

## CLASS 8-PLAYER CHAMPIONSHIP – Friday, November 20, 2009

10:35 a.m. – No. 1 Lenox Tigers (13-0) vs. No. 5 Armstrong-Ringsted Mustangs (12-1)

**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 IHSA's QuikStats.

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**ROAD TO THE DOME:** Defending champion and top-rated Lenox (13-0) brings a 23-game victory streak into the championship, and their opponent is the team they defeated 34-32 a year ago. The Tigers are 65-6 dating back to the start of the 2004 season. This is their eighth trip to the playoffs and their third time (all in the last five years) in the 8-player marquee game. Besides last year's title, the Tigers were second to Glidden-Ralston in 2005. With a win they will join Adair-Casey and Sentral, Fenton as the only back-to-back champions. They are 15-6 in all playoff games and 13-3 as an 8-player team. After surviving a 27-24 scare from East Union on the last night of the regular season, the Tigers have scored 175 points against the combined likes of Moravia, Grandview Park Baptist, fourth rated Tri-County, Thornburg and No. 6 Preston. Fifth-ranked Armstrong-Ringsted lost a 30-28 decision to second-rated North Sentral Kossuth at mid-season and has not been headed since, steam-rolling eight opponents by an average margin of 47.6 points. In their four post season games they have outscored the opposition 257-61 - swarming Ar-We-Va, West Bend-Mallard, Graettinger-Terril and Adair-Casey. This is the fourth trip to the playoffs for the Mustangs. They are the only eight-player school to appear in three straight championships. They have a 9-3 playoff record.

LENOX TIGERS		ARMSTRONG-RINGSTED MUSTANGS	
South Page, College Springs	63-0	Woden-Crystal Lake-Titonka	68-16
Villisca	63-12	C-W-L, Corwith	57-16
Ankeny Christian Academy	43-27	West Bend-Mallard	53-14
Lamoni	48-8	Twin River Valley, Bode	62-0
Grandview Park Baptist, DM	63-14	North Sentral Kossuth	28-30
Murray	50-13	Harris-Lake Park	70-6
Mormon Trail, Garden Grove	77-0	Ruthven-Ayrshire	76-14
Seymour	69-6	Laurens-Marathon	55-14
East Union, Afton	27-24	Graettinger-Terril	39-21
Moravia (substate)	62-6	Ar-We-Va, Westside (substate)	69-6
Grandview Park Baptist, DM (first round)	40-23	West Bend-Mallard (first round)	54-14
Tri-County, Thornburg (quarterfinals)	43-20	Graettinger-Terril (quarterfinals)	70-19
Preston (semifinals)	30-8	Adair-Casey (semifinals)	64-22
<i>Offense: 678/52.2</i>		<i>Offense: 762/58.6</i>	
<i>Defense: 161/12.4</i>		<i>Defense: 192/14.8</i>	

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**THE COACHES:** Lenox coach Allen Dukes had a "double treat" last year. His team won its first grid title and in the process they handed him his 100th career win. He is the community's native son and started coaching at Lenox after serving as a platoon sergeant in the Army. He received his teaching and coaching degree at Northwest Missouri State and coached some eight player football in Missouri before returning home. In addition to last year's title team he also coached the Tigers' runner-up finish in 2005. He has directed all of the school's playoff teams in the 15 years he has been at the helm and brings a 113-46 career mark to the semis. Assistant coaches are Tom Christensen, Lynn Christensen and Todd Parrish. Coach Robert Zotz leads Armstrong-Ringsted. A graduate of East Union, which is a hop, skip and a jump from Lenox; he is also a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University. Now wrapping up his seventh season, he has a career record of 54-23. He has coached the Mustangs to all of their post-season appearances. Assistant coaches are James Fitzgerald, Nathan Hanson and Steve Waldstein.

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**GAME SNAPSHOT:** A year ago in the championship, it was a continual swing of momentum and emotion, as Lenox got out early, then surrendered a lead and rallied late for a 34-32 title win. Another close game is forecasted by all of the grid gurus. Each team has a high octane offense and a strong defense in a score-happy class. Offensively, the Tigers starters have accounted for over 2,800 or their 3,449 rushing yards. Senior veteran Eric Hensley has rushed 199 times for 1,318 yards and 25 end zone jaunts, while juniors Austin Christensen (14 TDs) and quarterback Austin Hancock (21 scores) have darted for 800 and 721 yards respectively. Hensley has also reached the end zone, five times on pass receptions and has returned a fumble recovery and punt for a touchdown. He also handles the punting chores and averages nearly 34 yards per punt. Hancock has completed 66 of 115 passes with only two interceptions

