

J-Hawks knock off Davenport North

Written by Tom Fruehling

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Alex Fernandez's first instinct was to pick up the fumble at his feet and take off.

But the Jefferson senior defensive tackle and team leader instantly thought better of it and simply fell on the ball midway through the first quarter at Davenport North's 43-yard line.

Two plays later, Jeff running back Tavian Rashed ran it in from four yards out for the first score of Thursday night's game at Kingston Stadium.

After that, the J-Hawks (2-1) never looked back as they built a 35-0 third-quarter lead before allowing a late touchdown by the Wildcats (0-3) from North for a 35-6 victory.

"When the ball hit the turf right in front me I wanted to run with it," Fernandez said. "That's what linemen want to do."

"But common sense told me to just jump on it. Good thing, too. It set us up in a good position to score."

Coming as it did on Davenport's first possession of the game, Fernandez felt the turnover gave Jefferson some momentum.

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"It kind of got us rolling," he said.

With senior first-year starting quarterback Jared Eivins again engineering an efficient offense, the J-Hawks scored twice more in the first half for a 21-0 lead at intermission.

Eivins ran it in himself from 10 yards with 1:58 to go in the half. Then, after North stalled at midfield, he threw 15 yards to Valentino "Tino" Green with nine seconds left on the clock for the third touchdown.

Just moments before, the Wildcats had come close to tying the score with one of their few scoring threats on a night when a stout Jefferson defense held them to under 200 yards in total offense.

The normally steady Eivins had thrown two straight interceptions to start the second quarter, the second giving North the ball at the Jefferson 14.

With first and goal at the four, Fernandez pushed through the line for a 4-yard loss. Two plays later, senior defensive back Jacob Beaton stuffed the Wildcat quarterback clear back at the 20.

A subsequent field goal try fell far short.

For the night, Beaton had four solo tackles and three assists, the same as sophomore lineman Keenan Stewart. Defensive back Brandon Burnett had three solos and eight assists.

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