

Roussell’s return sparks Hawks

By K.J. Pilcher, The Gazette

MANCHESTER — West Delaware has played the last month without its biggest threat in the backfield.

The Hawks’ junior running back Coy Roussell had rushed for just under 1,000 yards through six weeks when he was sidelined by mononucleosis.

Roussell returned to the lineup and provided a spark as No. 7 West Delaware upended No. 3 Solon, 28-14, in the second round of the Class 3A playoffs last night at Brown Field.

Roussell led the Hawks (10-1) with 89 rushing yards in his first game since Oct. 3. West Delaware Coach Doug Winkowitsch said he found out at 2 p.m. that Roussell was cleared to play.

“We’re just thrilled to have him back,” Winkowitsch said.

Roussell cut Solon’s lead to 7-6 with his 47-yard scamper on his second carry of the game, converting after a Solon fumble.

Brent Lammers put the Hawks up 12-7 with a 69-yard touchdown pass to Trent Curley,

who caught the tipped ball off a Solon defender’s fingers and bolted for the end zone.

Big plays and defense helped West Delaware pull away in the second half. Max Ridenour put West Delaware up 20-14 with a 35-yard touchdown and Austin Bishop added a 61-yard touchdown run.

The defense shut out Solon in the second half, holding the Spartans to just 14 rushing yards. They turned the tide with a goal-line stand on Solon’s first possession of the third when the Spartans had first-and-goal from the 2.

Brandon Childs led the Spartans (9-2) with 218 passing yards and two TDs, including a 32-yard strike to Halston Durr for a 7-0 lead and a 25-yard strike to Jacob Coons in the final minute of the first half for a 14-12 edge at the break.

“We didn’t have a lot of experience coming back,” Miller said. “I couldn’t be more proud with their leadership. It’s just sad to go out that way. Not on our terms. Not playing our best.”

● Comments: (319) 368-8679; kj.pilcher@thegazette.com

Williamsburg calls on its gutsy defense

By Douglas Miles, The Gazette

WILLIAMSBURG — Playing without starting quarterback Jacob Holub, out with a gimpy ankle, undefeated Williamsburg knew it would need a gutsy effort to reach the Class 2A quarterfinals.

In typical Raiders fashion, the defense answered the call.

No. 3 Williamsburg forced four South Tama turnovers, the last a game-clinching interception by Josh Koeppel with under two minutes to go, and advanced with a 17-7 victory last night in a second-round playoff game.

“Our defense has been our backbone,” Williamsburg Coach Curt Ritchie said. “We fly around, we pursue the ball, we bend but we make plays.”

Williamsburg bent against one of the hottest tailbacks in the state in junior Jerry Lowe, who ran for 517 yards combined in his

previous two games. Lowe’s 6-yard TD run off right tackle 8:30 before half gave South Tama a 7-3 lead, but Williamsburg (11-0) answered 1:19 later when tailback Allyn Francis took a backward pass from reserve QB Vic Malloy and raced 33 yards for a 10-7 lead.

Late in the third quarter with Williamsburg still clinging to its 10-7 lead, Noah Heitshusen turned South Tama away with his second interception of the game at the Williamsburg 38.

With 3:49 remaining, defensive tackle Jordan Feldmann recovered a South Tama fumble at the Trojans’ 32. Six plays later on fourth-and-2 from the 11, Ritchie called on tailback Mitchell Stahl instead of a field goal. Stahl came through with an 11-yard burst through the left side of the line for a TD and a 17-7 Williamsburg lead.

● Comments: douglas.miles@thegazette.com

Bettendorf gets rolling, downs Cougars, 31-7

By Bobby Metcalf, Quad City Times

BETTENDORF — When Justice O’Conner is negated, Cyle Cox doesn’t panic.

When the Class 4A No. 2-ranked Bettendorf Bulldogs found themselves with just a slim, seven-point lead at half-time over a three-win team, they didn’t panic.

That’s the sign of a second-ranked football team.

The Bulldogs put their faith in their senior quarterback, and Cox responded with 247 yards and a touchdown pass as the Bulldogs beat Cedar Rapids Kennedy, 31-7, in a second-round playoff game last night at TouVelle Stadium.

