

Purdue faces Iowa challenge

Defensive coordinator knows Hawkeyes keen on formations

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Purdue defensive coordinator Ross Els looks forward to the direct challenge the Boilermakers will face from Iowa on Saturday at Ross-Ade Stadium.

"They're going to know exactly what we're in and they're going to know how to adjust to it," Els said. "I've gone against these guys four times. They're so well-coached, they're so well-trained and they're tough."

"It's a fun team to play — it really is."

SATURDAY'S GAME

Iowa (4-2) at Purdue (3-2)
Time: noon **TV:** ESPN2 **Radio:** WAZY-FM (96.5)

Iowa has won eight consecutive road games dating back to November 2014. That includes two so far this season in Big Ten Conference play — at Rutgers and at Minnesota.

It's been even longer — 2012 — since Purdue followed up one victory with another. That's never happened during Darrell Hazell's tenure as head coach. The Boilermakers are 0-8 in those situations, losing by an average of 22.3 points.

Last week's overtime win at Illinois

gave Purdue its third chance this season to end that drought.

"It's not a great mystery what they're going to play defensively, but you still have to execute because they're good players across the board," Hazell said. "Physical. They're never out of position. You have to make those tough yards."

Iowa hasn't consistently played well offensively, due in part to an offensive line that has been rearranged. But the Hawkeye, on paper, should easily be the best defense the Boilermakers have faced so far. Led by cornerback Desmond King and linebacker Josey Jewell, Iowa ranks 31st nationally in total defense.

See **BOILERS**, Page 6C



MIKE GRANSE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Boilermakers wide receiver Domonique Young celebrates after a touchdown.

HARRISON 68, RICHMOND 7

Raiders share NCC title



JOHN TERHUNE/JOURNAL & COURIER

Harrison quarterback Jackson Vanderwielen holds off Mikey Vance of Richmond on Friday in West Lafayette. The Raiders clobbered the Red Devils 68-7 to win a share of the NCC title.

Coach ends two decades of waiting for the Harrison faithful; career night by QB Vanderwielen caps team's season

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Harrison fans waited two decades for Friday night.

When Terry Peebles was hired to coach the moribund Raider football program three years ago, he promised results.

Harrison celebrated senior night by capping the regular season with a 68-7

victory over Richmond to claim a share of its first conference title in 20 years.

"When I took the job, my very first meeting with the team, I told them I took the job because I wanted to win championships. They kind of looked at me crazy," said Peebles, who inherited a team that had lost 36 games in a row. "They just needed a fresh start. Really, that's all it was."

Harrison won the Hoosier Confer-

REVIEW THE GAME

For a gallery of photos from Friday's game, visit jconline.com/sports.

ence in 1996, the final season under legendary coach A.J. Rickard.

The Raiders have since been affiliated with the Olympic Conference, Hoosier Crossroads Conference and currently the North Central Conference.

Behind its consistently stout defense and a career night by senior Jackson Vanderwielen, who only played the first

half, the Raiders (6-3) racked up 545 yards and earned a three-way share of the NCC title with McCutcheon and Kokomo.

It fulfilled the goal Peebles told the Raiders he wanted despite the program's 36-game losing streak that ran its way to 38 before everything started to change.

"When coach Peebles came in here, he told us what we were going to do and we bought into the program," said senior defensive end David Huizar, who had six tackles on Friday.

See **RAIDERS**, Page 4C

MCCUTCHEON 35, MARION 7

Mavericks run past Giants for share of NCC crown

Lathrop, Bennett each eclipse 100 rushing yards for Mavs

Dana McBratney
For the Journal & Courier

McCutcheon just went about its business Friday night at Ellison Field.

The Mavericks ran for more than 300 yards to beat Marion 35-7 and claim a share of the North Central Conference title.

"It's a big deal to win the championship," McCutcheon senior Drew Retherford said. "We had to take it back after last year when we lost it on a last-second play."

McCutcheon (7-2) shares the NCC title with Harrison and Kokomo, both winners Friday night. McCutcheon, which lost to the Raiders 23-20 during the regular season, travels to Harrison on Oct. 28 to play in the first round of the sectional tournament.

"We have to get Harrison back for this

season," Retherford said. "They are our county rivals and it is sectionals so it will be a big game."

There was nothing fancy about the way McCutcheon beat Marion. The Mavs used a strong rushing offense and a stifling defense.

