

## Cougars nearly perfect in 59-0 romp

Written by Jim Ecker

Wednesday, 28 October 2015 20:48 - Last Updated Wednesday, 28 October 2015 21:04

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Perfection is impossible to achieve in a high school football game, but the Kennedy Cougars came awfully close Wednesday.

The fourth-ranked Cougars spanked Clinton, 59-0, in the opening round of the Class 4A playoffs on a cold, blustery night at Kingston Stadium to cruise into the Round of 16.

Kennedy will host another game at Kingston Monday night.

Tyler Dralle broke the school record for most rushing yards in a season with another spectacular performance, Nick Duehr completed all 10 of his passes for 226 yards and four touchdowns, Shaun Beyer showed once again why he's considered one of the most versatile players in Iowa and the defense pitched its third shutout of the season.

But perfect? No.

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Kennedy missed three PATs and lost a fumble, so perfection eluded them.

"Special teams. That's not perfect," said Kennedy Coach Brian White. "When you get down the road in the playoffs, those three points are pretty valuable."

Kennedy raised its record to a perfect 10-0, riding the longest scoring streak in school history, but White will not let his players rest on their laurels, even if they wanted to.

"We've got to get better. It sounds stupid," he said, alluding to the 59-0 final score. "We've got to get better on offense, we've got to get better on defense, we've got to get better on special teams. You can't be satisfied with anything."

If Dralle got any better, he might be other-wordly.

The indefatigable senior carried the ball 21 times for 220 yards Friday with two touchdowns, including a 42-yard jaunt in the third quarter to make it 45-0

Dralle has rushed 286 times this season for 1,674 yards, snapping the old school record of 1,662 set by Alex Hillyer in 2012 and lifting him into sixth place on the single-season chart in Metro history.

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Dralle raised his career rushing total to 2,585, jumping into ninth place in Metro history.

"It feels great," he said about the milestones. "I've got the best O-Line in the state with the five guys in front of me. They've worked their tails off all season and I wouldn't be here without them."

Dalles Jacobus, Jackson Coker, Mason Jacobs and Austin Kerska have been blocking for Dralle all season, but Jackson Behn suffered a torn ACL in his knee several games ago and has been lost for the rest of the season. Patrick Manchester and Matt Murphy have replaced Behn on the offensive line and the Cougars have kept running along.



White was happy to see Dralle break the school record with 1,674.

"He wanted it, and we wanted it as a team," said White. "It means a lot to our offensive line, too."

Dralle, who is also an accomplished baseball player, is not sure what he'll do in college. He mentioned the possibility of playing both sports, perhaps at Coe.

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"Baseball and/or football," he remarked, "whichever one I get the best offer."

Duehr, a junior, turned in a near-flawless performance at quarterback with his ballhandling, leadership and pinpoint passing in less-than-ideal conditions. Kennedy rolled up 594 yards of total offense, with 367 on the ground and 226 through the air.

"I think we played great," said Duehr. "We knew it was windy today, so we didn't think we were going to throw the ball very much. We relied on our offensive line and they played great."

Beyer caught five passes for 120 yards and two touchdowns, including a 74-yard beauty to start the scoring in the first quarter when he brushed a tackler aside and sprinted down the sideline. Chase Baker also caught two TD passes from Duehr measuring 26 and 43 yards.

Austin Coates scored on a 52-yard interception return with a one-handed catch and sprint to the end zone. Tyler Jacobs scored on a 12-yard run and Ahmad Eveland-Gause tallied on a 20-yard run.

"We had a great game overall as a team, we had a great week of practice preparing for them," said Beyer. "We need to carry it on to next week."

Clinton finished with a 5-5 record. Clinton lost to Washington, 78-13, in the first round of the playoffs here last year and has been outscored 137-13 in its last two playoff games at Kingston.

KENNEDY 59, CLINTON 0

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First Downs	11	27
Rushes-Yards	30-60	39-367
Passing Yards	84	226
Comp-Att-Int	10-24-2	10-10-0
Fumbles-Lost	3-0	1-0
Punts	5-32.8	0-0
Penalties	2-18	3-20

Clinton 0 0 0 0 - 0

Kennedy 20 12 14 13 - 59

### Scoring Plays

K - Shaun Beyer 74 pass from Nick Duehr (Alex Stone kick)

K - Tyler Dralle 3 run (kick blocked)

K - Austin Coates 52 interception return (Stone kick)

K - Beyer 7 pass from Duehr (kick blocked)

K - Chase Baker 26 pass from Duehr (run failed)

K - Baker 43 pass from Duehr (Stone kick)

K - Dralle 42 run (Stone kick)

K - Tyler Jacobs 12 run (Stone kic)

K - Ahmad Eveland-Gause 20 run (run failed)

### Individual Statistics

#### Rushing

Clinton - Harris 24-58, Sullivan 6-2.

Kennedy - Dralle 21-220, Beyer 3-36, Eveland-Gause 6-36, Jacobs 4-32, DeMaris 1-8, Kadolph 1-7, Duehr 1-9, Berry 2-19.

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### Passing

Clinton - Sullivan 10-24-2, 84.  
Kennedy - Duehr 10-10-0, 226.

### Receiving

Clinton - Harris 6-54, Howard 2-26, Wenzel 1-2, Harris 1-2.  
Kennedy - Beyer 5-120, DeMaris 3-37, Baker 2-69.