

Jefferson belted by IC West, 71-14

Written by Guy Martino

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IOWA CITY - The Jefferson J-Hawks gave Iowa City West and its homecoming crowd a jolting wakeup call on Friday night.

Jefferson linebacker/quarterback Layne Sullivan intercepted Nate Boland's passing attempt on the second play of the game and Jefferson quickly converted a halfback pass for a touchdown.

West was in a position it hadn't been accustomed to for the majority of the season: Trailing in a game. Then, like a bad dream, the Trojans snapped out of it.

Iowa City West scored 29 unanswered points and drubbed Jefferson by a whopping score of 71-14 at the Iowa City West field.

Iowa City West (8-0, 5-0) capitalized on four Jefferson turnovers and found a multitude of ways to score. The Trojans recorded eight rushing touchdowns, two passing TDs and one special teams score. They also clinched the MVC Mississippi Division title.

West was stifling on defense, allowing only four total rushing yards to Jefferson (1-7, 1-4).

However, the pesky J-Hawks fought valiantly as their defense flustered the potent Trojan offense at times. They also managed to put up multiple scores on West, a feat in itself.

"The first half was a close game, but in the second half we came out and made too many mistakes," said Jefferson Coach Brian Webb. "We are down three starters and down to 26 kids on the team, but our kids played really hard."

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Wideout Blake Bernauer participated in both of his team's touchdowns and was a bright spot for the J-Hawks.

In the opening minutes of the game, Sullivan pitched the ball to running back Michael Moncivais, who sprinted out to the right on a sweep. But at the last second, Moncivais stepped back and threw the ball downfield to Bernauer, who leaped and grabbed the ball away from the defender in the end zone for a spectacular touchdown.

Similarly, right before halftime Bernauer made another leaping grab for a score, only this time it was from quarterback Sullivan.

Those were Jefferson's first two touchdown passes of the season.

"We have been waiting for that all year from him. I am proud of Blake and proud of our team, the effort was great by everybody," said Webb.

The effort was certainly there for the J-Hawks, but they were simply outmatched by this talented West squad. They used their gigantic offensive line and smothering defense to overwhelm Jefferson.

Behind the huge Trojan offensive line, Ezra Reiners rushed through gaping holes for 87 yards and three scores. West rushed for 226 total yards.

Boland had a good night throwing the ball aside from the interception early in the game. He passed for 168 yards and two touchdowns, finding star receivers Dondre Alexander and Jeremy Morgan for scores.

West led 29-14 at halftime. But after the break, the Trojans exploded.

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Jefferson helped them out a bit by fumbling twice, giving the Trojans the ball inside the 10-yard line both times. West outscored Jefferson 42-0 in the second half, and reserve players were on the field for the entire fourth quarter.

"West has a great team, but there are better days ahead for us," said Webb. "We have a chance to beat Dubuque Senior next week."

The J-Hawks close out the regular season Friday night against Senior at Kingston Stadium.

IOWA CITY WEST 71, JEFFERSON 14

CRJ ICW

First Downs	9	18
Rushing	28-4	31-226
Passing	8-18-1	9-16-1
Passing Yards	119	168
Punts	7-37	1-48
Fumbles/Lost	4/3	0/0
Penalties	4-20	6-45

Jefferson	7	7	0	0	- 14
Iowa City West	22	7	28	14	- 71

SCORING PLAYS

CRJ - Blake Bernauer 30 pass from Michael Moncivais (Nick Rocha kick)
ICW - Ezra Reiners 1 run (Jeremy Morgan kick)
ICW - Jessie Peterson 1 run (Morgan kick)
ICW - Reid Bonner 64 punt return (Sam McLeran run)
ICW - Reiners 27 run (Morgan kick)
CRJ - Bernauer 27 pass from Layne Sullivan (Rocha kick)
ICW - Dondre Alexander 27 pass from Nate Boland (Morgan kick)
ICW - Reiners 2 run (Morgan kick)
ICW - Morgan 28 pass from Boland (Morgan kick)
ICW - McLeran 1 run (Jacob Frisbie kick)
ICW - Xavier May 8 run (Frisbie kick)
ICW - May 1 run (Frisbie kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

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RUSHING

JEFFERSON: Kevonte Jones 7-20, Michael Moncivais 7-minus 1, Layne Sullivan 7-(minus 20), Hunter Kloubec 3-3, Raven Johnson 1-6, Luke Owens 1-1, Brandon Wiederin 1-(minus 7).
IOWA CITY WEST: Ezra Reiners 17-87, Xavier May 5-64, Nate Boland 3-21, Devin Raffensperger 3-45, Jessie Peterson 2-8, Sam McLeran 1-1.

PASSING

JEFFERSON: Sullivan 5-15-1, 68 yards; Moncivais 1-1-0, 30 yards; Lance Scallon 2-2-0, 21 yards.
IOWA CITY WEST: Boland 9-16-1, 168 yards.

RECEIVING

JEFFERSON: Blake Bernauer 4-71, Mason Furnish 2-21, Drake Allen 1-21, Kloubec 1-6.
IOWA CITY WEST: Dondre Alexander 5-97, Jeremy Morgan 3-40, Reiners 1-31.