

Sandridge shines in debut; Cards win opener 30-16

by Greg Lucas

Scott Sandridge threw for one touchdown and ran for another in his debut as the William Jewell College quarterback to lead the Cardinals to a 30-16 victory over NAIA Division I foe Evangel here Saturday.

Sandridge, a senior from North Kansas City, did a more than adequate job taking over for the graduated Kelly Groom, completing 10 of 15 passes for 168 yards, including a 34-yard scoring strike to senior wide out Reggie Hill with 1:45 left in the first half to give Jewell a 24-9 lead going in at half time.

"I was excited with the way Sandridge performed," said third year Cardinal Head Coach Vic Wallace. "He executed the offense well, both running and passing."

The Cardinals, who are ranked number two in the NAIA Division II pre-season coaches' poll, wasted no time in showing what they could do as they took the opening kickoff 78 yards.

Sandridge was a perfect 3-for-3 on the drive for 26 yards. The big play of the drive came when the Cardinals had the ball second and one on the Evangel 33-yard line.

Sandridge faked to senior running back Steve Hodges on an option left, made a read on the defensive end, cut up and ran 33 yards untouched to put the Cardinals on top 4:35 into the first half. The extra point try failed and the Cardinals led 6-0.

Following clipping penalty on a punt return, Jewell took over the ball on its own seven-yard line at the 4:57 mark of the first quarter.

After two plays and a delay penalty netted the Cardinals a negative five yards, on third and 15 from the three Sandridge found sophomore tight end Jeff Morehaus for a 26-yard gain to the 29-yard line.

Hodges followed with two first-down runs totaling 19 yards, 10 and nine respectively, and with a two-second and one call on Jewell's 47-yard line Sandridge connected with Hodges for a 17-yard gain down to the Crusader 34-yard line.

Sandridge then hit senior wide out Jimi Reed for a 30-yard gain, giving the Cardinals a first and goal at the seven. From there Hodges got the call again and rumbled around the left side, capping a nine-play, 97-yard scoring drive.

On the Crusaders' ensuing drive the Cardinal defense lapsed. Evangel took the ball on their own 20. On first and 10 freshman running back Tony Dollinger found some running room for a 24-yard gain to the Evangel 44. As the first quarter ended the Crusaders had the ball, third and nine on their own 46.

On the first play of the second quarter Evangel sophomore quarterback Jay Lohrey threw a 54-yard scoring strike to senior wide out George Skipper, and with the extra point conversion the Crusaders were back in the ball game, 12-7.

The Cardinal offense again rose to the occasion on its next possession as they took advantage of some good field position following a 32-yard kickoff return by junior Mike Badami to the Jewell 45.

Eight plays and 54 yards later Hodges went over the top to widen the margin to 18-7. After missing on its first two extra point attempts, the Cardinals tried a fake, but that also failed, leaving the score 18-7.

On Evangel's next possession, the Jewell defense was back on track forcing the Crusaders to punt on downs.

Sandridge then threw one of his few bad passes on the Cardinals' next possession as on third and 19 from their own 35. Sandridge looked for sophomore transfer Marty Gooch, but the ball was picked off by Crusader defensive back Steve Woods, giving them the ball on the Jewell 41.

The Cardinal defense again held as senior defensive end Art Davis sacked Lohrey for a 10-yard loss. Two incomplete passes aided by good pressure from the defensive line forced a Crusader punt.

Evangel punter Raynold Mainse's boot was downed on the Cardinal three-yard line. Following a delay penalty the Cardinal offense found itself pinned on the one-yard line.

On the next hand-off junior Crusader defensive tackle Lanny Ishain stopped Hodges two yards deep in the end zone to make the score 18-9.

After a free kick, Evangel took over on its own 39. On third and seven Cardinal senior linebacker Jerry Twig forced a bad pitch by Lohrey and recovered the ball on the Crusaders' 34.

With 1:35 left in the second quarter Sandridge then hit Hill for a pretty 34-yard touchdown pass to make the score 24-9. Again, the Cardinals faked the extra point and the pass fell incomplete.

Jewell came out in the second half very conservative on offense and very determined on defense, and neither team scored.

With 8:22 left in the fourth quarter Badami picked off a Lohrey pass and sprinted 55 yards to the end zone to give Jewell a 30-9 lead.

Evangel, aided by a pass interference call, closed the scoring with a one-yard run by Darryl Cazares to make the final count 30-16.

"Our offensive line did a great job controlling the line of scrimmage," said Wallace.

"Our defensive ends also contained well. We knew they liked to get outside and we shut that part of their game down."

Hodges led the Cardinal ground game with 53 yards on 16 carries, while Scoop Gillespie carried eight times for 48 yards. Jewell had 336 yards in total offense.

Junior linebacker Tim Johnson came up with 11 tackles while junior defensive end Steve Montgomery had seven, including one sack. Davis added five tackles with two sacks.

Jewell faces Missouri Western State College, another NAIA Division I team which defeated the University of Missouri-Rolla 35-27 last week, at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow, in Greene Stadium.