

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Lancers think Young in 24-7 romp

LaSalle back runs all over Marion for 260 yards, 3 TDs

By Jim Ecker

Gazette assistant sports editor

Matt Young and the LaSalle Lancers enjoyed their debut in the Wamac Conference Saturday afternoon.

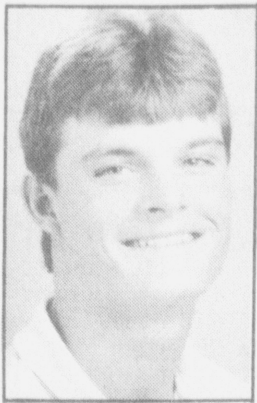
Young rushed for a school-record 260 yards and scored three touchdowns as LaSalle dumped Marion, the perennial league champ, 24-7 at Kingston Stadium.

Young, a shifty 150-pound senior, capped his performance with an 87-yard scamper on the first play of the fourth quarter for LaSalle's final TD. He scored from 2 yards out in the second period and from 28 yards away in the third.

LaSalle, ranked No. 1 in Class 2A, raised its record to 2-0 despite the absence of all-state tackle Ladd Wessels, whose activity was limited to honorary water boy during time-outs due to stretched ligaments in his right knee.

"Give all the credit to the line," said Young. "We were kind of worried all week (with Wessels injured). I don't think they missed a block all day."

Young's 260 yards snapped the previous school record of 244 set by Ben Boston against Springville in 1979.



Matt Young

LaSalle Coach T.J. Stecklein praised Mike Canney, Brian Amsler, Joe Fandel, Mike Carrothers and Tim Reilly for opening the holes for Young, who rushed for 170 yards in the second half. Reilly made his first start in place of Wessels.

"I think our line of scrimmage did a nice job of getting off the ball," said Stecklein. "Matt did his own thing. He used his natural ability. You can't coach that."

Stecklein credited his "bend-but-don't-break" defense for holding Marion to one touchdown, a 7-yard jaunt by John Royer that gave the Indians a 7-3 lead early in the second quarter.

Marion rolled up 19 first downs and had offensive drives measuring 70, 58, 55 and 46 yards. But three LaSalle interceptions, including two in the end zone, kept the Indians at bay.

Young, who doubles as a defensive back, picked off a deflection by teammate Brian Strauss to stop Marion from scoring late in the first half. The Indians trailed only 10-7 when they got the ball at LaSalle's 22-yard line after the Lancers botched a punt attempt.

Marion moved to the 4-yard line, was set back five yards by an encroachment call, and then suffered the interception by Young.

"That was a big turning point," said Marion Coach Dave Messerli.

Later, Jeff Crumbaugh intercepted an aerial from Marion's Mike Schmickle in the end zone on the last play of the third quarter. Young's 87-yard TD on the next play made it 24-7.

Marion lost to a top-ranked team for the second straight week. The Class 3A Indians netted only four first downs and 47 yards in a 28-0 loss to Class 4A Linn-Mar in the opener.

"We've played two football teams that are rated number one, and our guys gave it a pretty good job," said Messerli. "I thought we played hard football."

Marion's Jay Brandt rushed for 85 yards, and backup quarterback John Livingston completed 9 of 15 passes for 77 yards.

LaSalle visits Vinton and Marion hosts Regis Friday.



Gazette photo by John McIvor

LIMBERING UP: Coe College junior cross-country runner Terri Christianssen from Davenport, finds some solitude while she loosens up before the women's 2-mile race at the Ram Run cross country invitational event Saturday in Mt. Vernon. Results in Fine Print, pages 8-9C.

No. 1 Linn-Mar stifles Kennedy for 2nd shutout

By Jeff Dahn

Gazette sportswriter

Linn-Mar's defense paid its second straight visit to Shutout City Saturday night, but Head Coach Greg Purnell wasn't all that impressed with the stopover.

The No. 1-ranked Lions held Cedar Rapids Kennedy to 176 yards in total offense — including a paltry 42 on the ground — to oust the Cougars, 19-0, in a Mississippi Valley Conference contest at Kingston Stadium.

Despite the win, coming on the heels of a 28-0 victory over Marion last week, Purnell was not a happy man at the game's conclusion.

"The mark of a good football team is when they can play terribly and still win," he said after a long hesitation. "We have a long way to go to become a good football team."

While his own defense did a commendable job, Purnell chose instead to comment on Kennedy Head Coach Don Knock and his Cougar defense.

