

Red Peppers



By Gus Schrader
Gazette sports columnist

It's all hash today

The Iowa High School Girls Athletic Union's state swim meet is being moved to the newly deepened and remodeled pool at the U of Iowa Nov. 8. The meet has been at Fort Dodge the last few years.

Dick Jordan tells us his mother, Mrs. Cliff Jordan, has agreed to sponsor Lon Nielsen on the pro golf tour again next season. Lon will miss making the top 100 money-winners this year, but he had some big paydays early in the summer and made the cut in many tournaments.

Dick also tells us his nephew, Greg Rice, who finished second in the Wisconsin high school golf competition this year, plans to enroll at Iowa next fall. Greg's high school won the state team title. His mother, Mrs. Linda Jordan Rice, is taking a year's absence from her teaching duties in the Milwaukee area and next year will be president of the Wisconsin Women's Golf Association.

Several New York sports-writers covered the recent baseball playoffs in Kansas City fresh from watching the Larry Holmes-Muhammad Ali fight in Las Vegas. We asked Dave Anderson, New York Times scribe whose syndicated column you frequently read in The Gazette, if he thought Ali would fight again.

"He may," Dave replied, "but anyone who lets him do it should be put in jail."

Many people don't realize the time, attention and expense it takes to recruit a prize athlete. Take Dennis Johnson, the promising freshman basketball guard at Iowa, for example.

Lute Olson, Iowa coach, says he and his staff made 20 trips last year to watch Johnson play. Only one of those, of course, was an official visit to Johnson's home in Madisonville, Ky., but Lute and all of his aides made other trips to see his games. Tony McAndrew, now the head coach at Colorado State, was returning from one of those games when he and the pilot of a private plane were severely injured in a crash.

All those trips may seem unnecessary to the casual observer, but recruiters know they have to show constant interest or a prospect will be swayed by some other school that does.

Several athletic-oriented friends who have been in Cedar Rapids' Mercy Hospital recently have told us about meeting one of the nurses there: Mrs. Harold Hufford, mother of the Mount Vernon Huffords (Joe, Mike and Paul) on the Iowa football squad.

Mrs. Hufford certainly would know her way around a hospital, even without being a nurse, as all three sons have had knee problems. One of those Mrs. Hufford stopped by to see was Frank Cacek, inveterate letter writer to The Gazette and great Hawkeye football fan. Frank was hospitalized for a time and has to miss the rest of Iowa's home games.

Hard to beat the Royals' George Brett for beguiling charm in post-game interviews.

After his amazing relay to the plate helped the Royals win the second game, Brett was engulfed by reporters. There were three tiers of newsmen: those in the first tier were scribbling notes and making tapes, those in the second were asking, "What did he say?" and those in the third were demanding, "Who in hell they talking to up there?"

We talked to others until the crowd around Brett had thinned. One of those Hollywood-type interviewers was trying to get Brett to say something really unusual into his mike.

"And when you got the ball, George, you must have said to yourself, 'I've got to throw the bleep out of this to get it home in time,' right?"

The handsome Brett stared at the man with eyes widening in disbelief. "I don't swear!" he gasped, and the ring of reporters broke up in laughter.

"Well, how about 'heck' or 'fudge'?"

"Now, what I thought was I'd better throw that bleepity-bleep home," grinned Brett.

Cougars clinch share of Valley football title

Kennedy tops City High, 20-9

By Don Dossie
Gazette sports writer

The Cedar Rapids Kennedy football team continued one old tradition Thursday night and put an end to another.

The Cougars played a lousy first quarter, in keeping with their usual pattern, but the tradition of finishing down among the also-rans in the Mississippi Valley Conference standings won't be continued.

Coach Greg Reed's squad clinched a share of its first Valley title ever Thursday with a 20-9 victory over Iowa City High at Kingston Stadium. The Cougars can win undisputed possession of the crown with a victory at Dubuque Hempstead next week.

The Cougars started slow as always Thursday but they bounced back to score all 20 of their points in what turned out to be a nightmarish second quarter for Iowa City.

"Traditionally, we have a history of playing poorly in the first quarter," said Reed. "That's something we're going to have to overcome the next few weeks."

