

Kennedy capitalizes on early Jefferson miscues

By K.J. Pilcher, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — The first was an early present. The second was just a bonus.

Cedar Rapids Kennedy made sure to capitalize on both first-quarter turnovers, parlaying them into a quick lead and a season-opening victory.

Defensive lineman Cam Jones returned a fumble 31 yards for

a touchdown and Cairron Hendred's first of two scoring runs came after another Cedar Rapids Jefferson miscue, helping the Cougars roll to a 34-0 victory over the J-Hawks last night at Kingston Stadium.

Kennedy forced four total turnovers, including the fumbles that ended Jefferson first

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Cliff Jette/The Gazette

Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Thomas Vanek (left) is pushed out of bounds by Cedar Rapids Jefferson's Noah Fernandez (right) during the first half of a game last night at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

Class 4A/Cougars dominate both phases



Cedar Rapids Jefferson quarterback Jacob Coyle (9) throws the ball as Jefferson's Jacob Bean (70) blocks a Cedar Rapids Kennedy defender during the first half of a game last night at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

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two possessions.

"The first one was obviously a gift," Kennedy Coach Brian White said. "I thought we played fast. The defense played fast and that's what we're predicated on."

Jones has one touchdown in his varsity career, catching a scoring pass last season. He was as surprised as anyone when he doubled that total.

Jones shot through the line of scrimmage and plucked a bobbled ball from the hands of Jefferson quarterback Jacob Coyle out of the air. All that was in front of him was open field and a small convoy of teammates by his side.

"He had a bobbled snap," Jones said. "It landed in my lap and gave me the opportunity to go back with it. It just went straight in my hands."



Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Cairron Hendred (21) is tackled by Cedar Rapids Jefferson's Kyron Ligon (5) during the first half last night at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

Two plays later, Jefferson coughed up the ball again at its own 21. Seven plays later, Hendred bounced outside on a counter play and scored on a 9-yard run for a 13-0 lead.

"We had a little momentum, so we had to get it going," Hendred said.



Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Charlie Haefner (17) passes the ball as Cedar Rapids Jefferson's Jacob Thompson (24) looks on during the first half of a Metro high school football game last night at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

"My name was called. We got it in."

Hendred was one of two 100-yard rushers for the Cougars. He finished with 145 yards on 19 carries, including a 70-yard TD, giving the Cougars a 20-0 lead at halftime.

"We had a great push from the (offensive)

line," Hendred said. "I saw the hole, got a cut and I was gone."

Max White joined Hendred, amassing 100 yards on 13 carries. White closed the scoring with a 14-yard score in the fourth. Shamariyon Graham added a 5-yard TD run for Kennedy,

which totaled 233 yards on the ground and averaged more than 5.5 yards per carry behind a big, strong offensive line.

Kennedy held Jefferson to just 182 yards of total offense.

"I thought we played poorly and that's the disappointing thing," Jeffer-

son Coach Chris Buesing said. "I think we're a better football team than what we played like. I thought the guys gave effort and I'll recognize them for that, but our execution all night long wasn't very good."

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