"I want to compliment the defensive preparation of Kennedy," he said. "They did an excellent job."

The Cougars (1-1 overall, 0-1 in the Valley) limited the Lion offense to 160 yards on the ground and 131 through the air, and put constant pressure on Lion quarterback Ted Sheeley, sacking him for losses on four different occasions and forcing him out of the pocket to scramble on several others.

Sheeley still was able to complete eight of 12 passes for 128 yards.

"Our defense played very well," Knock said after the loss. "Our defensive coaches had them (the players) well prepared."

"We made a lot of mistakes," he continued. "But we're young. I'm proud of these guys. We'll be back."

Linn-Mar (2-0 overall, 1-0 in the MVC) got on the board its third possession of the game, losing its first possession when Kennedy's Tim Sheetz intercepted a Sheeley pass, and punting away its second possession.

But after Brian Rooney recovered a Kennedy fumble on the Cougar 33, Sheeley kept the ball on the ground before senior fullback Chris Miller scored on a 9-yard run.

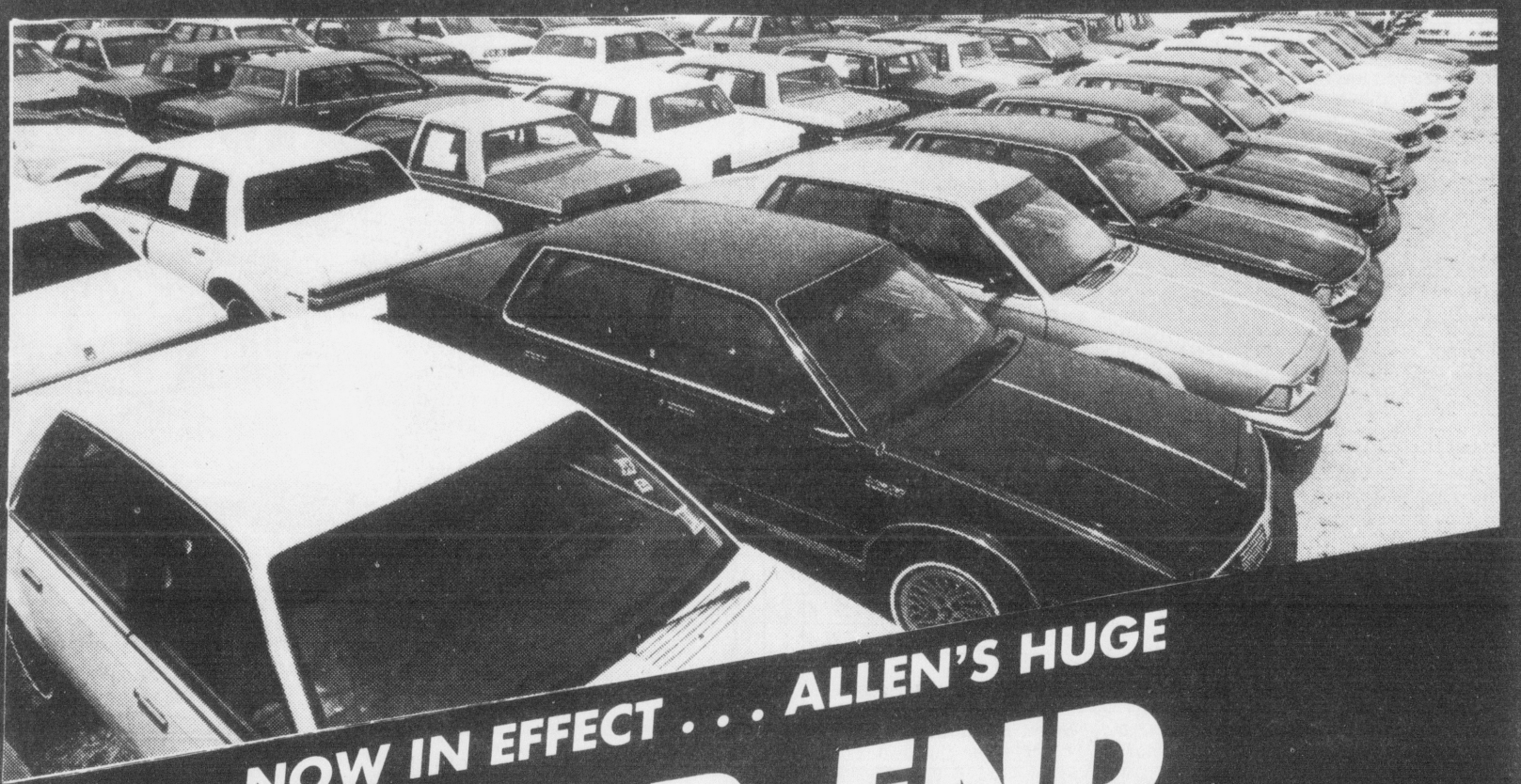
A second Cougar turnover led to the Lions' next tally. Kennedy halfback Chris Bowers attempted a halfback pass on the first play from scrimmage in the second quarter, but it was intercepted by the Lions' Chris Carlson, who returned the theft to his own 30.

