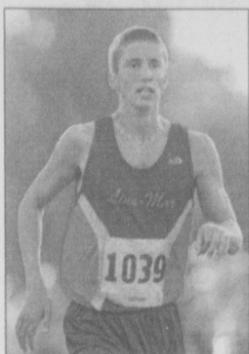


## The winner



Stephen Mally/Freelance

Linn-Mar's Josh Evans eyes the finish line Thursday during the Cedar Rapids Invitational at Noelridge Park in Cedar Rapids. Evans won the boys' race in 15:32.89. Story, 3B

## SIDELINE

### GOLF

#### Johnson cards a 67 in BMW Championship

CARMEL, Ind. — Cedar Rapids native Zach Johnson opened the BMW Championship with a round of 5-under par 67 Thursday and is tied for 10th in the third tournament of the FedEx Cup playoffs.

Johnson had two birds and an eagle to go out in 32, then played his second nine holes in 1-under par for this 67.

Playing with Phil Mickelson and Jason Dufner, Johnson tees off today at 8:28 a.m.

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

#### Mid-Prairie's Errthum honored by KCRG-TV9

Austin Errthum kicked a 58-yard field goal — tying for third-longest in state prep history — for Mid-Prairie last Friday to earn KCRG-TV9's Athlete of the Week honor.

Go to [www.kcrg.com/sports](http://www.kcrg.com/sports) for Scott Saville's feature and challenge.

### WRESTLING

#### Lofthouse joins Iowa wrestling staff

IOWA CITY — Former Iowa All-American Luke Lofthouse has the Iowa wrestling staff as interim strength and conditioning coach.

Lofthouse lettered in 2004-05, then took a two-year break for a Mormon mission in Africa. After a red-shirt season, he completed his eligibility and finished fifth in the nation in 2011. He replaces Danny Song, who left to seek opportunities elsewhere.

### DRAG RACING

#### Division 5 Finals at Tri-State Raceway

EARLVILLE — Tri-State Raceway is hosting an NHRA Drag Racing Series event this weekend.

The Division 5 Finals feature hundreds of drivers from around the Midwest racing in multiple divisions.

Action begins today at 9 a.m. and runs through Sunday. A three-day pass is \$50, two-day \$40, \$20 each for Saturday and Sunday. Go to [www.tristateraceway.com](http://www.tristateraceway.com) for more details.

### LOOKING FOR MORE?

#### We have you covered

- K.J. Pilcher and Jeff Johnson are talking prep football on The Sports Desk at [www.thegazette.com](http://www.thegazette.com).
- Follow us on Twitter, @CRGazetteSports, for news updates.

The Gazette

# Alvis digs in after returning from knee surgery

A 'good game' at Chicago features 2 tackles for loss

By Scott Dochterman  
 The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Dominic Alvis isn't all the way back but he's close, and that's good enough for

### IOWA FOOTBALL

now.

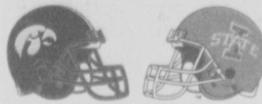
Alvis, Iowa's 6-foot-4, 265-pound junior defensive end, had two tackles for loss and three overall Saturday against Northern Illinois in Chicago. It was an impressive debut for a player who's still trying to rebuild his stamina 10 months after an ACL tear.

"The most pleasing part was Alvis really had a good game, and I don't want to say he's been struggling but he's been laboring in camp," Iowa Coach Kirk Ferentz said. "I may have said that a week or two ago in that he's coming back from an injury, and you don't just get out there and ride full speed. You don't get on that bike and go full speed. You're trying, but you don't."

Alvis started eight of the first nine games last year and had 3.5 tackles for loss. He tore an ACL against Michigan in his ninth game and was out through spring drills. He dragged a bit mentally watching his teammates play.

"There was a little bit

### This week's game



- **The teams:** Iowa (1-0) vs. Iowa State (1-0)
- **Place:** Kinnick Stadium
- **Kickoff:** 2:30 p.m. Saturday
- **TV:** BTN
- **Line:** Iowa by 4 1/2

of time where I was feeling sorry for myself," Alvis said. "It was very easy for me to say, 'Poor me.' I was just dwelling on that. I was pretty much out of a job, sitting on the couch and everyone else is out playing and having fun. Then I took the positive approach that things



Brian Ray/The Gazette

Iowa's Dominic Alvis (79) celebrates after sacking Northern Illinois quarterback Jordan Lynch in the second half last Saturday in Chicago.

aren't going to get better unless I change myself and work for it. That's the attitude I took."

