

J-Hawks roll over Davenport North

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DAVENPORT - Manny Olutunde, Tavian Rashed and the Cedar Rapids Jefferson offense gashed Davenport North for six first-half touchdowns in a runaway 42-7 victory Friday night at Brady Street Stadium.

The J-Hawks (1-2) scored on all six of their first-half possessions in a non-district matchup between teams that were both 1-8 last season.

Olutunde notched 52- and 88-yard touchdowns in the first half, with both plays starting with short passes from Jesse Furrow that the junior running back stretched into long sprints into the end zone.

Jefferson Coach Brian Webb said he and his staff knew this year's team was capable of performances like the one it turned in against the Wildcats.

"We knew all along we have a lot of speed and when we execute, we can score a lot of points," he said. "It's a testament to our kids, they've won three games in three years."

Two of the J-Hawks' other first-half scores came on Rashed rushes of 4 and 14 yards, the first of which opened the game's scoring when he pushed through the Wildcats' defense with just less than nine minutes left in the first quarter.

The score started a stretch where the J-Hawks scored four times in the final nine minutes of the first quarter.

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North (1-2) logged 23 yards of offense and three first downs in the first half, but managed to keep Jefferson off the scoreboard in the second half. The Wildcats recorded 66 yards and six first downs in the second half, most of which came on two deep incursions into J-Hawks territory.

North's defense halted the J-Hawks and, after a punt, took over on Jefferson's 38-yard-line with about 8 minutes left. The Wildcats pushed their way to the 18 when Kaleb Schultz completed a 17-yard-pass to Calvin Conger to put North on the 1-yard line with 4 minutes left.

Schultz ran up the middle three times but was unable to cross the goal line before Kevin Murphy made it across on fourth down and 1 to make it 42-7 in the final minutes of the game. The Wildcats had driven to the J-Hawks' 2-yard line on the previous drive but had a field goal blocked.

North Coach Guy Dierikx said his team didn't play four solid quarters like it did in its win against Davenport West in Week 1.

"We have to find that passion and enthusiasm for the games that matter in our district," he said.

Dierikx said he talked to his team about keeping the J-Hawks off the scoreboard in second half during halftime, and his team met that goal.

"We went in and talked about what we could do to keep coaching our kids up," he said of the coaching staff. "We focused on winning the second half."

Furrow completed all five of his passes for Jefferson and also scored on a 1-yard run. His two TD passes to Olutunde accounted for 140 yards. Mason Furnish scored on a 14-yard for the J-Hawks.

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Jefferson returns to Brady Street Stadium Thursday night for a contest with Davenport West.