Senior Bill Pavlis quickly moved the ball 27 yards in the next two plays to the Kennedy 43, and a pass interference call on the Cougars then moved the ball to the 33.

Sheeley next connected with Sean Healy for a 15-yard gain, and one play later, halfback Rob Rhines ran 17 yards to the 1-yard line. Sheeley dove in for the touchdown with 7:54 left in the first half.

Linn-Mar scored the game's final points when Sheeley hooked up with senior split end Dean Zahradnik for a 70-yard touchdown with 6:37 left in the game.

Kennedy's deepest penetration of the game came late in the fourth quarter when it marched to the Lions' 14-yard line, but Linn-Mar's Paul Valencic intercepted a Chad Hannen pass in the end zone with 34 seconds left.



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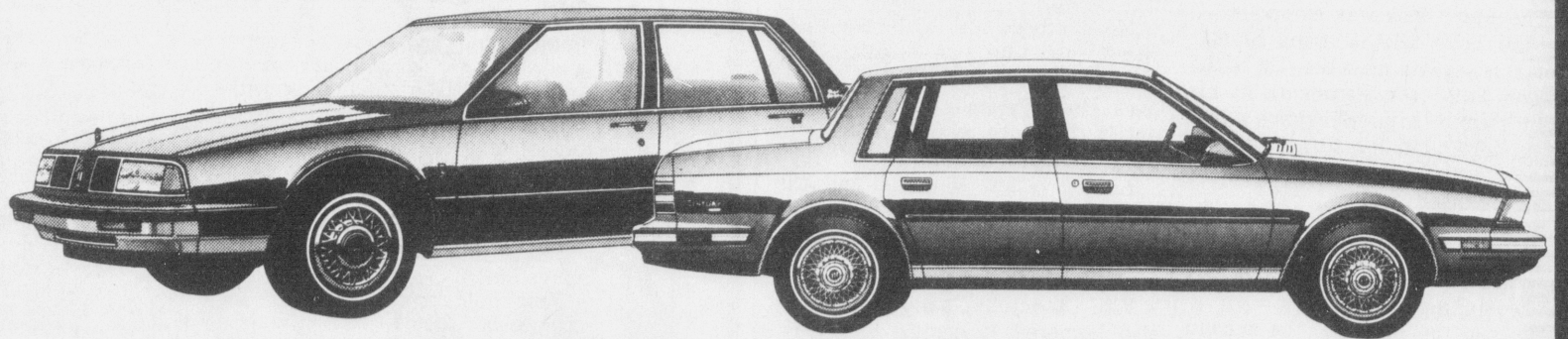
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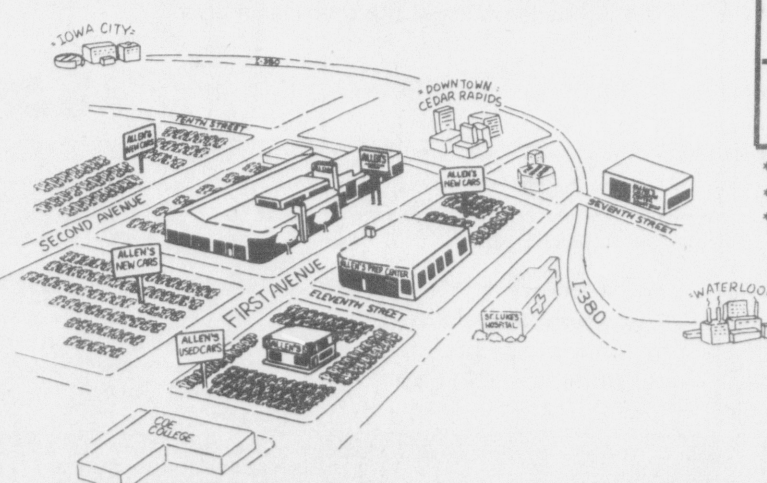
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