“We started off slow

and we can’t do that against the good teams deep in the run,” Cox said.

The Cougar focus on O’Conner opened up big holes for Cox, who ran the read option perfectly for 116 yards on 17 carries.

“He’s a great player,” Bulldog head coach Aaron Wiley said. “He’s our leader, he’s a tough kid and he’s a gamer, he’s a winner.”

On their second drive of the game, Cox hit Austin Cullor for a 35-yard touchdown pass with 3:16 left in the first quarter. Kennedy (3-8) responded early in the second quarter when quarterback Sammy Lizarraga hit Shaun Beyer for a 6-yard touchdown pass with 8:52.



Liz Martin/The Gazette

Cedar Rapids Washington’s Tavian Patrick carries for a 22-yard touchdown against Cedar Falls last night in the first half of a second-round playoff game at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

Warriors/Still have not trailed this season

► FROM PAGE 1B

lost a play, don’t let it get into your head, just keep going and pushing. That drive, there was a couple of times where we didn’t get any yards, but we kept pushing, kept going, never gave up on any play. That’s just how we pushed through it.”

“We were really amped up in the huddle,” Good-Jones said. “We were like ‘OK, let’s go. We’ve got this.’ We had to stay on our blocks, and that’s exactly what we

did. We exerted our will.”

Patrick scored from 22 yards out midway through the first quarter for the game’s first points, though the extra point was blocked. Patrick then blocked a Cedar Falls punt in the second quarter that Jared Thorson pounced on just before it went out of the end zone for a TD and 12-0 Washington lead.

Cedar Falls got back into the game right before the half with a Fineup 1-yard touchdown run.

The Tigers made another mistake at the start of the second half when punter Tyler Schmidt couldn’t handle a low snap and was tackled at the Cedar Falls 15. Reid Snitker connected with Landen Akers on an 11-yard TD pass on fourth down to make it 18-7 after another botched extra-point.

Washington held Cedar Falls to just 88 total yards.

● Comments: jeff.johnson@thegazette.com



Adam Wesley/The Gazette

Linn-Mar’s Perrion Scott stiff arms Iowa City West’s Kevin Dowell as he runs downfield last night at Linn-Mar High School in Marion.

Playoffs/West plays Wash in quarterfinal Friday night

► FROM PAGE 1B

to quit.”

The Trojans’ victory song in the visiting locker room: “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” Hey, whatever works.

West will play Cedar Rapids Washington in a quarterfinal Friday night at Kingston Stadium.

Linn-Mar retired at 9-2, a far cry from 2-7 a year ago. The Lions were on the verge of their first quarterfinal game since 1994 but couldn’t make a stop when absolutely necessary.

“The football life is

hard sometimes,” said Lions Coach Bob Forsyth. “Give West all the credit. Only one team is happy at the end of the tournament, and we’re not going to be the ones.”

Despite intermittent rain, West quarterback Aaron Bleil passed for 360 yards and engineered the comeback.

“Coach puts me out there to make plays,” Bleil said. “The line made the blocks, and my receivers were making big plays.”

Bleil’s 1-yard touchdown run — and two-point pass to Connor

Greene — got the Trojans within 34-31 with 5:22 to go.

Linn-Mar got one first down on its next drive but was forced to punt. The kick died at the West 7, leaving the Trojans a long field and a short clock.

Two incompletions sandwiched a 2-yard gain and left the Trojans with fourth-and 8 from their own 9. But Bleil converted with a 12-yard pass to Tyler Eads, then followed with a 17-yarder to Eads, and West was in business.

A 22-yarder to Oliver

Martin put the Trojans in Linn-Mar territory, then connected with Martin again for 20 yards to the Lions 8. Hicks scored on the following play.

West recovered Ryan Schmidt’s fumble on the Lions’ first play on their final, desperation drive, and that was it.

Hicks ran for 152 yards. Eads caught six passes for 157 yards, Martin seven for 89.

The Trojans generated 519 yards of total offense, Linn-Mar 402.

● Comments: (319) 368-8857; jeff.linder@thegazette.com