

SPORTS



TOP-RANKED ORIOLE VOLLEYBALL TEAM CONTINUES TOWARDS TITLE QUEST PAGE 15A

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BETWEEN THE LINES



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Sports Editor

Throw out the records

Anamosa-Monticello Cowbell football rivalry runs deep

It's my favorite time of the high school football season.

Cowbell week, as the Anamosa football team hosts Monticello in what I'm sure is going to be another epic battle on Downing Field Friday, Oct. 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Why so sure?

History.

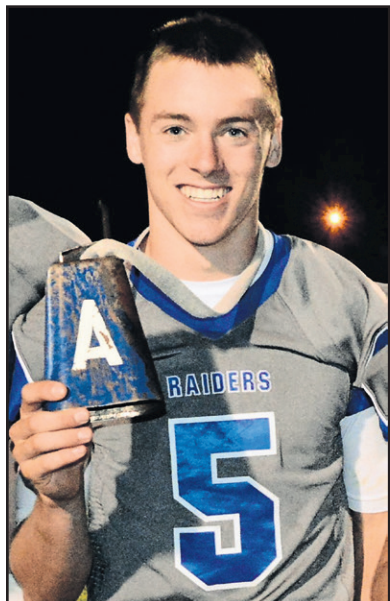
It tells us these two schools, no matter what their respective records are, deliver some of the most drama-filled football contests year after year after year.

And I'm sure Friday night is going to be no different.

The two programs come into the contest on just about opposite ends of the won-loss spectrum. We know the Raiders, who picked up their first win of the 2022 campaign last Friday night at Tipton, are significantly better than their 1-5 overall mark and yet still control their own destiny for a coveted playoff spot.

Conversely, Monticello is playing for a class 2A district 5 title, and are being chased by Northeast as both the Panthers and Rebels are a perfect 3-0 in district play heading into this week.

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DARYL SCZEPANSKI • STAFF PHOTO

Anamosa senior Kolin Schulte proudly hoists the Cowbell after the team's 52-28 rout hosting Monticello during a 2015 campaign that would go down as one of the greatest in Raider football history.

ANAMOSA FOOTBALL



DARYL SCZEPANSKI • STAFF PHOTO

Members of the Anamosa defense, left to right, Cole Sigler, Hudson Scranton, Kale Nebergall and Easton Wheeler converge on Tipton quarterback Ian Spangler during the Raiders' 35-13 win in Tipton Friday, Sept. 30.

Not to be denied

Raiders hold claim to 'Battle Since 1922' Trophy with win on Tipton field

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TIPTON

Coming off a pair of heart-breaking losses against Northeast and Camanche in consecutive weeks, the Anamosa football team was looking for a more drama-free contest in Tipton Friday, Oct. 1, as the two programs once again staked claim at holding the 'Battle Since 1922 Trophy,' the hardware the Raiders and Tigers have fought over for close to a decade.

This time however, Anamosa left no doubt as to who was going to win the game, and the trophy.

"It was great for our guys to get a win, especially after the way they've been fighting lately," said Raider football coach Caleb Huss, as his team extended what was a close a 14-7 halftime lead outscoring Tipton 21-6 in the second half to pull away for a huge 35-13 triumph, Anamosa's first of the 2022 campaign.

"We could not be prouder of the way these guys keep showing up to battle each week. Their approach week-in and week-out has not changed, and they continue to show up to work every day. They really went out and earned this one."

After both teams were forced to punt on their opening offensive possessions, it was the Raiders who broke through first scoring on an extremely impressive 12-play, 54-yard drive that culminated in Kale Nebergall plowing into



DARYL SCZEPANSKI • STAFF PHOTO

Anamosa senior Devin Brophy quarterback Devin Brophy dives into the end zone completing a 15-yard journey ending in a Raider score, one of their five on the night, during a 35-13 rout in Tipton Friday, Sept. 30.

the end zone from two-yards out. And it was Nebergall who kept the scoring drive alive on a pair of clutch third and long calls, the first coming when the senior running back picked up 15 yards on a third-and-6 call before a third-and-10 play resulted in Nebergall gaining 10 yards setting the Anamosa offense up inside the Tigers 10-yard-line.

"We talked all week about starting and finishing and we thought the boys did a great job of that," Huss said. "It was great to start off with a score and get things going in the right direction right away."

Anamosa (1-5, 1-2) continued to frustrate the Tipton offense playing outstanding football on the defensive end forcing Tiger punts on their first three possessions, and when the Raider offense got the ball back on their

fourth possession of the half, they cashed in again.

Another long and impressive drive that covered 72 yards on 16 plays, resulted in Angelo Cudahy grabbing a pass from quarterback Devin Brophy and racing 19 yards into the end zone with 4:08 remaining in the second quarter.

"We thought our second scoring drive of the game was just as important as the first," Huss said. "To piece together a long drive like that, eat some time off the clock and finish with a score was huge for us."

And the Raiders made some clutch plays during the long journey that kept the drive alive, twice converting on pressure-filled fourth-down calls.

The first came at the 6:40 mark when on a fourth-and-6 call, Ty-sen Gravel grabbed a 10-yard pass

from Brophy placing the football at the Tiger 30. On a fourth-and-7 play almost two-minutes later, a deflected pass wound up in the arms of a very heads up Gravel, who reached the Tipton 17-yard-line before Brophy found Cudahy two plays later.

After another successful extra point kick by Cooper Gearing, who was a perfect 5-for-5 on the night, the Raiders led 14-0.

It wouldn't stay that way for every long.

Forced to punt after a short 3-and-out late in the second stanza, Tipton's Caden Schmidt received the Anamosa punt on a bounce and in a full sprint burst 67 yards for the Tigers' first touchdown of the game as the half ended with the Raiders holding a 14-7 lead.

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