

Message delivered



Stephen Mally photos/The Gazette

Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Tyler Dralle (21) slips between Cedar Rapids Jefferson's Jacob Beaton (9) and Tavian Rashed (24) during the second quarter last night at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids. Kennedy walked away with a 35-7 victory.



Cedar Rapids Jefferson's Brock Hunt (left) pulls in a pass as Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Austin Coates (5) tries to pull him down last night at Kingston Stadium.

No. 4 Kennedy rides past Jefferson in district opener

By K.J. Pilcher, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — If there was a message to be sent, Cedar Rapids Kennedy wants to be the one delivering it.

It's a safe bet this will be received loud and clear. The Cougars are physical and they have the ability to pound and ground opponents.

Fourth-ranked Kennedy amassed more than 400 rushing yards, rolling over Cedar Rapids Jefferson, 35-7, in the Class 4A District 5 opener last night at Kingston Stadium.

"We wanted this to be a statement game for us, too," Kennedy Coach Brian White said. "We wanted to prove to people that we're for real and that we can play a little bit for football. We have a long ways to go, no doubt about that. We like being able to line up and run the ball."

The Cougars (5-0) feasted on a steady diet of rushes thanks to a strong offensive line and running back Tyler Dralle, who has 149 carries through the first five games.

Dralle ran for 207 yards on 34 carries, increasing his total to 766 yards on the ground this season.

"I want the ball 40 times

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Game/Cougar defense dominates early

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a game,” Dralle said. “So, if that’s what it takes to win I’m ready for it.”

He helped the Cougars run over the J-Hawks early, carrying the ball six times of a 12-play, 91-yard drive that quarterback Nick Duehr capped with a 5-yard TD run, giving Kennedy a 7-0 lead.

Dralle’s only TD gave Kennedy a 21-0 halftime edge. He bowled in for a 2-yd TD run set up by his own 17-yard run and an impressive 31-yard pass from Duehr to a leaping Beyer to the J-Hawks’ 19.

The bizarre and unorthodox led to the Cougars’ next score. Facing a 4th-and-2 from its own 45, Kennedy resorted to a fake punt. Beyer pulled down the snap and ran up the middle. He skirted his way through the line of scrimmage and then collided with the referee,



Stephen Mally photos/The Gazette

Cedar Rapids Kennedy’s Nicholas Duehr (3) gets around Cedar Rapids Jefferson’s Tavian Rashed (24) and Valentino Green (28) on a touchdown run during the first quarter last night at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

knocking him to the ground. Beyer kept his wits, broke to his left and raced his way for a 55-yard TD.

Dalles Jacobus normally leads the way as a lineman, but the 6-foot-2, 260-pounder

rushed for a pair of 6-yard TDs for Kennedy in the second half.

The Cougars defense made its contributions, stifling Jefferson early. They held Jefferson (3-2, 0-1) to



Cedar Rapids Kennedy’s Jackson Coker (78) celebrates with Dalles Jacobus (right) after Jacobus’ touchdown run at Kingston Stadium.

three plays and punts its first four series and didn’t allow a score until Valentino Green’s 71-yard touchdown jaunt in the third.

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C.R. Jefferson 7**C.R. Kennedy 35****AT KINGSTON STADIUM**

	CRJ	CRK
First downs.....	7	24
Rushes-yards.....	28-130	60 - 426
Passing-yards.....	41	69
Comp-att-int.....	5-14-0	5-9-0
Punts-avg.....	6-45.5	1-48.0
Fumbles-lost.....	6-0	1-1
Penalties-yards.....	5-35	6-60

C.R. Jefferson 0 0 7 0—7
C.R. Kennedy 14 7 7 7—35

CRK — Duehr 5 run (Alex Stone kick)
 CRK — Beyer 55 run (Stone kick)
 CRK — Dralle 2 run (Stone kick)
 CRK — Jacobus 6 run (Stone kick)
 CRJ — Green 71 run (Zeb Render kick)
 CRK — Jacobus 6 run (Stone kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — CRJ: Valentino Green 8-120, Tavian Rashed 5-17, Mason Short 5-12, Manny Olutunde 2-7, Tyler Unkel 1-3, Jared Eivins 4-0, Team 3-(-29). **CRK:** Tyler Dralle 34-207, Shaun Beyer 3-67, Zach DeMaris 4-40, Nick Duehr 5-28, Payton McCarty 1-28, Tyler Jacobs 6-23, Dalles Jacobus 3-21, Lucas Berry 2-17, Team 2-(-5).

Passing — CRJ: Eivins 5-11-0-41, Short 0-2-0-0, Green 0-1-0-0. **CRK:** Duehr 5-9-0-69

Receiving — CRJ: Brock Hunt 2-17, Rashed 2-15, Short 1-9. **CRK:** Beyer 1-31, DeMaris 1-19, Austin Coates 1-13, Dralle 1-5, Matt Gardner 1-1.