

Cedar Falls too tough for J-Hawks

Written by Jim Ecker

Thursday, 02 October 2014 22:00 -



CEDAR FALLS - Nobody has to tell Brian Webb about the Cedar Falls Tigers and how good they are year after year.

Webb played his high school football at Cedar Falls and he coached for a year at his alma mater, so he knew exactly what to expect from the Tigers in the UNI-Dome Thursday night.

As it turned out, it was not good for Webb and his Jefferson J-Hawks.

Cedar Falls scored touchdowns on its first five possessions and raced by the J-Hawks, 35-17, in a Class 4A district game.

"From the day I left in '98 to what it is now - probably 15 years - their D-ends are all the same, their fullbacks are all the same, their line is all the same. It's just cookie-cutter," said Webb.

"What a great way to build a program, when you have cookie-cutter kids every year to replace the old ones. They're a good team."

Hall of Fame Coach Pat Mitchell retired at Cedar Falls after the 2013 season due to health reasons, but Brad Remmert - Mitchell's co-head coach for many years - succeeded his mentor and has led the Tigers to a 5-1 start this year.

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Remmert was one of Webb's assistant coaches when Webb played for the Tigers, and he gave Remmert a thumbs-up for not scoring an extra touchdown after the Tigers had reached the 3-yard line in the final seconds.

"What a class act," said Webb.

Webb has led Jefferson to a 3-3 record this year and closed the gap on many schools, but he acknowledged there's still a gap between the J-Hawks and teams like Cedar Falls.

"Absolutely," he remarked. "Cedar Falls is eventually where I'd like to be (as a program). You just look at their linemen. They're huge. We have to get those big kids out for football.

"They're big every year, and size goes a long ways," said Webb. "Yeah, there's a gap between those top-echelon teams and us."

Denison Harrington, the younger brother of former Cedar Falls sprint champion James Harrington, scored four touchdowns for the Tigers on three runs and a 78-yard pass play.

Cedar Falls rolled up 472 yards of total offense with its power, speed and finesse. Jefferson suffered a few leaks on defense and let receivers get wide open for big gains on blown coverages.

The J-Hawks got off to a slow start on offense and fell behind, 28-3, in the second quarter. The game was basically over at that point in the UNI-Dome.

Jefferson hurt itself with procedure penalties and other mishaps.

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"It's guys looking at the wrong play on the wrist band," said quarterback Jesse Furrow. "It gets loud in here, so it's getting the wrong call from me and the sideline and stuff like that.

"There was nothing we weren't prepared for," he said. "We knew it was going to be loud in here. We just need to get better."

Furrow completed 13 of 21 passes for 118 yards. Jefferson rushed for 105 yards for 223 yards of total offense, less than half of the Cedar Falls production.

"We had our opportunities," said Furrow. "We gave up too many big plays. We didn't execute the way we wanted to offensively, we started off slow.

"We've got a lot of work to do. Every week is like that. You have a lot of things to clean up."

Taylen Alexander passed for 238 yards for the Tigers after relieving Trey Hansen at quarterback. Hansen was shaken up when he tried to elude Jefferson defenders and spun right into big Dalton Kuehl, who flattened him.

Caleb Kesterson kicked a 22-yard field goal to pull the J-Hawks within 14-3 in the second quarter, but Cedar Falls spurred to its commanding 28-3 lead from there.

Bryce Lund pulled Jefferson within 28-10 at halftime with a 3-yard touchdown run on the final play of the second quarter. Harrington gave Cedar Falls a 35-10 lead with his fourth touchdown and Furrow made it 35-17 with a quarterback sneak in the fourth period.

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"You can't start slow against Cedar Falls," said Webb. "You have to come out and you have to punch them in the mouth. We didn't do a good job of that."

Jefferson fell 1-1 in district games. Cedar Falls is 2-0.

CEDAR FALLS 35, JEFFERSON 17

	JEFF	CF
First downs	15	19
Rushes-yards	38-190	30-105
Passing yards	282	118
Comp-Att-Int	11-16-0	13-22-1
Fumbles-lost	1-0	0-0
Punts-avg.	1-46.0	4-37.8
Penalties-yards	10-85	8-51

Jefferson	0	10	0	7	- 17
Cedar Falls	14	14	7	0	- 35

Scoring plays

CF - Denison Harrington 1 run (Caleb lehl kick)
CF - Harrington 78 pass from Taylen Alexander (lehl kick)
CRJ - Caleb Kesterson 22 FG
CF - Harrington 16 run (lehl kick)
CF - Ben Fienup 5 run (lehl kick)
CRJ - Bryce Lund 3 run (Kesterson kick)
CF - Harrington 1 run (lehl kick)
CRJ - Jesse Furrow 1 run (Kesterson kick)

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Individual Statistics

Rushing

Jefferson - Rashed 11-28, Short 6-25, Furnish 1-8, Furrow 7-5, Lund 2-18, Bernauer 1-6, Olutunde 2-15.

Cedar Falls - Harrington 9-45, Fienup 2-10, Middleton 2-16, Hansen 1-minus 11, Alexander 4-minus 1, Diaz 7-11, Hinton 7-56, Schmidt 2-26, Cook 4-38.

Passing

Jefferson - Furrow 13-21-1, 118; Team 0-1-0, 0.

Cedar Falls - Alexander 8-11-0, 238; Hansen 3-5-0, 44.

Receiving

Jefferson - Lund 3-50, Short 2-1, Green 2-12, Rashed 2-4, Olutunde 2-15, Bernauer 1-24, Furnish 1-12.

Cedar Falls - Fienup 3-87, Middleton 4-60, Harrington 2-79, Fagan 1-34, Jackson 1-22