

RAIDERS, from page 14A

The Anamosa defense had held the Tipton offense to a mere one first down and just 39 yards of total offense, but it was still a one-score contest and anyone's game at the break.

"Defensively, we played really well in the first half, and really all game long," Huss said. "Our linebackers did a great job of adjusting at the half to some changes in their keys to help some of their trap and counter plays. Hudson Scranton and Jackson Watters had big turnovers on that side of the ball as well and both came at times when their offense was driving."

Tipton set an immediate tone coming out of the break marching 62 yards on six plays ending with quarterback Ian Spangler rushing six yards into the end zone. After a missed extra point, the Raiders still led 14-13.

After a 3-and-out by the Anamosa offense, the hosts were driving again in the third quarter before Raider freshman Hudson Scranton scooped up a Tiger fumble setting up the Raider offense.

Momentum had shifted



Anamosa senior Kale Nebergall blasts through tackle attempts by the Tipton defense and scores one of his career-high three touchdowns leading the Raiders to a huge 35-13 triumph over the host Tigers Friday, Sept. 30.

DARYL SCHEPANSKI • STAFF PHOTO

back to the Anamosa sideline.

And this time they'd keep it.

"After the half we thought our offense really found a rhythm and got things moving on the ground quickly," said Huss, as his team would outscore the hosts 21-0 the rest of the way.

"Kale had the best night of his career and really

ran extremely well. We thought Devin made great decisions all night with the ball and our receivers came up with some big catches in tough positions. A couple of times receivers had to make sliding catches and Tysen came up with a fourth-down catch that had been tipped by both the defender and another receiver."

The Raiders cashed

the Tipton turnover into points when Nebergall plowed into the end zone for his second of three total touchdowns on the night, this one coming from two yards out to give the visitors a 21-13 advantage.

The drive was helped by a big 21-yard reception by Gravel on a third-and-7 play setting the football up at the Tiger three-yard-line.

The Anamosa offense got the ball back early in the fourth quarter and on a play keyed by Gravel recovering a fumble by one of his teammates, the drive stayed alive long enough for Brophy to score on a 15-yard scamper with 7:37 remaining in the game.

The Raiders stretched their lead to 28-13, and Anamosa was nowhere near done making plays.

Watters picked off a Tipton pass two-minutes later keyed by pressure in the pocket from Easton Wheeler, and the visitors had the football deep in Tipton territory when Watters scampered 27 yards after the interception.

Once again, Anamosa would cash in.

Keyed by a clutch Jay Gatto 18-yard pass reception from Brophy, Nebergall closed the drive with a five-yard touchdown plunge at the 3:53 mark.

The game was now officially a rout.

"Both of our offensive and defensive lines played really well," Huss said. "Ty Easterly had a key kickout block on a touchdown in the second half.

Anamosa used a punishing ground game that

churned out 248 rushing yards against the Tigers led by 89 from Brophy and 86 from Nebergall, who scored a career-high three touchdowns. Austin Scranton added 54 yards on six carries.

Brophy completed 10-of-21 passes for 102 yards hooking up with Cudahy (40 yards) and Gravel (37) three times each combining for 77 of those passing yards.

Sigler was all over the Tipton field all night long making 11 tackles while Easton Wheeler added nine more. Nebergall chipped in with seven tackles while Nate Fischer came through with six.

"The goal now is to use this momentum going

forward to go earn a playoff spot over the course of the next two weeks. We know what we need to do, and now the kids can just go play with confidence,"

Huss said. "We know what next week means to the school and community, but more than that, to our team goals for the season. The kids are excited and ready for the opportunity next week against a really talented Monticello team."

RECORDS, from page 14A

It's a huge game for both teams, but more than everything else that's on the line, it's the Cowbell that both the Anamosa and Monticello teams really want, but again, don't allow the won-loss records of either team to fool you.

And you don't have to go back too far to find some proof.

Coming into the 2019 Cowbell battle, Monticello was 5-1 and Anamosa 1-5, yet the Raiders walked off Dean Nelson Field with a 21-13 victory.

Raider junior Alex Casey rushed for 154 yards on 20 carries and sophomore quarterback Graham Humpal completed 17-of-26 passes for 191 yards, two going for touchdowns, one each to teammates Colton Borst and Trae Klatt.

