

## CLASS 4A FOOTBALL

# Prairie locks it up



Liz Martin/The Gazette

Cedar Rapids Prairie's Preston LaGrange (left) intercepts the ball in front of Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Mekhia Jenkins in the first half last night at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

## Hawks win district title outright, oust Kennedy from playoffs

By Jeff Johnson, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — With six minutes to go in the game last night, Zach Ganske had 132 yards rushing. Teammate Joe Meyer had 132 yards rushing.

That's called balance.

And that's called an undisputed district championship for Cedar Rapids Prairie, which completed a turnaround regular season with a 33-28 win over Cedar Rapids Kennedy at Kingston

### PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

- The Iowa High School Sports Network will broadcast the IHSA football playoff pairings live via webcast this morning at 10 a.m. Find the show at [www.ihssn.com](http://www.ihssn.com)

Stadium.

The seventh-ranked Hawks (8-1) are guaranteed to host a Class 4A first-round playoff game next Friday. They won just four times last season in Mark Bliss' first year as their head coach.

Meyer officially sealed the deal with a 40-yard touchdown run with 1:38 remaining. He finished with 173 yards

and four scores.

Kennedy (5-4) led at halftime, 7-6, as the teams combined for 55 points in the second half. The Cougars needed to win this game by 12 points to be District 7's runner-up and make the playoffs.

Instead, it's Iowa City West that gets in.

Prairie's myriad formations and hard-to-prepare-for single-wing offense racked up 449 yards, including 388 on the ground. Ganske finished with 138 yards rushing and a touchdown.

Defensive lineman Chance Halfhill's

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Cedar Rapids Kennedy defenders stop Cedar Rapids Prairie's Joseph Meyer (5) on the 1-yard line in the first half last night at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

# Class 4A/Too many turnovers

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15-yard interception return for touchdown created two-score separation early in the fourth quarter and was pivotal. Kennedy quarterback B.J. White threw for 221 yards and three TDs but was picked off four times.

Preston LaGrange had three of those.

Kennedy faced a fourth-and-4 at the Prairie 21 on the

first play of the second quarter. In a jumbo offensive package, QB Nick Duehr rolled to his right and threw back left to a wide-open Carter Krall for a touchdown.

Alex Stone's extra point made it a 7-0 game.

But Prairie came right back on the ensuing possession. A 16-play drive aided by a 15-yard facemask penalty was finished on Meyer's 1-yard TD run off right tackle on fourth down.

The extra-point attempt failed, however, with a questionable snap from center unable to be held. That was it for the scoring the rest of the half, though Kennedy blew a golden chance for another touchdown.

Ki Jenkins returned the kickoff after Prairie's touchdown 62 yards to the Hawks 33. On the Cougars' first play, Duehr came around on a reverse, pulled up and threw a

pass downfield to Jenkins, who was open by about 20 yards.

But the pass was a smidge overthrown and Jenkins couldn't come down with it cleanly inside the 5. Kennedy ended up having to punt.

Prairie led the first-half yardage battle by a 184-110 margin. That included 157 rushing yards.

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