

CLASS 4A

All comes down to Week 9 for Kennedy

By Jeff Linder, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — For the Kennedy Cougars, the Class 4A playoffs begin a week early.

Week 9. One game. Advance, or not.

Cedar Rapids Kennedy dominated all phases of the game and blistered Ottumwa, 48-0, in a District 8 football game last night at Kingston Stadium.

"We weren't going to play at their level," said linebacker Cade Parker, the leading tackler in 4A. "We were going to play at our level, every play."

Kennedy (6-2, 3-1) travels to Cedar Rapids Prairie (7-1, 3-1) next Friday. The winner is the district runner-up and a playoff qualifier. The loser hangs up the cleats.

"We have a lot of respect for Prairie," Kennedy Coach Brian White said. "Obviously, they can move the ball and they have a dynamic running back in Keegan Simmons. That's guy's a dude."

"We're going to have to man up," Parker said. "We're going to be 100-percent focused every day at practice, because we've got to be ready for anything."

Kennedy netted 434 yards Friday, 421 on the ground.

"Our offensive line ... the big boys were getting big pushes," said Michael Watkins, who ran for 154 yards on 10 carries.

Thirteen different Kennedy backs touched the ball, and five scored touchdowns. Justin Johnson reached the end zone three times.

"We try to spread it around the best we can," White said.

Keyshawn Allers added 72 yards, Cairron Hendred 59.

Quarterback B.J. White did play Friday after injuring a shoulder last week, but didn't throw a pass.

Kennedy scored on its first four drives and led, 27-0, at halftime.

Johnson registered the first touchdown, falling on the ball in the end zone after a fumbled snap.

Ottumwa (0-8, 0-4) managed just 98 yards of total offense and dropped its 18th consecutive game. Sam Yeaway entered the game with 574 rushing yards, but managed just 3 yards Friday.

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