Alvis worked his knee back into shape and be-

► IOWA, PAGE 4B

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Brian Ray/The Gazette

Iowa City West's Jeremy Morgan high steps across the goal line in front of Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Jacob Shannon last night at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids. Morgan caught three touchdown passes in West's 35-14 victory.

# West switches to power

After passing early, Trojans grind it out to knock off Cougars

By Jeff Johnson  
 The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — No doubt they can play pretty. But if Iowa City West wants to achieve the goals it thinks it can this football season, it's going to have to be able

to play a little ugly, too.

That means being physical up front and moving the ball on the ground. Just as it did last night in the second half of a 35-14 win over Cedar Rapids Kennedy at Kingston Stadium.

"We weren't going to throw it," West Coach Brian Sauser said. "Even if we got stuffed every single play the

second half, we were going to run it and run it and run it until our guys made a decision inside. We feel we can throw it most nights all the time. But it really felt like all of a sudden we were becoming soft."

So much for that soft thing now. West (3-0) ran 25 times in the second half for 122 yards, pulling away from a 21-

14 game at the half.

Quarterback Nate Boland threw for 239 first-half yards and two touchdowns for the Trojans, utilizing his deadly receiving combo of Dondre Alexander and Jeremy Morgan as usual.

But the final two quarters was definitely all about power football.

"The first half, we

couldn't really run the ball," said tackle Grant Troyer. "We only ran it like (12) times, couldn't get it going. At halftime, Coach told us if we're going to win the football game, we're going to have to run the ball. We got after it the second half and took care of business."

► WEST, PAGE 2B

## No. 32 special jersey for Bears back

Number has stayed in the family since hunting death in '94

By K.J. Pilcher  
 The Gazette

Cade Jones carries on a legacy.

Each carry by the West Branch running back in the No. 32 jersey continues a family tradition that will come to a close at the end of the season.

Jones wears the number that has been worn only by members of his family since his cousin, Chad Gates, was killed

in a November 1994 hunting accident. The all-state rusher will lead Class 1A fifth-ranked West Branch (2-0) when it hosts No. 1 Iowa City Regina (2-0) in a District 6 game at 7 tonight.

Gates' No. 32 was retired when he died after his sophomore season, but Gates' younger brothers, Pat and Howie, were allowed to wear the number. All were running backs. And now Jones wears it.

"I feel a lot of pride wearing it," Jones said. "I feel I have big shoes to fill when I wear that

jersey. It's an honor."

Chad Gates was one of only a few freshmen to start for the Bears. When he died, Kerry Jones of West Branch was pregnant with the now 17-year-old senior Cade. He never got to meet his cousin but has heard stories of his achievements.

"Chad had the knack to be an athlete," Jones said. "I have a couple highlight films of him. He had a special ability. We was tough and he was shifty."

► JONES, PAGE 2B



Cliff Jette/The Gazette

Cade Jones of West Branch stiff-arms his way past Alburnett's Alex Stepanek last November in the Class 1A football playoffs at West Branch. Jones was an integral part of state semifinalist teams the last two seasons for the Bears.

# Ward gets his shot at the helm

Regina senior hopes to be third QB in 3 years to win a title

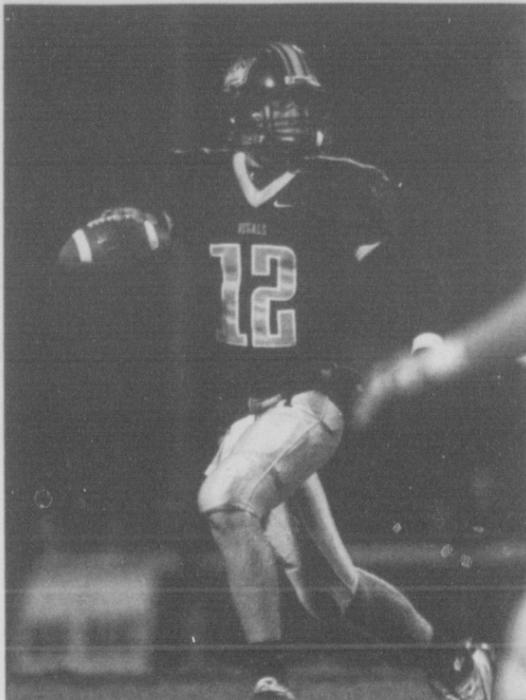
By Jason Brummond  
Correspondent  
IOWA CITY — Iowa City Regina lost the significant playmakers from last year's state championship team. Some around the state expected a letdown or at least tighter margins of victory.

