

William Jewell players may find there's no place like Linfield's home

By Bill Richardson
sportswriter

Citizens of McMinnville, Ore., must feel their community of 15,000 is situated on hallowed ground.

The U.S. Department of the Interior said that, ecologically, McMinnville is one of the seven best places in the nation to live among cities of its size.

The diversity of McMinnville's industry—poultry, computers, steel, wood products, agriculture—has enabled it to weather

the economic recession better than most areas in Oregon.

In a survey by a financial magazine, Linfield College of McMinnville, with an enrollment of 1,283 was listed among the top smaller-school bargains in the nation for an education of high quality.

McMinnville also is feeling pretty smug about football these days.

While the University of Oregon, 2-8-1, and Oregon State, 1-9-1, have packed up their seasons, the undefeated Linfield Wildcats are

shooting for a national championship. Linfield, 11-0, will be host to William Jewell College, 10-1, Saturday afternoon in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II title game.

"We make the big play here and there," Rutschman said. "We don't have a single standout, or a star. There are no NFL prospects on this team, but we have a group of fine small-college players."

Rutschman said the Wildcats use a multiple offense, and in keeping with their no-star system, stress balance. Fullback Mike Freeman was the team's

3,808 is expected.

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rushing leader with 297 yards in

nine regular-season games. Four

other players each gained more

than 200 yards. Freeman suffered

a leg injury in the playoff quarter-

finals and has been replaced by

yards and seven more touch-
downs.

Linfield began its season with four straight victories over NAIA Division I opponents. Rutschman said a 40-35 victory over Oregon Tech in the fourth game was a key

victory for the Wildcats. Oregon Tech was rated 14th in the final

NAIA Division I poll.

"That game gave us con-
fidence," Rutschman said. "After

beating Oregon Tech I knew we were in good shape going into the rest of the schedule against Division II opponents."