

CLASS 2A CHAMPIONSHIPS – Saturday, November 21, 2009

1:05 p.m. – No. 1 Solon Spartans (13-0) vs. No. 3 Boyden-Hull/Rock Valley Nighthawks (13-0)

STATS & INTERVIEWS: We have a complete stat crew on duty. They will have halftime and final stat summaries for you. **Do not conduct interviews or detain players or coaches on the field at any time.** There is an interview room at the end of the tunnel for that express purpose (This is a request asked for by the media when on the field interviews compromised some outlets.) No media are allowed in the locker rooms. **Since this is a working press box, please observe the professionalism of “No Cheering.”** Team ratings used are the season final Associated Press poll, Oct. 27. Team and individual season statistics are available from the IHSAA's QuikStats.

-- IHSAA --

ROAD TO THE DOME: Arguably the two teams most prognosticators thought would play for the title have arrived. Top-rated and two-time defending champion Solon is in its 20th playoff trip and this marks their fourth straight championship game and eighth overall. The Spartans have a 40-game winning streak, matching the states sixth longest all-time. They won their first title in 1988 and had second place efforts in 1992, 2000, 2003 and 2006 before going back-to-back. No Class 2A team has ever won three straight titles, a feat that only Harlan Community (twice) and Decorah, both in 3A, have accomplished. The Spartans are 36-16 in playoff games to date. In gaining the title contest they eliminated Mediapolis, Mid-Prairie, Wellman; fifth-rated Regina, Iowa City for the second time this season, and throttled No. 2 North Fayette, 35-0 in the semifinals. Third-ranked Boyden-Hull/Rock Valley is making the most of its sixth playoff appearance. This is their first ever championship game and the Nighthawks now stand at 3-5 in playoff games. Their closest call was a 31-21 decision over Western Christian in week seven, but they defeated the sixth-ranked Wolfpack, 41-6 in the quarterfinals before downing eighth-rated IKM-Manning in the semifinals, 35-7. All-in-all 2009 is truly break through year for the program that has battled Central Lyon/George-Little Rock for supremacy in the last decade.

SOLON SPARTANS		BOYDEN-HULL/ROCK VALLEY NIGHTHAWKS	
Mount Vernon	49-10	MOC-Floyd Valley	34-0
Sigourney-Keota	41-0	West Lyon, Inwood	27-10
Wilton	59-0	Spirit Lake	44-7
Tipton	40-0	Central Lyon-George-Little Rock	34-14
North Cedar, Stanwood	41-15	Sheldon	44-14
Center Point-Urbana	35-0	Unity Christian, Orange City	60-0
Camanche	61-8	Western Christian, Hull	31-21
Regina, Iowa City	42-7	Sibley-Ocheyedan	42-0
West Liberty	70-6	Sioux Center	32-7
Mediapolis (substate)	48-12	East Sac County (substate)	42-20
Mid-Prairie, Wellman (first round)	42-13	Sheldon (first round)	40-6
Regina, Iowa City (quarterfinals)	42-7	Western Christian, Hull (quarterfinals)	41-6
North Fayette, West Union (semifinals)	35-0	IKM-Manning (semifinals)	35-7
<i>Offense: 605/46.5</i>		<i>Offense: 506/38.9</i>	
<i>Defense: 78/6.0</i>		<i>Defense: 112/8.6</i>	

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THE COACHES: Solon Coach Kevin Miller quarterbacked Solon to their first title in 1988 title and went on to graduate from the University of Northern Iowa. He coached at MFL, MarMac; Regina, Iowa City one season each and in Wisconsin before returning home. He has a nine year mark of 92-14 with the Spartans, who he has directed into seven playoffs and the last two state championships and the last three title games. Miller's clan has won 44 of their last 45 contests to move his 12-year career record to 99-33. His assistant coaches are Ed Hadenfeldt, Mark Stovers, Brent Sands, Steve Wright, Dan Coons, Brad Wymer, Curt Miller, Carl Jedlicka and Chris Croy. At BH/RV Coach Cory Brandt prepped at Maurice-Orange City and is a Northwestern College graduate. He is in his 12th season and has a 75-42 record. He started at Burke, SD and his 15-year career mark is 90-52. The two schools that represent the hotbed of Class 1A boys' basketball are in the 10th year of a grid sharing program. Assistant coaches for the Nighthawks are Brian Moser, Heath Swanson, Nate Harmsen, Micah Weber, Jeff Koldenhoven, Doug Bundy and Cody Van Sloten.

