

No.3 Warriors blank Iowa City West

Written by Jim Ecker

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For a fleeting moment, Julian Good-Jones thought the Iowa State marching band performed at Kingston Stadium Friday night especially for him.

Cedar Rapids Washington's premier lineman will play football for the Cyclones next year, but the ISU band was actually here in conjunction with the big game between the Cyclones and Iowa Hawkeyes in Iowa City on Saturday.

In any case, the Iowa State band made the third-ranked Warriors feel especially good about themselves in their 28-0 conquest of Iowa City West in a Class 4A non-district game.

"I didn't know until today they were coming, but it was pretty cool," said Good-Jones. "A lot of people were making jokes that they were coming for me.

"I didn't know if it was true or not. I didn't know what to think."

Actually, it would have been a violation of NCAA rules if the Iowa State band had traveled here from Ames to serenade a future Cyclone. The ISU band members spent the night as guests of Washington band families as a way to save money after putting on an entertaining pre-game and halftime show.

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The Iowa State band sat on the Washington side of the field during the first half and got into the spirit of things.

"That helped," said Washington Coach Paul James. "They learned our fight song. They were playing our fight song out there. And they're loud."

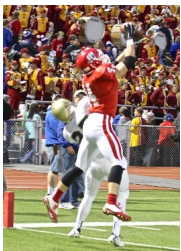
The Warriors (3-0) played a solid all-around game and settled a few scores with Iowa City West (1-2). The Trojans rolled up 111 points against the Warriors the last two years in lopsided victories, but Washington owned this one.

The shutout felt extra sweet after falling to the Trojans, 49-8, in 2013.

"It feels nice, especially since we kind of got robbed of a goose-egg last week against Kennedy (in a 41-7 win)," said Good-Jones. "Especially with it being Iowa City West and how they stomped us last year, it was really nice."

Washington held Iowa City West to 201 yards of total offense and came up with four turnovers. Meanwhile, the Warriors collected 321 yards and did not lose the ball all night.

"I'm really proud and happy for our players," said James.



Connor Vincent got Washington started in the first quarter by scoring a pair of touchdowns, the first on a leaping 18-yard catch in the end zone on a pass from Reid Snitker and later on a 27-yard dash from the fullback position.

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Landen Akers found himself wide open behind the Iowa City West defense for an easy 34-yard touchdown grab from Snitker in the third period, and Tavion Stewart ended the scoring with a 19-yard scamper into the end zone in the final minute.

Vincent is one of numerous Warriors who excel on offense and defense. He was Washington's leading tackler heading into the game and showed he's got talent with the ball in his hands.

His favorite part of a football game? "The end of the game, huddling out there with our team, celebrating a win," he remarked.

Tavian Patrick scooted for 125 yards on 12 carries for Washington, including a 51-yard jaunt in the first quarter to set up the first touchdown.

The Warriors could have scored more points, but they got snuffed after reaching the 1-yard line in the second quarter and had a 38-yard field goal batted down in the fourth period.

"We were a little upset at halftime that some opportunities slipped by," said James. "But by and large, the kids executed pretty well. You never play a perfect game.

"I was just proud of their performance and how they're keeping focused on what they have to do."

James had special praise for center Max Podgorski, who played with a heavy case on his right arm and had to snap the ball with his left hand. The Warriors gave Podgorski a round of applause for his effort.

Washington visits No.9 Linn-Mar next Friday in a battle of 3-0 clubs.