

Excellence + Pride = Yellow Jackets

The 1988 Kermit Yellow Jackets under the guidance of Head Coach Randy Hicks marched to a very successful 8-3 campaign.

The Jackets conquered four non-conference opponents in unique fashion, while dropping a very hard-fought contest to Pecos by a 23-14 score. Each of the four non-conference victories were highlighted by special features of football: unbeaten strings, rock-solid defense, wide open, high scoring offense and total domination of one team over another.

In the season opener Kermit stopped McCamey's five-year winning streak at home with a convincing 27-6 win over the Badgers.

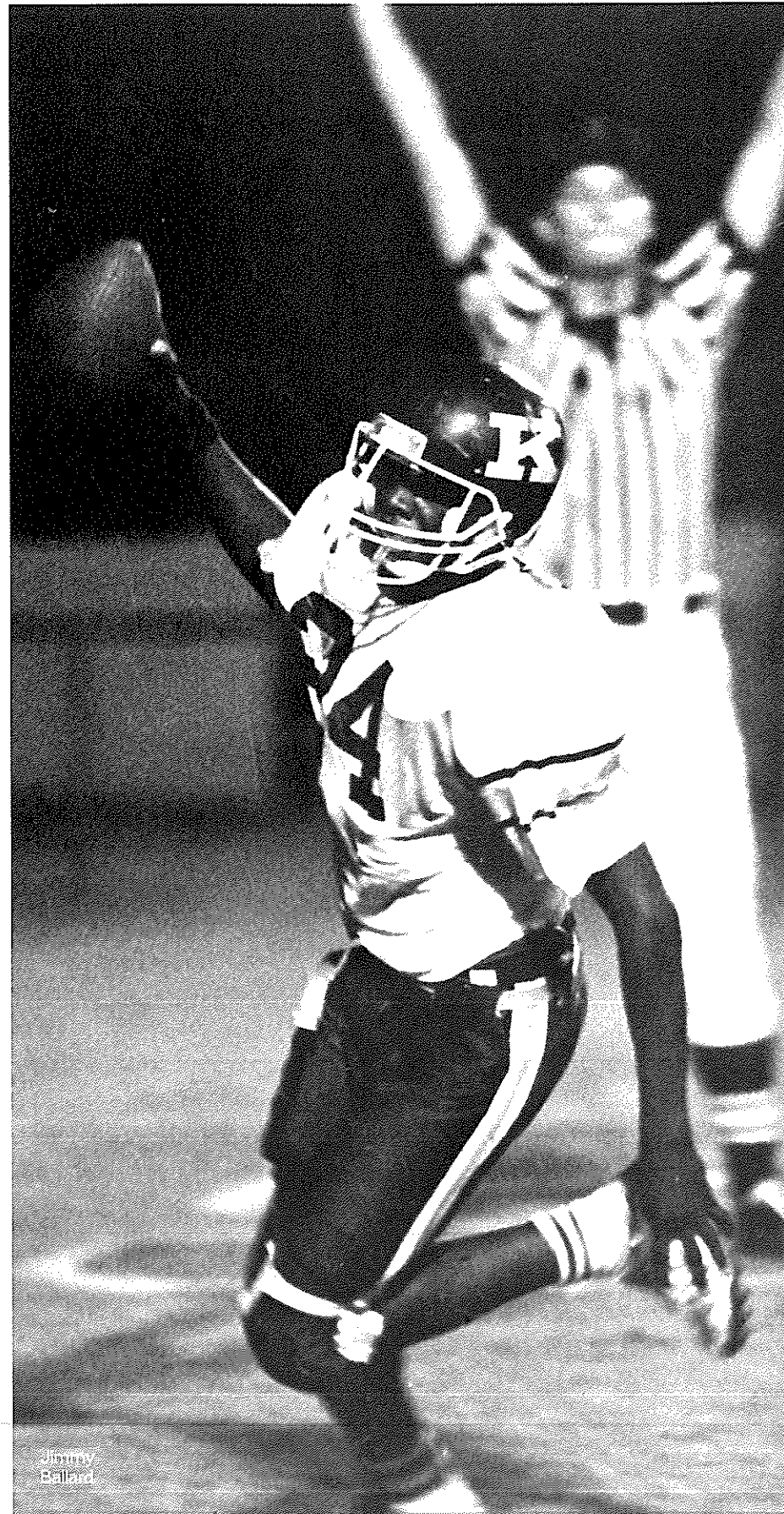
The next week the Yellow Jackets relied on tremendous defense to edge out the Mustangs 21-20 in Denver City. Both participants and spectators felt two playoff teams had met head-to-head. Fort Stockton and Kermit threw defense to the wind and loaded their offensive guns. When the dust cleared and the scoreboard had stopped lighting up, Kermit had run to a 36-29 crowd-pleasing win. The non-conference season ended as Kermit thundered past the Jal Panthers 48-7.

Kermit's 42-7 win over Clint served a two-fold purpose. It delighted a large homecoming crowd and started the Jackets on their quest for the playoffs. This win was followed by two easy wins over Alpine and Fabens. Alpine fell to the Jacket's onslaught by a score of 48-0, and Fabens was crushed 56-7, setting the District Championship Game with the Greenwood Rangers.

On Oct. 28 in Greenwood Kermit saw their dreams for a district title go up in smoke when they were defeated by a fired-up, hostile band of Rangers. With their backs to the wall and suffering from injuries, the Jackets hosted the Crane Golden Cranes in the season finale with a playoff birth at stake. The first half witnessed Kermit moving to a 16-0 advantage; however, the tables turned and Crane moved to a 16-14 ballgame with time remaining. Both teams missed scoring opportunities late in the game and Kermit held on to a margin of victory to move into the state playoffs against Brownfield Cubs.

The Yellow Jackets really discovered that football is truly a game of inches. Even though the Yellow Jackets dominated the Brownfield Cubs statistically, they saw their hopes shattered when a game-tying field goal bounced off the crossbar with seconds remaining in the game.

Jacket pride still lives on today and will always live in those hearts that remember it.



Jimmy Ballard



Linebacker Marc Parks demonstrates how tough the Jackets really are to the McCamey quarterback.

Carrying the pigskin in for another touchdown is Richard Ramos.



After defeating the Denver City Mustangs, the Kermit Yellow Jackets were honored by the band playing the school song.