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GAME SNAPSHOT: Physical talent abounds in this contest with each team featuring quickness and size. The physical edge perhaps goes to the Nighthawks while Solon has an edge in team speed. Both teams take pride in their defense – Solon has allowed just an average of only 6 points per game, while BH/RV has given up an average of just 8.6 ppg. The Spartans wield a total offense of nearly 5,228 yards with 4,132 yards on the ground. The pressure of being a two-time defending champion and having the longest winning streak in Iowa since 2003-2006 when Harlan Community racked up 49 straight appears not to have fazed them. With a 46.5 ppg average they have reeled through 13 foes with the closest call being a 26-point decision over North Cedar, Stanwood 41-15. They also absorbed an

injury where they lost starting quarterback Wes Sleeper for three weeks. James Morris, last year's Iowa Gatorade Player of the Year, comes into his final prep game with imposing numbers. The University of Iowa recruit has rushed for 2,033 yards and 36 TDs, while completing 20 of 31 passes for 445 yards and six scores. He enters the semifinals with 6,252 career yards (6th), 109 TDs (3rd) and 662 points (4th). In addition he is an outstanding linebacker. Andy Ashton, also a top defender, has rushed for 695 yards on 82 carries and has scored 13 times, plus returning a fumble for a score. Sleeper has run for seven TDs and 500 yards and has hit on 33 of 56 passes for eight more scores. He has been intercepted only once. Six other players have rushing touchdowns for the Spartans. Derrick Loveless is the top receiver with 22 catches for 520 yards and eight touchdowns. Ashton and Morris are the leaders among the D-troops with 71 and 65 tackles respectively. The Spartans have recorded 110 tackles for negative yards and have 25 take-a-ways including 16 fumble recoveries. Twenty-one other players have been in on double digit stops. Marshall Koehn, a junior, has 75 successful PAT kicks and a 33 yard field goal and has averaged nearly 40 yards per punt. Over half of his 87 kickoffs have been for touchbacks. BH/RV's offensive show is directed by clever quarterback Josh Vander Maten, who has passed for 2,298 yards. He has connected on 127 of 203 aerals for 29 scoring strikes while being intercepted only five times. He has also rushed 126 times for 638 yards and seven TDs. Four receivers have 16 or more receptions. Nate Van Ginkel has snagged 32 passes for 471 yards and five TDs. A pair of receivers has a decided height advantage on nearly any secondary. Jordan Dykstra, a 6-8 split end, has 10 catches that have ended in the end zone with 24 receptions for 561 yards, and 6-9 Marcus Heemstra has 28 catches for 520 yards and five scores. Josh Mouw has caught 16 passes for 261 yards and five. A selfish defense is lead by a gang of robust tacklers topped by Van Ginkel who has been in on 119 stops with a pair of fumble recoveries. Keaton Grevengoed has been in on 109 and also has three interceptions followed by Adam Schafer with 90 tackles and four fumble recoveries, returning one for a touchdown. The stop troops have 41 take-a-ways, forcing a number of fumbles and recovering 27.

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PROBABLE STARTERS

SOLON OFFENSE						BOYDEN-HULL/ROCK VALLEY DEFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	No	Name	Gr	Ht	Wt
QB	7	Wes Sleeper	12	6-3	180	DE	59	Jeff Van Den Top	12	6-5	230
RB	28	James Morris	12	6-1	210	DE	83	Jordan Dykstra	12	6-8	220
RB	32	Andy Ashton	12	5-10	180	DT	69	Cody Rozeboom	12	6-1	250
C	61	Evan Constant	12	6-0	200	DT	70	Adam Warntjes	12	6-2	250
G	62	Andy Constant	12	6-0	200	NG	64	Adam Schafer	12	6-1	235
G	63	Colton Wears	12	5-10	200	LB	44	Keaton Grevengoed	12	6-1	220
T	70	Jacob Brown	12	6-2	215	LB	23	Josh Mouw	12	5-11	175
T	74	Tyler Smith	11	6-0	220	LB	80	Nate Van Ginkel	12	6-2	180
WR	3	Dean Klosterman	12	5-10	160	C	27	Todd Diekevers	12	5-8	160
WR	1	Derrick Loveless	11	6-0	180	C	25	Bryce Marra	11	6-3	170
F	25	Brian Jedlicka	11	5-7	145	S	19	Josh Vander Maten	12	6-2	210
P	2	Marshall Koehn	11	5-10	150						
PK	2	Marshall Koehn	11	5-10	150	KO	78	Bruce Fick	12	6-5	220

BOYDEN-HULL/ROCK VALLEY OFFENSE						SOLON DEFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	No	Name	Gr	Ht	Wt
QB	19	Josh Vander Maten	12	6-2	210	SS	25	Brian Jedlicka	11	5-7	145
RB	23	Josh Mouw	12	5-11	175	FS	1	Derrick Loveless	11	6-0	180
HB	80	Nate Van Ginkel	12	6-2	180	C	3	Dean Klosterman	12	5-10	160
FL	1	Nic Bakker	12	6-0	170	C	7	Wes Sleeper	12	6-3	180
SE	83	Jordan Dykstra	12	6-8	220	N	62	Andy Constant	12	6-0	200
SE	14	Marcus Heemstra	12	6-9	210	T	61	Evan Constant	12	6-0	200
OT	73	Trenton Van Roekel	11	6-2	250	T	74	Tyler Smith	11	6-0	220
OT	59	Jeff Van Den Top	12	6-5	230	E	24	Nick Henry	11	6-0	180
OG	64	Adam Schafer	12	6-1	235	E	55	Shawn Olson	11	5-10	190
OG	50	Danny Harmsen	11	5-11	220	LB	28	James Morris	12	6-1	210
C	54	Troy Bolkema	12	6-2	230	LB	32	Andy Ashton	12	5-10	180
P	23	Josh Mouw	12	5-11	175						
PK	78	Bruce Fick	12	6-5	220	KO	2	Marshall Koehn	11	5-10	150