

McGarvey Revitalizes Jewell's Grid Program

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A Member of the Sports Staff

When the game of football was invented more than 100 years ago, the creators must have had a college like William Jewell in mind.

The school is located in a picture-postcard setting in Liberty, with the fall foliage dotting the academic buildings. While the stadium is small, it fits the college perfectly and would seem to be the ideal setting for a football game on Saturday afternoons.

But football Saturdays in recent years have not been pleasant at the school. William Jewell teams had not been winning much the last few seasons, and last year the team posted a 2-8 record. That has changed.

There's a new spirit, a new vitality at Jewell this season. Even a new slogan, "The Red Rage."

Part of it stems from the work of an alumni advisory committee, which

helped sell 1,000 season tickets this year and brought entertainment to the games. But a bigger reason is the Cards' on-field performance: They are 6-0, ranked second in the NAIA Division II poll, and have a chance for the Heart of America Conference title and a berth in the NAIA playoffs.

The architect of this turnabout is Stan McGarvey, in his second year as coach. McGarvey realized he was in for a challenge when he came here because, as a Jewell graduate, he knew the school's tradition.

He also knows what it is like to fight battles. McGarvey left Jewell after his freshman year to join the Marines, going to Vietnam because, as he put it, he wanted to know what the situation was like.

"Challenges are the name of the game for most of us," said McGarvey. "I think most of us want to make

things happen rather than let things happen."

Making things happen is exactly what McGarvey has done. Even with the team's won-lost record of a year ago, McGarvey sensed good times were coming.

"Even with all our young people (there are only eight seniors), we had five of our losses come in the waning seconds to top-notch teams," McGarvey said. "I knew then we had the players who could play with them. The type of losses we had, the way players reacted, the way the coaches reacted showed the class individuals we had.

"I still vividly can see young men burying their heads trying to hide their tears."

The only tears now are tears of joy. What makes this story unusual is how McGarvey is accomplishing this. A Big Eight Conference coach will have a flock of assistants work strictly

for the football program. But McGarvey's assistants either have other duties at Jewell or work full time in other positions. For example, Larry Hamilton, the athletic director and swimming coach, directs the defensive backs. Darrell Gourley, another assistant football coach, is the track and cross country coach. And Jim Gray, who coaches the offensive line, has a full-time position elsewhere.

And in victory or defeat, the emphasis at William Jewell has not changed. Those who participate in sports there are scholar-athletes with emphasis on the word *scholar*.

"During the course of the week, we'll have 14-15 players late for practice because they have late labs," said McGarvey. "And while it makes things more difficult, that's the way it should be. The young men are here first to get an education, not for football."

McGarvey has the background to cope with the situation. He grew up in Jerseyville, Ill., watching his father handle the trials and tribulations that every high school football coach endures. "I always knew that I wanted to be a football coach," said McGarvey.

While the toughest part of the Jewell schedule is still ahead, McGarvey doesn't think his players will falter.

"There's too much at stake," said McGarvey. "They've (his players) come too far. They're the type of individuals who know they haven't reached their maximum potential."

All of which sounds fine to Dr. Norris Patterson, who first coached McGarvey at Jewell and now serves as chairman of the physical education department.

"We don't live or die with football here like they do at some schools," said Dr. Patterson. "But we sure like to win."