

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL QUARTERFINALS

Difference maker



Cliff Jette/The Gazette

Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Tyler Dralle (21) and Dalles Jacobus (60) celebrate as Dralle scores a touchdown during the first quarter of a Class 4A state football quarterfinal against Cedar Rapids Washington on Friday at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

Beyer's fingerprints all over Kennedy's quarterfinal win

By Jeff Johnson, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — It's so rare, especially at the Class 4A level, when one single player can dictate the outcome of a football game. Especially one that's not a quarterback or a running back.

Truth be told, Shaun

Beyer was a little bit of both of those things Friday night. Along with a tight end, a hybrid defender, a punter and the snapper on points after touchdown.

He wasn't the lone reason third-ranked Cedar Rapids Kennedy toppled No. 4 Cedar Rapids Washington, 21-7, in a playoff quarterfinal before

approximately 8,000 fans at Kingston Stadium. Plenty other members of the Cougars "Family" had hands in the big win.

But you can't doubt the kid's super influence. You catch a long touchdown pass and run back an interception 88 yards for a touchdown on the final play of the first half,

and you've made a difference, if not THE difference.

"Yeah, his name was Tim Dwight," Kennedy Coach Brian White said, when asked if he'd seen one guy be so influential in a game. "That's the last time Kennedy was in the semifinals.

► KENNEDY, PAGE 4B



Cliff Jette photos/The Gazette

Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Brandon Neimeier (27) celebrates intercepting a Cedar Rapids Washington pass during the first half of a Class 4A State Football Quarterfinal Friday at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

Kennedy/Semis next

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He took over in the second half of that game for City High and ended our season (in 1993). I'm not saying Shaun is Tim Dwight, but Shaun is a special kid."

Special enough to be offered a scholarship by Nebraska earlier in the week. He's 6-foot-5, an athlete and can run.

What else is there? Well, he punted six times for a 46-yard average.

Beyer didn't play much of the second half because of a tweaked right knee. White said he wanted to rest his star for Bettendorf as much as he could, though he would have gone back in had Washington (10-2) crept closer.

That never happened.

"He is obviously an excellent player, and his skills showed up tonight," Washington Coach Paul James said. "His skills seem to just keep getting better and better. His speed, his strength, his athleticism, his ability to punt the ball. Whatever he does, he does extremely well."

Kennedy (12-0) got a strong return of the opening kickoff by Matt Gardner, taking advantage of a short field to produce a very early touchdown. Tailback Tyler Dralle (who had 109 yards on 32 carries) scored from 17 yards out.

Late in the quarter, Beyer got open over the top and hauled in a 61-yard bomb from quarterback Nick Duehr to make it 14-0 Cougars. Washington countered with 1:20 left in the first half, when QB T.J. Vogel hooked up with Drew Dostal for a 22-yard TD that cut the lead to seven.



Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Shaun Beyer (right) stays ahead of Cedar Rapids Washington's Trey Leonard as he runs a pass 61 yards for a touchdown.

Washington forced a Kennedy punt and passed the ball to the Cougars 44 with .7 seconds left. Vogel then threw a Hail Mary that Beyer — basically playing center field — picked off and ran up the sideline all the way back.

That essentially was your ballgame.

"We were playing it safe," Beyer said. "Coach said to knock it down, but I saw the field in front of me, so I decided to take a

chance. Last play of the half and everything, what's the worst that could happen? Maybe run toward the sideline and get knocked out of bounds? I was trying to make a big play."

Second-ranked Bettendorf (12-0) is the semifinals opponent for Kennedy, a game that will be played next Friday at 4:06 p.m. at the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls.

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C.R. Kennedy 21**C.R. Washington 7****AT KINGSTON STADIUM**

	CRK	CRW
First downs.....	13	11
Rushes-yards.....	47-189	24 - 3
Passing-yards.....	97	207
Comp-att-int.....	4-15-0	14-27-4
Punts-avg.....	6-45.8	7-37.3
Fumbles-lost.....	1-1	2-0
Penalties-yards.....	5-35	7-50
C.R. Kennedy	14 7 0 0—21	
C.R. Washington	0 7 0 0—7	

CRK—Tyler Dralle 17 run (Alex Stone kick)

CRK—Shaun Beyer 61 pass from Nick Duehr (Stone kick)

CRW—Drew Dostal 22 pass from T.J. Vogel (Ross Kennedy kick)

CRK—Beyer 88 interception return (Stone kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — **C.R. Kennedy**: Tyler Dralle 32-109, Nick Duehr 7-47, Shaun Beyer 3-24, Zach DeMaris 3-7, Dalles Jacobus 1-1; **C.R. Washington**: Drew Dostal 2-19, Johnny Dobbs 6-4, Tavian Patrick 5-(-3), T.J. Vogel 12-(-12).

Passing — **C.R. Kennedy**: Nick Duehr 4-15-0-97; **C.R. Washington**: T.J. Vogel 14-25-3-207, Drew Dostal 0-2-1-0.

Receiving — **C.R. Kennedy**: Shaun Beyer 2-74, Zach DeMaris 1-15, Austin Coates 1-8; **C.R. Washington**: Isaiah Nimmers 6-91, Drew Dostal 4-64, Tavion Stewart 1-43, Tavian Patrick 1-9.