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William Jewell Cardinals advance to NAIA championship

The Cardinals of William Jewell College have advanced to the NAIA Division II Championship football game by defeating Northwestern College of Iowa 23-10 Dec. 4 in Greene Stadium. The Cardinals will travel to McMinnville, Ore., on Dec. 11 to take on Linfield College. Game time is 12:30 Pacific time (2:30 p.m. our time). The game will be broadcast live on Red Rage Radio KWPB (FM 92).

Saturday's win was a big one for the Cardinals. Northwestern had possession of the ball first and drove from their own 20 yard line to the Cardinal 23 in a 10-play series. On the next play, Doug Switzer intercepted a pass to stop the drive.

Three plays later, Kelly Groom hit Jimi Reed with a 78 yard touchdown pass and the Cardinals were on their way to the top. Steve Hudson's PAT game the Cards a 7-0 lead.

On the next series Northwestern traveled to the Cardinal 4 yard line. Again, the Cardinal defense showed their power when Mike Newman intercepted a pass in the end zone. The Cardinal offense then moved 63 yards in eight plays to score again. This time it was on a 28

yard pass from Groom to Reed. Hudson's kick was good to put the Cardinals up 14-0 and that ended the scoring for the first quarter.

Northwestern started the second quarter with possession of the ball, but due to a penalty and a tough Cardinal defense had no luck in moving the ball. The Cardinals, however, hit pay dirt again on their next possession capping a 10 play drive with a 61 yard touchdown run by Steve Hodges. Again, Hudson added the extra point and the score rose 21-0.

The remainder of the first half saw Northwestern scrambling to get on the scoreboard. They were twice thwarted by the Cardinal's Mike Newman, who had an interception and a fumble recovery. Then Northwestern drove to the Cardinal 6-yard line to obtain a first and goal, but the Cardinal defense held them for three downs, and with two seconds remaining in the half, Northwestern had to settle for a field goal, making the score 21-3 at halftime.

The third quarter was dominated by defense and no scoring was made. Mike Newman had his third interception of the day when he picked off a pass by Lee McKinstrey of Northwestern.

Northwestern scored their lone touchdown of the game in the fourth quarter on a 1 yard run by quarterback Lee McKinstrey. The score was set up when the Cards were called for pass interference in the end zone. The PAT was good to make the score 21-10.

Northwestern threatened again when they recovered a Cardinal fumble on the Jewell 32 yard line, but two plays later Paul Taylor intercepted a pass to stop the Iowa team's drive. Guy Weber got the final score for the Cardinals when he sacked the Northwestern quarterback in the end zone for a safety. That ended the scoring for the game, making the final tally 23-10.

Cardinal fans were treated to still more excitement when Paul Taylor intercepted two more passes later in the fourth quarter.

In eleven regular season games, Northwestern opponents intercepted only seven passes off quarterback Lee McKinstrey. The Cardinals had seven for the day in the semifinal contest.

Mike Newman was named defensive player of the game and Steve Hodges was selected as most valuable offensive player by media personnel attending the game.

Fur and feathers to fly...