Offense, defense gel...

Cards defeat Eagles 34-3

by Greg Lucas

The NAIA Division II number one ranked William Jewell College Cardinal football team upped its record to 4-0 overall and 2-0 in the Heart of America Athletic Conference with an easy 34-3 win over visiting Central Methodist College of Fayette, Mo., Saturday.

Unlike their six-turnover performance at Culver-Stockton the previous week the Cards had only one turnover and virtually did what they wanted offensively and defensively to the Eagles (0-3, 0-2).

"We accomplished a lot of what we wanted to do," said Jewell Head Coach Vic Wallace. "We've been experimenting with different types of offensive sets."

Jewell, which has an open date tomorrow and plays HAAC rival Graceland College in Lamoni, Ia., Oct. 8, is using its open week of practice to decide which of these offensive sets they will feature most and will be most effective.

"It's good to have an open week at this point in the season," said Wallace. "Now we can work on the things we know we can do and strengthen them."

Against Central the Cardinal defense, which held the Eagles to 103 yards total offense (87 rushing; 16 passing), gave the Jewell offense good field position on almost every possession.

Jewell opened the scoring on a two-play, 35-yard drive when senior running back Scoop Gillespie sprinted 16 yards for a 6-0 lead. Dave Riley's extra point kick made it 7-0 at the 12:36 mark of the first period.

With 3:21 left in the opening period senior running back Steve Hodges climaxed a 68-yard nine play drive with a five-yard run to make it 13-0. Riley's kick again was good for a 14-0 lead.

The Cards showed some razzle-dazzle on their next scoring drive as junior running back Charles Parrish took a pitch from senior quarterback Scott Sandridge on an apparent sweep right. He pulled up and threw a 26-yard scoring pass to senior wide out Reggie Hill with 9:10 left in the second quarter. Sophomore Monte Childers's point after was good, 21-0 Cards.

Sandridge closed the scoring in the first half on a four-yard keeper in a fourth and goal situation with 1:44 left.

That fourth-down play was not, however, the only big fourth down play of the drive. On fourth and eight on the Central 48, the Cardinals were in punt formation. The upback, senior Dan Christian, took the snap on a fake which caught the Eagle defense by surprise and ran 26 yards to the 22 for a first down.

"We've had a very good success with Dan on the fake punt plays," said Wallace. "Dan can run or pass from the formation depending on what he calls. We wanted to fake a couple more punts, but the situation never called for it."

Sophomore kicker Paul Dudley added field goals of 31 and 33 yards in the second

half to account for the remainder of the Cards' 34 points.

Central's only score came when freshman Greg Hession hit a 38-yard field goal one minute into the final period.

The Cardinal defense, which is now ranked third in NAIA Division II behind Pacific Lutheran and HAAC opponent Baker, allowed the Eagles only six first downs in the game. Two of those were as a result of penalties.

Junior linebacker Steve Ennen led the Jewell defense with six tackles, three assists and a fumble recovery. Senior defensive end David Millen had three tackles, one assist and two quarterback sacks.

Senior defensive strong safety Paul Taylor ended a last-minute scoring threat by the Eagles with an interception with 25 seconds left.

Gillespie led all rushers with his best game, thus far, of the season with 98 yards on 17 carries. Hodges added 57 on eight carries and Parrish 44 on 10 carries.

In other HAAC games Saturday, Baker shut out Graceland 39-0, Tarkio downed Culver-Stockton 38-7.

In non-conference games of Jewell opponents, Mid-America nipped Colorado College 13-7, Missouri Valley downed Washburn 21-20 and Benedictine got by Nebraska Wesleyan 49-40.

Game time next Saturday for the Cards in Lamoni is 1:00 p.m.