McCutcheon had two runners who gained over 100 yards each. Darren Lathrop ran for 151 yards on 15 carries, including a 55-yard touchdown run. Austin

See **MAVERICKS**, Page 5C



ERIC SCHLENE/FOR THE J&C

Junior running back Austin Bennett deflects Marion's Michael Contreras on Friday night at McCutcheon.

HIGH SCHOOLS

ROUNDUP

Frontier wins thriller victory over Taylor

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Danyon McCracken's six-yard touchdown run with 10:24 answered Caleb Murdock's go-ahead touchdown just a minute and a half earlier to lift Frontier to a 21-18 victory over Taylor Friday night.

Mason Ferdinand was a perfect 3-for-3 on extra points and Colt McCracken had a touchdown on the ground and through the air for the Falcons.

Frontier opened the scoring midway through the first quarter when Colt McCracken's 37-yard pass play to Vince Price put the Falcons up 7-0. Colt McCracken rushed for a two-yard touchdown late in the third quarter to put

Frontier ahead 14-12.

Price finished with four receptions and 86 yards and Colt McCracken combined for 210 total yards.

Price and Zak Banta also led Frontier's defensive effort with seven tackles apiece. Price and Colt McCracken each intercepted Taylor quarterback Liam Ireland.

Clinton Prairie 29, Clinton Central 26

Sam Schoonveld helped Clinton Prairie defeat rival Clinton Central with his legs, his hands and his arm.

Schoonveld rushed for 126 yards, caught five passes for 88 yards and completed his only pass for 30 more yards in a victory over the Bulldogs.

Gopher quarterback Collin Stroup was 13-for-18 passing for 128 yards, while

Cam Haynes hauled in six receptions and Drew Scott and Cayde Selke had three apiece, helping Prairie rack up 357 yards of offense.

Tri-County 34, Tri-Central 6

The Cavaliers used a 21-point second quarter to bust open a scoreless game.

Frank Berenda rushed for 76 yards and Sam Getz added 49 on the ground, while Dalton Justice threw a pair of touchdown passes.

Winamac 34, Delphi 20

The Warriors outscored Delphi 21-7 in the second half for the difference.

The Oracles were led by 235 passing yards and three touchdowns from quarterback Weston Windell, who also rushed for 72 yards.

Blake Carroll caught six passes for

142 yards and two touchdowns and Dylan Hart also had a touchdown reception, grabbing three passes for 51 yards.

Tri-West 45, North Montgomery 0

The Bruins wrapped up the Sagamore Conference crown in convincing fashion, accumulating 522 yards of offense and building a 31-0 lead by halftime.

The Chargers netted just 20 rushing yards on 25 carries and were led by Micah Wray's four catches for 71 yards.

North Vermillion 55, Seeger 10

Ethan Lasley had a two-yard touchdown run and a 36-yard field goal for the Patriots.

His field goal in the first quarter cut the Falcons' lead to 6-3, but North Vermillion scored 49 straight points.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC 41, TIPTON 10

Knights' perfect season seals conference title

Victory over Blue Devils seals perfect 9-0 regular season

Clyde Hughes
For the Journal & Courier

TIPTON - Central Catholic captured another Hoosier Conference title with a suffocating defense and timely passing by quarterback Avery Denhart for a 41-10 victory over host Tipton Friday night.

The Knights, ranked No. 1 in Class A, completed its regular season 9-0 going into next week's sectional opener against Frontier. Tipton finished its regular season at 5-4 with a date with fellow Hoosier Conference foe West Lafayette next Friday.

"It feels good winning conference again, but it was a team effort and winning it meant a lot to us," said wide receiver Ben Metzinger, who ran for two touchdowns and caught a backbreaking 67-yard touchdown pass from Denhart in the first half.

Metzinger, who finished the night with four catches for 117 yards, downplayed his big plays Friday night, saying that it was just his turn.

"There's six or seven (players) on offensive set that can do the same thing," Metzinger said. "It just happened to be me tonight."

Denhart completed seven of his first nine passes and finished the night 17 for 25 for 274 yards, 218 of those in the first half. Kavon Clark, saw his first action at running back since going down with a wrist injury back in August, rushing for 86 yards on 13 carries in limited action.

"It was nice to see Kavon get back and carry the ball a few times and see the added dimension he can give us," Central Catholic coach Kevin O'Shea said. "We wanted to get the running game going, especially the second half and Kavon did a pretty decent job for not being on the football field all year."

