coming in and their inability to duke it out in the trenches had to be a big reason.



Sy Bean/The Gazette

Dalton Kuehl of Cedar Rapids Jefferson picks up Bryce Lund after a J-Hawk touchdown in the first quarter last night against Waterloo East in Cedar Rapids. The J-Hawks won the Class 4A district game, 35-0.

Class 4A/Teams flagged for 27 penalties

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the second round.” The staff reminded the players they have a “one-week season” and preparation begins today. “We want to make people proud,” Rashed said. “We’re trying to do something no Jefferson team has done for a while.” Jefferson dominated on defense and in the running game last night. The J-Hawks amassed 410 yards rushing. Rashed had 129 yards,

Lund 127. “Our line played fantastic,” Rashed said. “All the backs hit it hard. Our big plays were clicking offensively.” Rashed had touchdown runs of 13, 19 and 8 yards. Lund opened the scoring with a 29-yard TD in the first quarter and capped the scoring with a 1-yard plunge in the third. He carried the ball seven times and wanted to keep getting the call. “I get really excited,” Lund said. “I’ve got good

blocking out there so I’m always excited to get the ball.” The J-Hawk defense allowed 50 yards of total offense, holding the Trojans (0-8, 0-4) to a loss of 10 yards rushing. The game was brutal at times. The teams combining for 27 penalties for more than 170 yards. The mistakes have been a problem, despite stretches of more disciplined play this season, and the J-Hawks know they have to get better. “The scoreboard was

irrelevant,” Webb said. “We can’t beat quality teams with things like that.” The J-Hawks honored a senior class that persevered some rough seasons, contributing to the highest win total since 2008. It was a bittersweet moment for Webb, who is in his third season. “I’m glad all seniors got in and got playing time,” Webb said. “There are a lot of great seniors. They stuck with it.” ● Comments: (319) 368-8679; kj.pilcher@thegazette.com



Adam Wesley photos/The Gazette

Iowa City Regina’s Luke Gallagher gestures to the crowd after the Regals defeated Cedar Rapids Xavier last night in Cedar Rapids.

Preps/Brinkman’s long run a key play

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day one that we circled,” Brinkman said. “People always have been telling us that we’re good for our level. We just wanted to come out here and show those people that even a little old 1A school can play with these guys. I’m proud of my teammates. They played so hard. “Give props to Xavier. They played us so physically. There were a lot of big schools that didn’t want to play us, and they chose to play us. I have so much respect for those guys.” Regina held a 7-0 lead at halftime, but Xavier’s defense dominated the third quarter and allowed a scattershot Saints offense to finally tie it early in the fourth on a 25-yard touchdown pass from sophomore quarterback Bryce

Schulte to receiver Joe Welch. On Regina’s first play from scrimmage after that score, Brinkman took a read-option handoff left, got a block on the outside and broke loose down the sideline. He had only 8 yards on 10 carries before it. “That long run just killed the momentum,” said Xavier Coach Duane Schulte. “We put so much effort into this game,” said Cook, who completed 10 of 21 passes for 103 yards. “To come here and get a victory, that means a lot to us.” Xavier (5-3) couldn’t get a run game established, which was pivotal. The Saints turned almost strictly to the air in the second half, with Schulte seemingly coming of age in a 15-of-27, 147-yard game. ● Comments: (319) 398-8259; jeff.johnson@thegazette.com



Xavier’s Nick Stark tries to get around Regina’s Payton Raso after a pass reception last night at Xavier.

8-MAN FOOTBALL

Turkey Valley surges past CVC

Trojans take pride in their 8-man defense

By Matt Sulentic, correspondent

CEDAR RAPIDS — The numbers are not gaudy. The plays are not flashy. The results, however, are very effective for Turkey Valley. The Trojans smashed their way to a 7-1 record last night by defeating Cedar Valley Christian, 68-7, at LaSalle Middle School. “We just came in here like any other game, looking for a win,” Trojan sophomore Cody Hackman said. Turkey Valley prides

itself on stout defense, which is a rarity in a class that scores points by the dozen. The Trojans have held all but one opponent under 30 points. Including last night, the Trojan defense has held four of eight opponents under 20 points. The formula for defensive success for Turkey Valley is a simple one. “Tackle the guy with the ball,” Coach Mark Scott. “We work on tackling almost every day.” Scott said the majority of the Trojans would rather line up on defense than offense. “Our kids like to hit. They like the physicality of it,” Scott said. “They

are physical farm kids who like to get after it.” On the offensive side, the Trojans spread the ball to a variety of backs. Heading into the game with Cedar Valley Christian, Turkey Valley had five running backs north of 250 yards rushing this season. Combined, those five running backs have tallied 1,834 rushing yards. Senior Justin Hackman leads the way with 519 yards rushing and nine touchdowns. “It helps our offense to utilize so many guys,” Scott said. “Teams have a hard time keying on one guy. Then we can go left, right, up the middle, inside, or outside.”

METRO ROUNDUP

Lions put up 63 points in win at West

Seventh-ranked Linn-Mar racked up 554 total yards and was a 8-for-8 on offensive drives as it rolled to a 63-28 win over Waterloo West last night at Memorial Stadium. Linn-Mar (7-1) was actually only 8-of-9, but the lone miss was a 1-play drive at the end of the first half. Quarterback Ryan Schmidt passed for 255 yards and four touchdowns and rushed for 139 yards and three scores to lead the Lions. Trevor Noble caught three of Schmidt’s touchdown passes scoring on plays of 48, 50 and 36. He also returned an interception 55 yards for

another touchdown. — Jim Nelson, Waterloo Courier CEDAR FALLS 21, C.R. KENNEDY 20 — Cedar Falls let a 14-point halftime lead get away, but the Tigers made some big plays late and posted a victory at the UNI-Dome. After the Cougars tied the game in the fourth quarter, Cedar Falls drove 75 yards for the go-ahead score, sparked by a 43-yard pass from quarterback Trey Hansen to Tra’Von Fagan. Hansen then hit Javon Middleton with a 15-yard touchdown strike. Jacob Iehl added what turned out to be the decisive extra point

and the Tigers had a seven-point lead with 3:43 to go in the final period. Back came Kennedy. Quarterback Sam Lizarraga connected with Rey’z Bell over the middle for a 30-yard TD pass with 1:11 left. After the Tigers went offense, the Cougars elected to go for two. Tyler Dralle, who scored Kennedy’s first TD of the night on a 3-yard run, got the ball. But Cedar Falls linebacker Rayce Willett met him in the backfield, threw the Cougar back for a loss and preserved the Tiger lead. — Jim Sullivan, Waterloo Courier