



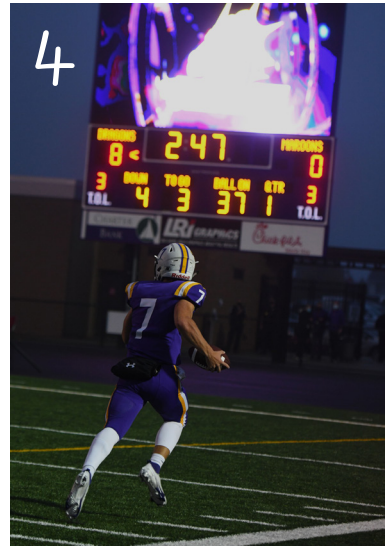
After running in a touchdown from nine yards out, senior Aidan Moore celebrates in the endzone after taking a 6-0 lead over Dowling Catholic. The senior ran for 71 yards and a touchdown in the 18-15 victory. Moore also recorded 10.5 tackles, 7 solo, 1.5 TFL and an interception in the win. The two-way player led the team offensively in rushing yards (229) and yards per carry (4.4). Defensively, Moore recorded 56.5 tackles (1st) 30 solo (1st) 8 TFL (2nd) 2 INT's (1st) and a sack.

1. Breaking away from defenders is senior Tyler Moore in a 14-7 victory over Ankeny Centennial. The 4-Star graduate senior earned Class 4A All-Iowa Honors and was the winner of the Nile Kinnick Offensive Player of the Year Award. Moore led the team in receiving yards (571) receptions (45) and receiving touchdowns (6). He also finished third in the state in receptions. The 6'5" 240 lbs. senior headed to Iowa State as a top 10 tight end in the class of 2021, joining the most productive tight end room in the country.

2. On fourth and short Lincoln is looking to push its way forward to move the chains, but Johnston stands tall, denying the attempt. Although the Dragons put up a strong offensive performance, the defense played a huge role in that. The defense forced 5 takeaways (4 interceptions and 1 fumble). One of those interceptions resulted in a 47-yard house call by junior Cade Godwin.

3. Fighting for extra yards is running back Aidan Moore in the 18-15 upset victory over Dowling Catholic. Not only did Johnston outrun Dowling Catholic but a key factor to the victory was holding them way below their rushing average. The Maroons averaged 146 yards per game along with three rushers over 5.4 yards per carry. By the time the clock hit zeros, they left with only 82 yards on the ground.

4. Sprinting down the sideline with green grass ahead of him in a 18-15 victory over Dowling Catholic, is junior quarterback Jack Rutz. In his first year at the helm for the Dragons, Rutz threw for 1,065 yards and 9 touchdowns, on 85 completions. Rutz's ability to extend plays outside the pocket was very effective. Rutz ran for 78 yards and 3 TD's.



dethroning the champs

Team pulls off upset of the ages

The scoreboard read 15-0. No one could believe it.

On a cold, misty Friday night in Johnston, the Dragons had a date with the reigning champs of seven years, Dowling Catholic. “We prepped all week, it was raining and snowing that week so we felt it was an advantage for us,” senior Aidan Moore said. “We practiced everything outside, and we got used to the conditions.”

Coming into the game, Dowling Catholic had just come off of a dominant 22-0 win over the Valley Tigers. On the flip side, Johnston came in with a 1-1 record and nothing to lose.

The first drive was nothing special, but it was balanced with short gains, a combination of rushing and passing and several converted third down plays, one including an 18-yard scramble by junior Jack Rutz. Aidan Moore capped off the drive with a 9-yard touchdown after making a man miss and picking up a key block from Tyler Moore. A missed PAT made the score 6-0.

Facing a third and three on their opening possession, senior quarterback Jake Steingreaber overthrew his intended receiver forcing a Dowling Catholic punt. A fast and high snap off the hands of the Dowling Catholic punter led to a safety after he picked it up at his own seven yard line and kicked it out the back of the endzone preventing a possible Johnston touchdown. 8-0 Dragons.

The Dragon’s next drive started with excellent field position at the Dowling Catholic 45. On fourth and three Rutz dropped back to pass, but saw a crease open up. He took off toward the right sideline, got past a pair of Dowling Catholic defenders, picked up a block downfield from senior Vinnie Cresta and nothing but green grass ahead as he scrambled for a 37-yard house call to put Johnston up 15-0.

Down 15 nothing out of the gates, Dowling Catholic scored a safety and a touchdown late in the half to cut the deficit 15-9.

To open the second half, following a completion on third and 10, Dowling Catholic was a yard shy of a first down and decided to keep the offense on the field. Lining up at quarterback for Dowling Catholic was junior Jake English. A design quarterback run to the left side was denied by senior Cade Kuennen, who moved like he was shot out of a cannon, blowing up the play.

After Dowling Catholic blocked a 42-yard field goal, their next two possessions would end in punts.

With the ball at their own 39, Rutz dropped back throwing in the direction of Tyler Moore and was picked off by Austin Klein. Dowling Catholic would drive all the way to the 2-yard line.

Taking the snap and rolling to his right on second and goal, Dowling Catholic’s Jaxon Smolik, zipped it to the endzone. Senior Karter Kriegel picked it off and ran it to midfield.

Johnston went three and out and punted the ball back to Dowling Catholic with 3:30 remaining in the game. Third and six, Smolik looked to throw the screen pass, but it was sniffed out by Aidan Moore as he hauled in the third interception for the Dragons.

Running the clock down to 1:01 Nyren attempted a 35-yard field goal to put the game out of reach. Snap good, hold good, kick on the way, and right down Broadway putting Johnston up nine.

Dowling Catholic would take the ball down to the Dragon’s 25-yard line. Steingreaber threw it to the endzone for a touchdown but with the clock at triple zeros the game was over and Johnston had dethroned the seven-time state champs 18-15.



Nearing contact during the 18-15 victory over the Maroons is sophomore Blake Tubbs. In his first year on varsity, Tubbs received the most carries (60) and ran for 150 yards. Tubbs’ best performance came against the Lincoln Railsplitters, running for 36 yards on nine carries.



Working on Centennial’s right tackle is the junior edge rusher, Noah Storts. Storts converted to defensive end after being the Dragons’ starting QB in 2019. Storts recorded 12.5 tackles, 8 solo, 5 TFL (3rd) and led the team in sacks with three.

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HJ

Job # 3292 School Johnston High School

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