

CLASS 4A

Dominating Cougars 8-0

By Jeff Linder, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Brian White was a bit numb to the accomplishment.

“How does this feel? I don’t know yet,” White said after fourth-ranked Cedar Rapids Kennedy posted a dominating performance in the trenches and downed Cedar Falls, 21-7, to wrap up the Class 4A District 5 football championship last night at Kingston Stadium.

“This hasn’t sunk in yet. It will. The kids have been playing for this week, this opportunity.”

Kennedy allowed just 118 yards — and only 31 through the first three quarters — and marched to 8-0 overall, 4-0 in district play.

The Cougars will complete their first unbeaten regular season in school history if they can beat Waterloo West on the road next Friday.

The score was much closer than the action. Tyler Dralle ran for 189 yards on 38 bruising carries, and the Kennedy running game got better as the game progressed.

But it was the defense that owned this one. Consider this — at one point in the fourth quarter, the Tigers (5-3, 2-2) had more punts (seven) than first downs (three).

“(Assistant) coaches (Kyle) Knock, (Scott) Frederiksen and (David) Ernst, they’ve done an outstanding job with this defense,” White said. “It’s comforting to know at halftime when you’re up 14-0 that the defense was going to come back out and play like crazy.”

Cedar Falls made its only successful march of the game in the fourth quarter, when it was down 21-0. The Tigers drove 92 yards, mostly from the arm of Taylen Alexander, to get within two touchdowns with 7:11 left.

They never got the ball back.

Kennedy started at its own 24 and played keep-away, with Dralle doing most of the damage. The Cougars picked up five first downs and killed the clock.

The final margin in yardage was decisive: 370-118.

Kennedy stymied the Tigers at every turn in the first half, holding them to 18 yards on the way to that 14-0 advantage at intermission.

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C.R. Kennedy 21, Cedar Falls 7**AT KINGSTON STADIUM**

	CF	CRK
First downs.....	10	21
Rushes-yards.....	25-19	55 - 287
Passing-yards.....	99	83
Comp-att-int.....	10-22-0	7-14-0
Punts-avg.....	7-36.0	3-41.3
Fumbles-lost.....	1-0	1-1
Penalties-yards.....	4-40	4-25
Cedar Falls	0 0 0	7—7
C.R. Kennedy	7 7 7	0—21

CRK—Zachary DeMaris 13 pass from

Nick Duehr (Alexander Stone kick)

CRK—Tyler Dralle 1 run (Stone kick)

CRK—Dralle 13 run (Stone kick)

CF—Tra'Von Fagan 3 pass from

Taylen Alexander (David Cook kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Cedar Falls: Michael Abbas 8-18, Javon Middleton 1-10, Hayden Clausen 7-6. **C.R. Kennedy:** Tyler Dralle 38-189, Nick Duehr 4-67, Zachary DeMaris 5-20, Shaun Beyer 6-17.

Passing—Cedar Falls: Taylen Alexander 10-22-0-99. **C.R. Kennedy:** Duehr 7-13-0-83, Beyer 0-1-0-0.

Receiving—Cedar Falls: Middleton 4-34, Tra'Von Fagan 3-31, Denison Harrington 2-30, Luke Loecher 1-4. **C.R. Kennedy:** DeMaris 3-46, Beyer 1-14, Austin Coates 1-8, Dralle 1-8, Chase Baker 1-7.