Not so much. The Regals have zoomed out of the gate, beating West Liberty and Solon by a combined score of 78-7. The biggest reason might be the emergence of quarterback Mark Ward, a senior and first-year starter who has quickly established himself as one of the best passers in Class 1A.

Ward threw only 21 passes last year but logged valuable minutes when the dominant Regals put many opponents away at halftime.

"That's been the luxury we've had the last few years," Regina Coach Marv Cook said. "We've had some really good senior classes that played well early and it allowed players to get in the game and make plays when they had the opportunity."

Ward has completed 21 of 36 passes for 356 yards and six touchdowns in



Mark Ward looks for an open man downfield during a November 2010 game against Mediapolis in Iowa City. Ward played in a reserve role for the last two state championship teams but has now stepped into the starting role as a senior.

the first two wins. He's thrown only one interception and has added 84 rushing yards.

The Regals (2-0) begin district play tonight at West Branch, Cook's alma mater.

The Bears (2-0) will use their own potent offen-

sive attack to try to end Regina's 30-game winning streak.

All teams lose valuable seniors, but the Regals were hit especially hard. Regina lost an incredible 87 percent of its yards from scrimmage off last year's team, including

quarterback Nate Streb and top rushers Jacob Vollstedt and Joe McCaffery.

Ward has stepped right in with the help of top target Alex Balke, who leads 1A with 231 receiving yards and six touchdowns.

Cook said Ward learned a lot from watching Streb and Jack Verducci the last two seasons, absorbing some of their traits and skills into his own.

There are some similarities among the three quarterbacks.

They're solid runners and comfortable throwing out of the pocket, a big part of Regina's offense that helps it use its speed on the outside.

The Regals, who moved down from 2A this season, are looking to win their third straight state championship with a third quarterback. Cook said Ward already has proved himself capable.

"A lot of times when you have to work really hard in practice to try and be a starter, it makes you a better football player than just showing up and being named the starter," Cook said.

"He's put his time in and he's off to a great start for us.

"I think he knows he can play even better and he will get better."

