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Cardinals ignore stats, edge Graceland 14-10

If you checked only the statistics from the William Jewell-Graceland football game and tried to pick a winner, you'd probably side with Graceland.

The Yellowjackets had the advantage in almost every category on paper, but lost the one that counts—the scoreboard. It read: Jewell 14, Graceland 10.

The uneven statistics showed the Yellowjackets ahead in first downs 25-13, and in passing yardage with a clear majority 252 to 168. The number of plays from scrimmage favored Graceland 81 to 51 and the Yellowjackets held the ball for 36 minutes, 42 seconds while the Cardinals held on for only 23 minutes, 18 seconds.

How did the Cards win?

"We made about five individual plays that were among the best I've ever seen," said head coach Vic Wallace. "Marty Hensley caught an unbelievable pass in the third quarter. There was no way he could catch the ball.

"And Gary Ainsworth knocked down a pass in the end zone on their final play. Mike McGill's punt return was a classic."

Graceland scored first and took a 7-0 lead at the half, and upped it to 10-0 in the third quarter on a 27yard field goal.

The Cardinals scored all 14 points in the final quarter, the first touchdown coming after an 83-yard drive. Kelly Groom found the end zone from 3 yards out. After a 45-yard punt return by McGill, the Cards scored the winner six plays later on a 16-yard pass from Groom to Hensley.

"I have never been more proud of any team," added Wallace. The Cards play Benedictine Saturday in their home opener at 7:30 p.m.