They were all on the line.



And a big lineman, of all players, saved the day for Marion Wednesday night at home by recovering a late-game fumble to preserve a nail-biting, 29-27, Class 3A playoff win over Western Dubuque at Thomas Park.

Trying for a last-ditch drive to take the lead for the fifth and final time, Bobcat quarterback Dylan Kramer hit Riley Pfieler for an 11-yard completion to the Indian 35 with 1:15 to go.

But Marion linebacker Ethan Herren smacked the receiver just after he caught the ball and it bounced to the turf.

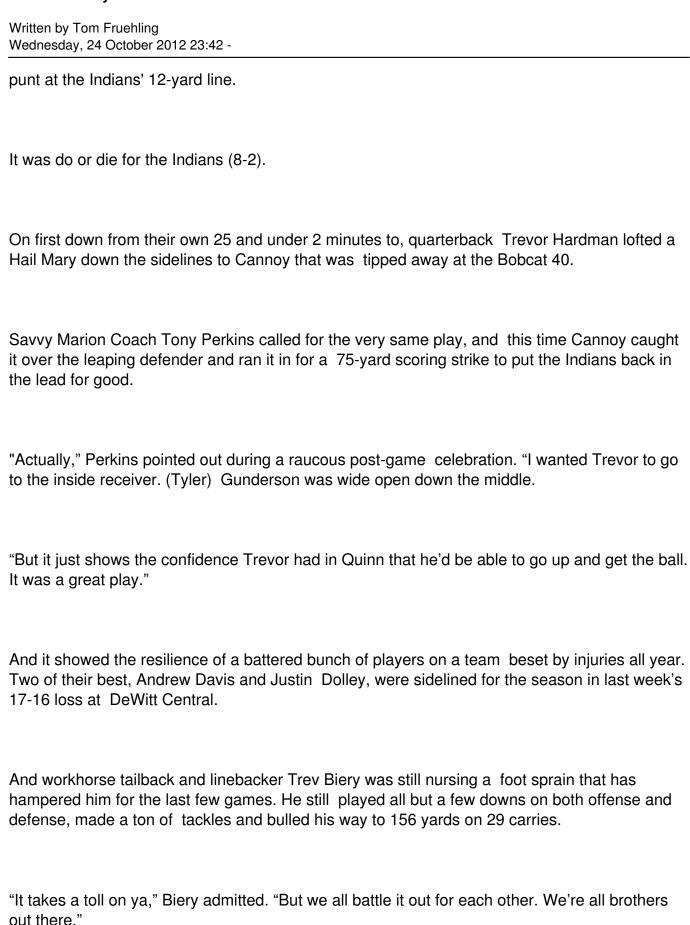
"I saw the ball rolling," said Marion tackle Mitch Ross, who was about five yards away from the play. "I knew it was our last chance to win the game. And I wasn't going to let it get away."

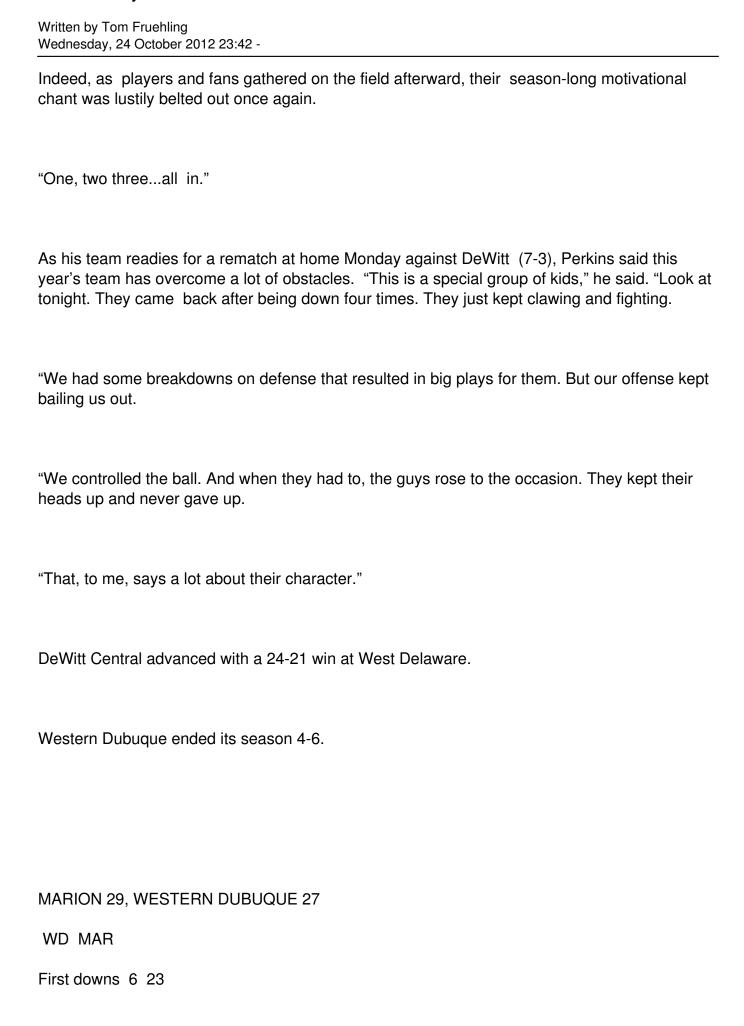
So the 6-foot-3, 300-pound senior mustered the moxie to do what he had to do.

"I just dove as far as I could and pounced on the ball," Ross explained. "And I felt on top of the world."

His heroics wouldn't have mattered much if two of his teammates hadn't pulled off some magic of their own just moments before.

Trailing 27-23 with 3 minutes left in the see-saw contest, Marion's Quinn Cannoy fair caught a





Written by Tom Fruehling Wednesday, 24 October 2012 23:42 -

Rushing 26-140 63-335 Passing 6-14-1 6-15-1 Passing yards 134 136 Fumbles/lost 1/1 0/0 Punts 5-39 3-30 Penalties 2-10 2-20

Western Dubuque 14 0 0 13 - 27 Marion 3 10 3 13 - 29

SCORING PLAYS

WD – Dylan James 46 pass from Dylan Kramer (Nick Kruse kick)

MAR – FG Dalton Ott 35

WD – Dan Beard 59 run (Kruse kick)

MAR – FG Ott 32

MAR – Tyler Gunderson 26 pass from Trevor Hardman (Ott kick)

MAR – FG Ben Kroemer 28

WD – Tyler Donovan 45 pass from Kramer (pass failed)

MAR – Trev Biery 1 run (Ott kick)

WD – Dawson Nemmers 15 run (Kruse kick)

MAR – Quinn Cannoy 75 pass from Hardman (kick failed)

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing – WD –Dan Beard 6-58, Dylan Kramer 3-26. MAR – Trev Biery 29-156, Tyler Gunderson 14-113.

Passing – WD – Kramer 6-14-1-134. MAR– Trevor Hardman 6-15-1-136.

Receiving – WD – Dylan James 2-75, Tyler Donovan1-45. MAR – Quinn Cannoy 1-75, Gunderson 1-26.