

No Early Christmas Presents For St. Louisans At Jewell

By Dan Mattingly
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St. Louis area athletes traveled 2,000 miles west recently to pick-up an early Christmas gift, a national title. But when they arrived in McMinnville, Ore. they found that their Christmas stocking was empty.

The William Jewell Cardinals, with 14 St. Louisans on their 42 man travel roster were defeated by Linfield College of McMinnville for the NAIA Division II National Title. The final score was 33-15.

William Jewell College is located in the Kansas City suburb of Liberty, Mo. Jewell has been a NAIA football power for the last 10 years. But not until recently did the Cards begin to raid the St. Louis area high schools to stock their roster.

The Cardinals over the past four years have compiled a record of 44-5-1. With three of those losses coming in the NAIA playoffs the past three seasons. Vic Wallace has coached the Cards the past two seasons and has compiled a 21-3 mark. Jewell finished the 1982 campaign with a record of 10-2.

Five St. Louis seniors have been big factors in the Cardinals' success past four seasons. Guy Weber (Hillsboro) has been voted All-American the past two season for his play at defensive tackle. Co-Captain Steve Mattingly (Chaminade) has been a three year starter at his linebacker spot. Mattingly was part of a defense that gave up only 67 yards rushing per game. Dave Armstrong (Wood River) led a tough defensive secondary with five interceptions. Lonnie Burns (St. Clair) anchored the offensive line from his left tackle position. Barry Bowman (Parkway North) reserve wide

receiver, also helped out on the speciality teams.

Seven area juniors were important contributors to this season's record. Andre Nelson (Webster Groves) who quarterbacked Webster to the State championship in '79, has been converted to split end and gave the Cards an excellent deep threat. Steve Hodges (Jennings)

led Jewell in rushing this year 918 yards. Hodges also scored 18 touchdowns this season. His running mate from the area is Fernandars 'Scoop' Gillespie (Southwest) rushed for 719 yards and five touchdowns. Paul Taylor (Vianney) picked off three passes in the semifinal victory over Northwestern Iowa from his safety position. Taylor also lettered in baseball for the Cards.

Danny Christian, son of DeSmet football coach Bob Christian, did a great job filling at the left cornerback spot in the final two championship contest. Wide receiver Steve Craig (Southwest), and Mike Rodgers (Lafayette) played reverse roles for the Cards this season, and when called upon did a good job.

Three sophomores round out the St. Louis contingent. Linebacker Steve Ennen (Parkway West) was the teams lone sophomore starter. Charles Hilton (Mercy) was a major contributor on Jewell's speciality teams. Bob Bopp (Chaminade) who had injured his knee last season, was unable to play this year. But he did take an active role with the team, serving as an assistant backfield coach.

It was a good season for William Jewell, but the St. Louis athletes will return home for the holidays from the Liberty, Mo. campus empty-handed in 1982, because Santa didn't leave any early Christmas gifts in Oregon this year.