

Jewell ends two-year jinx in NAIA play

by Scott Burton

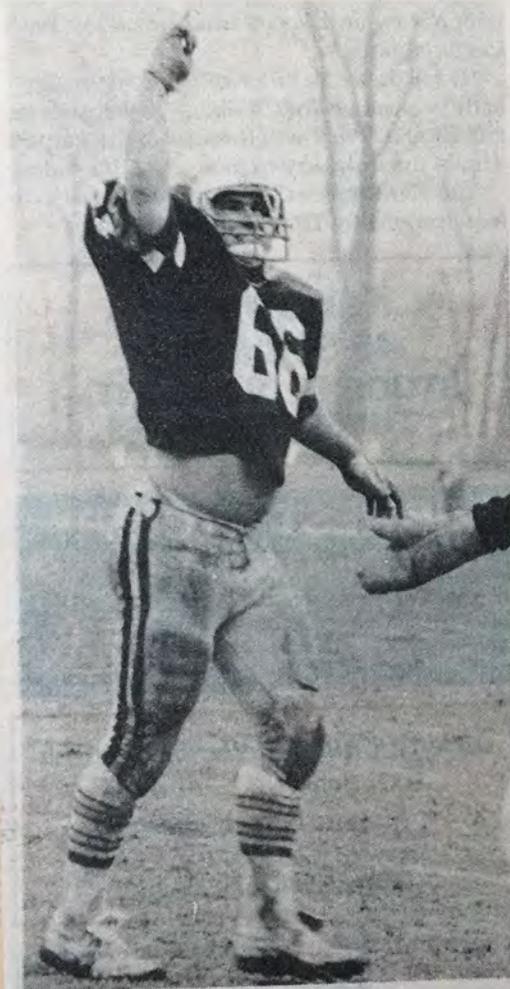
The jinx is over. William Jewell used three big first half plays for 21 points and held off a determined Northwestern in posting a 23-10 NAIA Division II semifinal football win last Saturday in Liberty, Mo. Jewell, 10-1, earned a berth in tomorrow's NAIA Division II National Championship Football match-up against Linfield, Ore., 11-0.

"We did what we needed to do," said Jewell Coach Vic Wallace. "I expected them to run a little more (referring to Northwestern's Lee McKinstrey, who threw 65 times)."

For Jewell, who lost in semifinal play in 1980 (31-17 to Wilmington, Ohio) and last season (33-28 to Austin, Tex.), a two-year semifinal losing streak halts.

"I wasn't confident even though we had that first half lead (21-3)," said Wallace. "You couldn't be confident against a team like Northwestern. I knew it would take some tough football playing in the second half."

Jewell, who'll play for their first ever NAIA National Championship, grabbed an early first quarter lead when Kelly Groom connected with Jimi Reed for a 78-yard pass



For William Jewell, last Saturday's NAIA football playoffs spelled v-i-c-t-o-r-y.

play. Minutes later Groom teamed with Reed on a 28-yard scoring strike.

"It was a good effort all the way around," said Wallace. "We did what we had to and it feels great."

The Cardinals took a 21-0 lead midway through the second quarter on Steve Hodges'

61-yard TD run. Hodges was named the game's Most Valuable Offensive Player. Jewell's Mike Newman, picking off three McKinstrey passes, was named the Most Valuable Defensive Player.

"Everybody did a super job," praised Wallace. "Our execution was good and we were

excited about playing."

Northwestern, finishing 12-1, took the opening kickoff and drove 60 yards to the Jewell 20. That's when Jewell's Doug Switzer came to the rescue with an interception. Three plays later Groom hit Reed for a 78-yard touchdown.

Northwestern, ranked number one in the Division II poll, scored their only points of the first half when Steve Rhode booted a 23-yard field goal on the final play of the second quarter.

"The three points really didn't help them that much," said Wallace. "After driving 50 yards and moving inside our 10 yard line, I'm sure they were thinking they'd like to score seven and come back out for the second half. I was happy they got the three and not the seven."

Northwestern used a 29-yard pass interference penalty to set up McKinstrey's one-yard TD run in the second half.

With Northwestern trailing 21-10, Jewell's Groom fumbled on his own 32 yard line. But the Red Raiders were turned back when Paul Taylor intercepted a McKinstrey pass at the goal line and returned it 67 yards.

Jewell's final points came when All-American lineman Guy Weber sacked McKinstrey in his own end zone late in the fourth quarter.