The history runs deep between these two natural Jones County rivals. I found that out in the very first contest I covered back in 1996 when Anamosa claimed a 31-25 overtime decision against the visiting Panthers.

Star Raider senior running back Ben Schwartz ended that game running from 10-yard out and into the end zone wrapping a night that saw him score three touchdowns rushing 23 times for 94 yards as students and fans poured onto the field to celebrate with the players.

Anamosa quarterback Jeff Beck also played a major role throwing two scoring passes, one to Mike Truesdell covering 27 yards and the other to Seth Marling on a 20-yard play.

That '96 season would see the Raiders tie for a district championship, but amazingly miss the playoffs under head coach Jeff Alderdyce's first campaign during a second stint as Anamosa head coach.

The very next season Anamosa made it back-to-back Cowbell triumphs (something that hasn't



Members of the 2014 Anamosa football team celebrate with the Cowbell following their 26-13 victory in Monticello that fall, ending a two-year drought in the classic football series with the Panthers.

DARYL SCHEPANSKI • STAFF PHOTO

happened often for the school in the last quarter century) as All-State running back Dan Achenbach carried the football 22 times for an amazing 267 yards and scored two touchdowns leading the Raiders to a resounding 40-14 rout. Monticello simply could not contain the Anamosa ground game that rushed for 350 yards that night.

After a pair of lopsided Monticello wins the following two seasons, Anamosa claimed the Cowbell back in 2000 taking a 26-7 final that saw current Raider assistant coach Wayne Hora as a key cog. Mark Walker rushed for 108 yards helped by an Anamosa offensive line that featured Marshal Yanda, who would go on to become one of the greatest offensive linemen in NFL history (also played for North Iowa Area

Community College and the Iowa Hawkeyes) playing his entire career with the Baltimore Ravens.

In 2001 the Raiders dropped a heartbreaking 17-16 overtime final as Walker rushed for 132 yards while Yanda paced the defense coming through with 10 tackles and a fumble recovery.

Following a lopsided Monticello win in 2002 (41-7), Anamosa made it back-to-back wins over the Panthers in 2003 and 2004.

The '03 contest might go down as one of the most thrilling in the long series as Raider junior Alex Schultejan hauled in a game-winning 60-yard pass from quarterback Luke LaMere in a heart stopping come-from-behind victory.

Superstar Raider running back Austin Hinz rushed for 209 yards and scored a touchdown in the

win, which was just foreshadowing for '04, when he carried the football 17 times for an astronomical 239 yards scoring three touchdowns leading Anamosa to a huge 49-6 rout, the most lopsided Raider margin over the Panthers in the series history.

Chad Bildstein added a 55 yard touchdown run as that '04 team would finish with an 8-1 overall record and earn just the second playoff berth in school history that fall.

Following that enormous rout, Monticello went on a big run of their own winning eight of the next nine meetings before the 2011 Anamosa team, led by quarterback Nik Schulte, claimed a 21-18 triumph at Dean Nelson Field. Receiver Aaron Krapfl had a big night with 121 yards on four receptions and a touchdown while

Schulte's brother Josh grabbed four passes for 90 yards and another score.

Back-to-back Panther wins in 2012 and 2013 were equaled by consecutive Raider triumphs in 2014 and 2015.

The 2014 team sealed just the program's third-ever post-season berth with a 26-13 victory in Monticello as Boone Husmann rushed for 140 yards and two touchdowns while Trevor Wehling added two more scores.

The 2015 Anamosa campaign would go down as one of the greatest in school history, and their 52-28 blowout of the Panthers only adds to their incredible legacy as quarterback Kolin Schulte was phenomenal completing 10-of-12 passes for 191 yards through the air as the Raiders pretty much did whatever they wanted.

Anamosa would complete the '15 regular season as district champions with a perfect 9-0 record and picked up the program's first-ever post-season victories, winning twice that fall before being handed their lone loss in the state quarterfinal round against Mount Vernon, finishing 11-1 overall.

The next three games in the series would see some of the most gut-wrenching Raider heart-break ever, as Monticello would win consecutive games by 38-34 (2016), 42-41 (2017) and 50-48 (2018) scores.

COVID killed the 2020 Anamosa football contest before the two programs put on another show last fall, ending with a last-second Panther win (14-8).

I know Anamosa football coach Caleb Huss and his team would love to see a huge crowd out there Friday night, and I know they're going to give you a show.

Like I said, history says so.