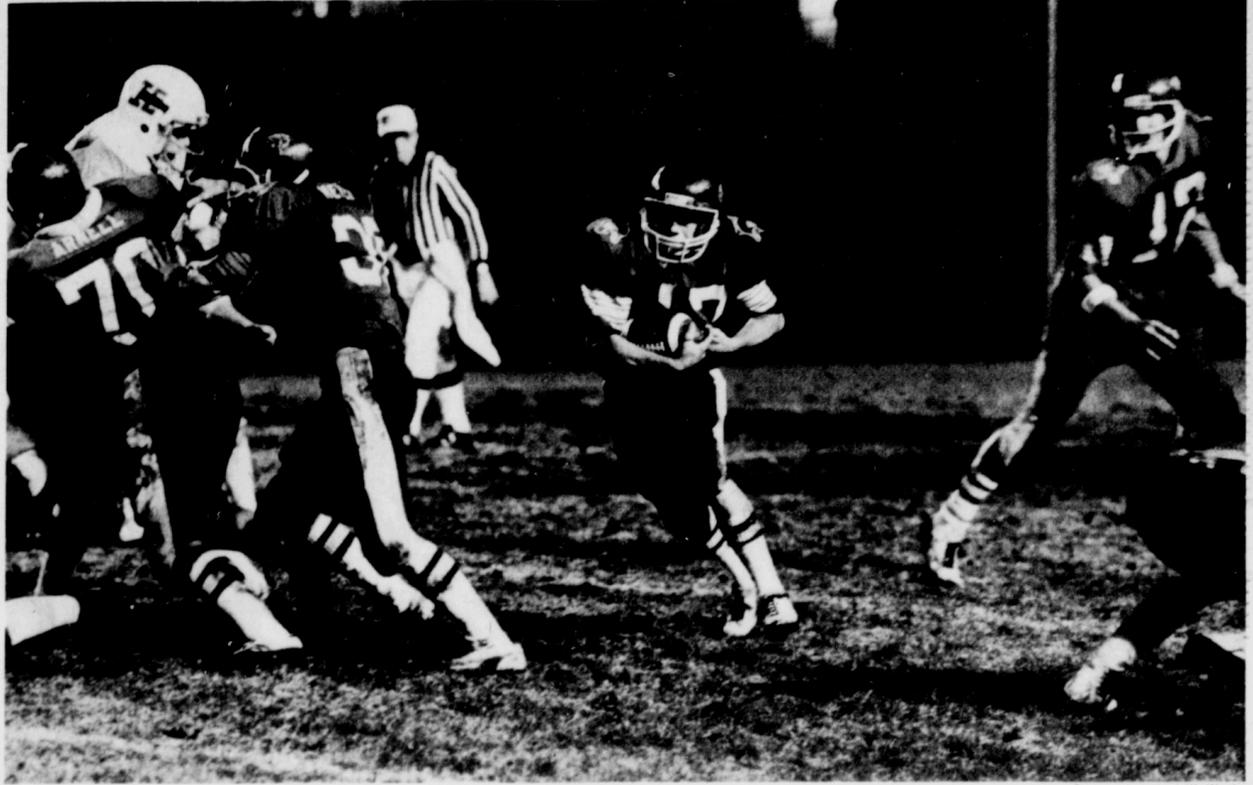
"I'm proud of our kids, though. This wasn't one of our best games but they played well enough to win. We probably put too much pressure on them after beating Washington last week. I thought that under the conditions, they played pretty well."

Kennedy is now 5-1 in the Valley and 6-1 overall, with a six-game winning streak, but it looked like that string of victories might be in jeopardy the way Iowa City started off Thursday.

The Little Hawks controlled the ball for a big chunk of the first quarter, driving 74 yards in 18 plays. The Kennedy defense finally stiffened about 10 yards short of the goal line and the visitors settled for a 28-yard field goal by Norm Balke in the opening minute of the second quarter.

Then the nightmare started for the Little Hawks.

Kennedy went 80 yards for the go-ahead touchdown in just four plays with Joel Smith scampering the final 52 yards on an off-tackle play. A two-point conversion try



Gazette photo by L.W. Ward

Cougar running back Joel Smith (17) finds a big hole after taking handoff from quarterback Mark McClintic en route to a second quarter touchdown run. Tackle Jeff Arnell (70) and

running back Mark Meyer (39) made things easy for Smith and the Cougars as Kennedy downed Iowa City High, 20-9.

failed, leaving the score at 6-3.

City High's Craig Hagen fumbled the ensuing kickoff with Kennedy's Terry Feltes recovering, but the Cougars failed to move the ball and punted it back to the Little Hawks. City High also failed to move and lined up to punt the ball away, but an errant snap sailed over the head of punter Mark Grenko and Kennedy took possession at the six-yard line.

It took fullback Marc Meyer just one play to punch the ball across and sophomore Kevin Mote's conversion kick upped the Kennedy lead to 13-3.

The Cougars added one more score just before halftime, going 60 yards in eight plays. Quarterback

Mark McClintic scrambled in for the TD from 13 yards out and Mote's kick made it 20-3 with just 57 seconds left in the half.

Iowa City Coach Larry Brown had no explanation for the sudden collapse.

"It's beyond me," said Brown, whose team is now 3-4 overall, 2-3 in the Valley. "That's just the way it happened. First they got that long touchdown run (by Smith) and then we fumbled the kickoff, and I guess our kids just started thinking that bad things were gonna happen. And when you think bad things are gonna happen, they happen."

City High made a bit of a comeback in the second half behind

the defensive work of the 6-4, 226-pound Balke and the passing of quarterback Doug Wehde, but it wasn't enough.