## Tonight's key area football games

- No. 8 C.R. Xavier (2-0) at C.R. Prairie (2-0)**  
● Time, site: 7:15 p.m., John Wall Field  
● Notable: Xavier has been dominant through two weeks, winning by a combined 97-7, but those triumphs were against Dubuque Hempstead and Cedar Rapids Jefferson, both 0-2. Quarterback Reggie Schulte is the most efficient quarterback in 4A, posting a rating of 276.0 (20 of 26, 365 yards, seven touchdowns, one interception) and Cal Stovie has developed into an explosive running back. Prairie put up 34 first-half points last week — capped by a marvelous 90-yard kickoff return by DeMetrius Harper — in a 41-33 win over Cedar Rapids Kennedy.
- No. 1 I.C. Regina (2-0) at No. 5 West Branch (2-0)**  
● Time, site: 7 p.m., West Branch  
● Notable: Mentor Butch Pedersen tangles with pupil Marv Cook in one of the biggest games of the week. Cook was an all-state player at West Branch, from which he graduated in 1984. He went on to Iowa, then the NFL, and now coaches at Regina. The Regals have won two straight Class 2A state titles before dropping to 1A this season and carry a 30-game winning streak. The Regals will be tested by a West Branch attack spearheaded by Cade Jones (373 yards, 6 TDs, 11.0 yards per carry).
- No. 5 Cedar Falls (2-0) C.R. Washington (1-1)**  
● Time, site: 7:15 p.m., Kingston Stadium  
● Notable: After playing so well the opening week against Cedar Rapids Kennedy, Washington's defense sprung a leak in a 62-37 loss to Iowa City West, surrendering 48 first-half points. The Warriors try to bounce back behind a ground attack led by Mitch Bredeson (264 yards) and Mitch Blades (217 yards, 10.9 yards per carry).
- Waterloo East (1-1) Iowa City High (1-1)**  
● Time, site: 7:15 p.m., Bates Field  
● Notable: After pushing Cedar Falls hard before bowing 30-20 last week, East gets another shot at an established program. Based on common opponents, this could be a relatively even matchup. Cedar Falls beat City High 28-14 in Week 1, then the Little Hawks rebounded to whip Waterloo West last Friday.
- Anamosa (0-2) at Marion (1-1)**  
● Time, site: 7:30 p.m., Thomas Park Field  
● Notable: Marion came back down to earth last week in a 35-0 defeat to top-ranked Decorah and is heavily favored
- to rebound. Trev Beiry leads the Indians with 136 rushing yards and two touchdowns. Anamosa remains a pass-happy outfit, and receiver Josh Schulte has 11 receptions for 119 yards.
- Linn-Mar (0-2) at Waterloo West (0-2)**  
● Time, site: 7:15 p.m., Memorial Stadium  
● Notable: Is it too early to call this a must-win for Linn-Mar? Probably not, if the Lions are to turn things around and reach the postseason. Quarterback Rhys Davis has developed into the Lions' top running threat, netting 239 yards on the ground. West's losing streak has reached 15 games.
- C.R. Jefferson (0-2) at Dubuque Senior (0-2)**  
● Time and site: 7:15 p.m., Friday, U of Dubuque  
● Notable: Most likely, this is Jefferson's best chance to earn a victory this season.
- Western Dubuque (1-1) West Delaware (1-1)**  
● Time, site: 7:30 p.m., Manchester  
● Notable: If Decorah is indeed the heavy favorite to win the district, this game could go a long way toward deciding the runner-up. West Delaware has its typical strong running game, led by Ryan Dudak (353 yards, 5 TDs) and Tim Tutton (249 yards). The Bobcats haven't generated much offense yet, a touchdown apiece in their first two games.
- Mount Vernon (1-1) at Dyersville Beckman (1-1)**  
● Time, site: 7:30 p.m., Dyersville  
● Notable: It's too early to say Mount Vernon is back, but it's safe to mention the Mustangs are on their way. A 2A state semifinalist in 2011, Beckman has split two close games against good 3A competition.
- Cascade (1-1) at Monticello (1-1)**  
● Time, site: 7:30 p.m., Monticello  
● Notable: A potential early swing game in 2A-4, which appears to have five teams chasing four playoff berths.
- Cedar Valley Christian (0-2) at Springville (2-0)**  
● Time, site: 7:30 p.m., Springville  
● TV: KCRG 9.2  
● Notable: The only area team never to make the playoffs, Springville is on the right path this fall. The Orioles are heavily favored to move to 3-0. Elias Nissen has rushed for 283 yards and seven touchdowns. Cedar Valley has been outscored 148-0 in two games.  
(For more on these games and others, go to www.lowaPrepSports.com)

— Jeff Linder

## MVC standings

SCHOOL	DIV.	ALL
<b>Mississippi Division</b>		
Iowa City West	1-0	3-0
Dubuque Senior	0-0	2-0
Iowa City High	0-0	1-1
Waterloo East	0-0	1-1
Cedar Rapids Jefferson	0-0	0-2
Dubuque Hempstead	0-0	0-2
Cedar Rapids Kennedy	0-1	0-3
<b>Valley Division</b>		
Cedar Falls	0-0	2-0
Cedar Rapids Prairie	0-0	2-0
Cedar Rapids Xavier	0-0	2-0
Cedar Rapids Washington	0-0	1-1
Dubuque Wahlert	0-0	1-1
Linn-Mar	0-0	0-2
Waterloo West	0-0	0-2
<b>LAST NIGHT</b>		
Iowa City West 35, C.R. Kennedy 14		
<b>TONIGHT</b>		
C.R. Xavier at C.R. Prairie		
C.R. Jefferson at Dubuque Hempstead		
Cedar Falls at C.R. Washington		
Dubuque Senior at Dubuque Wahlert		
Linn-Mar at Waterloo West		
Waterloo East at Iowa City High		



Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Alex Hillyer turns the corner on his way to a touchdown last night against Iowa City West at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids. West won the MVC game, 35-14.

## West/176 yards for Kennedy back

FROM PAGE 1B

Much to the chagrin of Kennedy Coach Tim Lewis. The Cougars are known for their physical approach but saw their defense unable to stop tailback Ezra Reiners and fullbacks Colin Baker and Micah Kelsay and their offensive line unable to make holes for back Alex Hillyer.

He carried a whopping 37 times for 176 yards and a TD but was limited to just 46 second-half yards.

"They made some adjustments there in the second half. We made a few. I guess there's were just working," Hillyer

said. "They played pretty tough."

"They got into our pads and were driving us straight back," said Kennedy Coach Tim Lewis. "They were getting to our linebackers, then your linebackers can't pursue. That's an effective run of offense that we've got to get figured out."