as he has thrown for 933 yards and 22 TDs. Dylan Douglas, a junior, has 23 catches for 354 yards and 10 TDs while veteran Connor Lange has 23 receptions for 282 yards and six TDs. He has also a pass interception and a fumble recovery for scores. Lange handles most of the place kicking and kick-offs for the Tigers and has 66 touchbacks on his kickoffs. He also is four-for-four on field goals with a best of 35 yards. Defensively, junior Lucas Dalton, D.J. Brown and Landon Maynes have been in on 129, 85 and 80 tackles to lead a defense known for its gang tackling. Armstrong-Ringsted has rushed for 4,016 yards (83 touchdowns) and has passed for 1,215 (24 TDs). Keying the offense is the Iowa's most prolific running back in 8-player history – senior Tyler Tonderum who has rushed for 2,173 yards and 53 of his state leading 58 TDs. He has three receptions for scores and has returned an interception and a punt to the end zone. His 350 points is a single season record. He has 6,248 career rushing yards, 140 TDs, and 842 points with each topping the Iowa all-time charts and ranking fourth, third, and second respectively on the national lists. But if defenses concentrate too heavily on the Mustangs' star, junior quarterback Spencer Clausen is capable of picking up a lot of slack. He has rushed for 837 yards and 14 touchdowns while connecting on 45 of 71 passes for 1,208 yards and 23 TDs. Junior Travis Hantelman has carried the ball only 32 times but has averaged over 9 yards per tote while reaching the end zone four times. Sophomore Tyler Feddersen has run 46 times for 366 yards and six TDs. Hantelman is the top receiver with 15 catches for 428 yards and eight scores. The stop troops have allowed two touchdowns or less in nine games. Anchoring the front line is 300 lbs. nose guard Ethan Jensen with sophomore Dakota Odermann and junior Bryson Rezac, who have been in on 139 and 128 tackles respectively. Place kicker Ethan Eisenbacher is solid with 79 placements and two field goals with a best of 38 (85 points – second best in Iowa all-time). His career 151 successful extra point kicks is second best all-time and his 163 career points by kick is third. This fall he has planted 82 of 118 kickoffs in the end zone and averages nearly 35 yards per punt. A-R suffered the loss of their starting center and a defensive end Dylan Looft, a 6-3, 230 senior, who underwent surgery last Thursday after breaking a bone in his leg against Adair-Casey.

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### PROBABLE STARTERS

ARMSTRONG-RINGSTED OFFENSE						LENOX DEFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	No	Name	Gr	Ht	Wt
RB	25	Tyler Tonderum	12	5-10	190	DE	1	Dylan Douglas	11	6-0	185
RB	23	Travis Hantelman	11	6-3	170	DT	2	Lucas Dalton	11	5-10	160
QB	10	Spencer Clausen	11	6-5	180	DT	77	London Maynes	11	6-2	195
E	13	Dakota Odermann	10	5-10	190	DE	11	Connor Lange	12	6-4	205
E	1	Craig Tigges	12	6-3	195	LB	22	Eric Hensley	12	6-1	200
G	72	Ethan Jensen	12	5-11	300	LB	27	D.J. Brown	11	5-10	200
G	32	Brett Thackery	10	5-10	190	CB	7	Austin Hancock	11	5-10	175
C	45	Bryson Rezac	11	6-0	190	CB	23	Austin Christensen	11	5-9	150
P	19	Ethan Eisenbacher	12	6-2	180						
PK	19	Ethan Eisenbacher	12	6-2	180	KO	11	Connor Lange	12	6-4	205

LENOX OFFENSE						ARMSTRONG-RINGSTED DEFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	No	Name	Gr	Ht	Wt
TE	1	Dylan Douglas	11	6-0	185	LB	25	Tyler Tonderum	12	5-10	190
G	56	Ely Will	11	5-8	195	LB	45	Bryson Rezac	11	6-0	190
C	2	Lucas Dalton	11	5-10	160	LB	13	Dakota Odermann	10	5-10	190
G	77	London Maynes	11	6-2	195	DB	23	Travis Hantelman	11	6-3	170
TE	11	Connor Lange	12	6-4	205	DB	10	Spencer Clausen	11	6-5	180
QB	7	Austin Hancock	11	5-10	175	NG	72	Ethan Jensen	12	5-11	300
FB	22	Eric Hensley	12	6-1	200	DE	1	Craig Tigges	12	6-3	195
TB	23	Austin Christensen	11	5-9	150	DE	32	Brett Thackery	10	5-10	190
P	22	Eric Hensley	12	6-1	200						
PK	11	Connor Lange	12	6-4	205	KO	19	Ethan Eisenbacher	12	6-2	180