Balke and his mates limited Kennedy to just 10 yards rushing in the second half after the Cougars had gained 116 in the first two quarters.

Wehde completed five passes in an 80-yard second-half drive which culminated in an 18-yard scoring pass to Mike Conlon. It was the only scoring of the second half.

Kennedy's Smith led the rushing stats in the game with 78 yards while teammates McClintic and Kevin Lukes continued to shine as a passing combo. McClintic, the Val-

ley's top passer, completed eight of 13 tosses for 105 yards while Lukes, tied for the conference receiving lead entering the game, latched onto six passes for 75 yards.

Kennedy 20, Iowa City High 9

	Kennedy	Iowa City
First Downs	12	12
Yards Rushing	107	100
Yards Passing	125	89
Passes	13-8-0	19-7-1
Punts-Avg.	4-32.0	4-29.3
Fumbles lost	0-0	4-3
Yards Penalized	45	20
Iowa City	0	3
Kennedy	0	20

Iowa City — TD: Mike Conlon (18-yd. pass from Doug Wehde). FG: Norm Balke (28 yards).
Kennedy — TD's: Joel Smith (52-yr. run), Marc Meyer (6-yr. run), Mark McClintic (13-yr. run). PAT's — Kevin Mote 2 (kicks).

Valley cross country meet at Noelridge Saturday

By Becky Krekeler
Gazette sports reporter

Cedar Rapids Washington, Kennedy and Jefferson will face a real battle Saturday as they compete in the Mississippi Valley Conference cross country meet at 10 a.m. at Noelridge Park.

There will be five races altogether: boys varsity, junior varsity and sophomore as well as girls varsity and junior varsity.

Dubuque Senior is the favorite in the boys division, according to Coach Mike Coates of Washington.

Washington will be led by David Riley and Jamie Peters, who finished second and sixth to Jefferson's "super sophomore" Joel Hachey in a meet between the three schools Tuesday at Jones Park. Chris Nelson, who was third, is also expected to do well for the J-Hawks. Cougars Paul Natvig and Randy Moore, finishing fourth and fifth on Tuesday, should do well.

The Jefferson girls look as strong as ever this year and are hoping to win their third straight title.

"I think we can win it if we have a

good day," said Coach Larry Nolting. But, "Dubuque Senior is an awfully good team," he added.

The J-Hawks have had "a lot of luck" this year, escaping injuries or illness to date.

Jean and Jan Sedlacek should be near the front for the J-Hawks, while Lori Mick will lead Kennedy and Joyce Sramek will lead the Warrior girls.

One reason the meet will be a real challenge for the schools is injuries.

Things seemed to be going great for Coates and his Warriors when they beat out last year's state champion, Clinton, in the Cedar Rapids Invitational cross country meet Sept. 11. At that time, the team was "all in one piece."

But now prospects aren't as rosy for Coates, who has lost two "fine four-year runners" — Todd Wimmer and Todd Weigant — and junior Larry Nelson to injuries.

Wimmer, the Warrior's No. 1 runner, has a sore foot, diagnosed as a stress fracture (a partial break in the bone structures). He hasn't

competed since the Clinton Invitational Oct. 4, according to Coates.

A stress fracture normally takes four to six weeks to heal, and Wimmer, who has been "very strong in the big ones" for Wash, is out for the season.

Weigant has an injury similar to shin splints and has not been running since Sept. 30. Nelson, who was running No. 5, is suffering from torn muscles in his foot. Both boys join Wimmer on the sidelines.

"We've got our hands full this weekend," admitted Coates. All three of these runners have been in the top five at some time this year.

But it's not just Washington that has lost runners to injuries. Kennedy's Bob Brooker, a senior who ran No. 2 last year on the Cougars' state-qualifying team, has been suffering from a hip injury (diagnosed

as a muscle tear), according to Coach Al Stiers. Brooker was injured at a running camp last summer but competing in the Armstrong's 10,000 meter race in August "really did the job," said Stiers. Brooker's only race this year was the Tiger Invitational Sept. 19.

Dave Campbell has had a thigh injury and Randy Moore suffers from back spasms but that isn't enough to keep them from competing for the Cougars.

"Other than Bob, we're healthy," Stiers remarked.

Jefferson has had only a mild case of injuries this year. Tim Titus and George Gerlach were out for part of the season. Titus sat out for about two weeks and Gerlach has been out for about a month, according to Coach Bob Noonan.

Prep football season into its 7th week

Jefferson will play host to Dubuque Wahlert at Kingston Stadium tonight at 7:45 as the high school football season enters its seventh week.

In other high school action in the area tonight, Washington travels to Iowa City West.

Linn-Mar hosts LaSalle, Keokuk invades Prairie Field to take on the Hawks and Marion is at Tipton.

Kickoff time for all four games is 7:45 pm.

In the only metro game last night, Kennedy defeated Iowa City High, 20-9.

C.R. NEWS daily

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