West, ranked third in Class 4A, built a 14-0 first-quarter lead on only six offensive plays. Four of the six were sideline bombs to the 6-foot-6 Morgan, who kept beating man-to-man press coverage from Kennedy.

He hauled in a 39-yard TD pass just 1:24 into the

game, then followed that up with a 42-yarder.

"I definitely like that a lot," the UNI basketball recruit said of the man coverage. "I'm usually taller than most of the corners. When Coach calls that play, my eyes usually get big."

A ground drive got Kennedy within 14-7 late in the first, with Hillyer scoring from 2 yards out. Kelsay's 1-yard plunge made it 21-7 West in the second quarter, with Kennedy replying with a 5-yard TD pass from Riley Fergus to Joel Smetzer in the closing seconds.

Comments: (319) 398-8259; jeff.johnson@sourcemedia.net

## NORTHERN IOWA FOOTBALL

# Owens' first TD grab especially memorable in close loss to Badgers

By Jake Bemis  
Correspondent

CEDAR FALLS — Northern Iowa wide receiver Chad Owens and quarterback Sawyer Kollmorgen have more in common than just playing catch for the Panthers. In high school, Owens was a second-team all-state as a quarterback at Waukee. After graduating, he moved to wide receiver.

"I took the year off and just worked on my receiving skills," he said. "I just learned from the older guys, whether it just be running routes or in the film room. I made myself better, because I'd never played receiver."

Three years later, the red-shirt sophomore finally caught his first touchdown pass last Saturday at Wisconsin. And it couldn't have come at a better time.

The touchdown cut the Badgers' lead to 19-7 and sparked a second-half rally that almost led to UNI's first victory over a FBS

opponent in five years. Wisconsin won, 26-21.

"My route was a slant," Owens said. "I saw they were playing man on me. I just went right into (the defender) and made a move. Sawyer threw a nice ball."

"It was something I'll never forget. Everyone was pretty excited and focused at the same time." A business management major, Owens finished the game with three receptions for 20 yards. He had just five catches for 90 yards and one rushing touchdown last season.

"It's a little weird to have a rushing touchdown first, but it was nice to get that first receiving touchdown," he said.

Owens said the focus at UNI is not on last Saturday's close loss, but rather this Saturday's opponent, Division II Central State University. Kickoff is 6 p.m. (KWVL 7.3)

"We just take every game as an important game," he said. "It's the first one at home and we're just going to come out the same way we came out against Wisconsin. We're not going to take this game lightly and hopefully get a (win)."



Chad Owens  
UNI receiver

## Jones/All-state back adds defensive duty

FROM PAGE 1B

Jones has the same knack and was an important part of state semifinal teams the last two seasons. He rushed for 1,769 yards and 27 touchdowns last season. This season he 373 rushing yards and six touchdowns in two games.

West Branch Coach Butch Pedersen said sharing the jersey is a special

tribute to Chad Gates and that Jones represents it well.

"They are very proud of Jonesy," Pedersen said. "I know Chad, although he might be in a different seat and not with us physically, is watching from up above, and he, too, is proud of Cade Jones."

Jones, the 1A 195-pound state wrestling champion last season, added a defensive role

this seen and said he likes playing defensive end.

"Cade is a tremendous athlete," Pedersen said. "He's got great speed. He's a power runner. He's got great balance. He's improved his blocking skills. Cade is playing both sides of the ball this year, where he didn't last year. He's even more active for us than he has been."

Jones wants to play

college football and is considering a number of schools, including NCAA Division I programs.

"I will play football," Jones said. "I'm really excited about the future."

For now, the focus is on the top-ranked Regals, who have dropped to 1A after winning the last two 2A state titles.

Comments: (319) 368-8679; kj.pilcher@sourcemedia.net

## Djokovic advances to make it 10 straight semifinals in Grand Slam events

NEW YORK (AP) — Playing terrific defense and catching lines with his shots, defending U.S. Open champion Novak Djokovic beat 2009 cham-

pion Juan Martin del Potro, 6-2, 7-6 (3), 6-4, last night to reach the semifinals at a 10th consecutive Grand Slam tournament.

The showcase matchup

was compelling throughout and closer than the score line indicated. The thrilling second set lasted 84 minutes.

The Serb will face

fourth-seeded David Ferrer on Saturday. Ferrer advanced to his fourth major semifinal over Janko Tipsarevic, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

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