Clark scored his first touchdown of the season on the Knights' opening drive of the second half. Already up 27-0, the

junior carried the ball four times, the final time for a seven-yard touchdown run, giving Central Catholic a 34-0 advantage.

"It felt pretty good out there," Clark said. "I love getting hit again. The runs I had felt pretty good with a great offensive line in front of me and a great coaching staff. It was important to get back out there get used to carrying the ball again, trusting the line and hitting the right holes."

Central Catholic scored on its first two possessions, the first one ended with Denhart's 27-yard touchdown pass to Ben Tharp. Metzinger finished an 11-play drive with a nine-yard run, where the Knights converted three third-down plays.

"I'll have to go back and look at how many third down opportunities they had in the first half where we were just a half-step slow or a half-step out of position," Tipton coach Aaron Tolle said. "To their credit, they executed those things and really good teams do that."

Defensively, the Knights were dominating, surrendering just 29 yards on the ground. The gave up their only touchdown in the fourth quarter — and Caleb Burkett's 16-yard catch from K.J. Roubush — after two Central Catholic interference calls put the Blue Devils in red zone for the only time in the contest.

"I think our defense did a great job in shutting the run down and we had been working on their pass routes all week," Metzinger said. "We did what we had to do to win the game and shut them down."

O'Shea said Central Catholic's ability to pass the ball behind Denhart allowed the Knights to move the ball downfield until the running back got going in the second half.

"When you're able to throw the ball, you can work through that a little bit," O'Shea said. "We played some extra did tonight and they did some nice things out there."

RAIDERS

Continued from Page 1C

Vanderwielen entered Friday night with 604 passing yards and six touchdowns on the season.

Peebles, himself a former quarterback, believed there was an incredible performance waiting to happen with his senior signal caller.

Friday night was it.

By halftime, Vanderwielen engineered seven scoring drives and passed for 306 yards and five touchdowns.

"One of the main things is I just relaxed," said Vanderwielen, who opened the game with a 46-yard pass to fellow senior Adam Sturgeon on the opening offensive play. "I've understood the offense better and got a better handle on it. The receivers make me look good. It's a team thing. It's not just me."

Last week, Harrison had a chance to clinch at least a share of the conference title, but saw a 14-0 lead in the fourth quarter slip away and its chances for an outright title dashed when Kokomo kicked the game-winning field goal in the final seconds.

Richmond coach Matt Holeva saw how motivated Harrison was to win a league crown early after the long bus ride to West Lafayette.

"They controlled the game from the beginning," Holeva said. "They totally dominated us. Honestly, it was just a good old butt kicking. At this point, there was nothing we could do but take it."

Butch Knox's 11 tackles led Harrison's defensive effort.

Richmond (4-5) was kept to 143 total yards.

By the time the Red Devils mustered anything offensively, they were down 44-0.

Alston Bane hit a pair of long passes late in the first half, one to Thomas Stanley for 41 yards and the next to Dasean Jones for 23 to set up Gavin Farrar's 3-yard touchdown run for Richmond's lone score.



JOHN TERHUNE/JOURNAL & COURIER

Harrison's Dawson Dahnke runs with 38 seconds remaining in the first half against Richmond on Friday in West Lafayette. Dahnke's score put Harrison up 51-7. The Raiders went on to clobber the Red Devils 68-7 to win a share of the NCC title.

Bane finished 5-for-17 for 90 yards.

"After the Kokomo game, we knew we had to get back to work. We knew we let an opportunity slip," Huizar said. "This week we had to come out prepared. We knew Richmond was going to come out here and try to spoil our season."

The Raiders made sure there would be no spoiling senior night.

Junior Dawson Dahnke rushed for 89 yards and two touchdowns and caught three passes for 111 yards and two scores, including one in the final minute of the first half that answered Richmond's only score.

LJ Hart rushed for 106 yards and a touchdown and added a receiving touchdowns among his four catches for 67 yards. Sturgeon caught four passes for 72 yards and a score and Joseph Fraseur had a touchdown during a three-catch night.

Senior Hayley Cutter played her first varsity snaps, registering two tackles at nose tackle.

It was a nice way to cap the regular season.

Harrison put 11 seniors on offense late and let them kneel on the ball in victory formation.

Three years ago, they were freshmen on a team that was one of the laughing stocks of high school football in the state.

On Friday night, they hoisted a championship trophy.

"You're out there with your senior brothers and you've gone through four years of hard work and it all paid off," Vanderwielen said.

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