

Hello Cardinal Fans:

What an exciting initial week. The Bird Bowl was great, and your support was SUPER!!! The attendance at last Friday mornings breakfast also showed that you are ready for Cardinal football. Those of you who were in attendance saw the candor and humor of Coaches Wallace and Griggs, along with the remarks of Gary Ainsworth and Guy Weber, made for a very nice morning. If this is any indication, I am sure that future Friday mornings will bring out even more.

For those of you who were not in attendance, let me tell you that Coach Wallace told us just what to expect as far as formation alignments, reverses, trick plays, etc. We were the only ones that could follow the plays. Thanks, Coach.

Last Saturdays' game at Mid-America Nazarene College was a good outing for OUR CARDINALS. However, the final score of 31-7 was not indicative of the full story of the game. We fumbled 6 times, lost four of them, were intercepted 4 times, and were penalized 8 times for 65 yards. Even with that, the Cardinals were able to show us many bright spots, in scoring 31 points. Our rushing yardage showed 237 yards in 41 attempts, and passing yardage was 255 yards, in 16 completions of 20 attempts.

Defense was a bright story for the CARDINALS. MANC was limited to 86 yards rushing on 53 carries, while the passing attack of MANC was good for only 30 yards, with only 5 completions out of 16 attempts. Folks, that's only 136 total yards our guys gave up. APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE, for the defense!!!

Our scoring plays showed much versatility. Scoop Gillespie broke through the left side of the line, with great blocking, and maneuvered down the sidelines for an 87 yard touchdown in the first quarter to set things in motion. Kelly Groom was then able to find Scott Martin open on a pass. Scott shook one tackle and moved on into pay dirt for a 47 yard scoring play in the third quarter. The fourth quarter featured some razzle dazzle with a backward pass from Kelly Groom to Randy Doyle. Doyle passed to Mike McGill, wide open near midfield, who outraced his pursuers for a thrilling 64 yard touchdown for the many Cardinal fans in attendance. With still more to come, Randy Doyle was on the receiving end of an Andre Nelson pass in the end zone good for an 8 yard TD. Jerry Burch was automatic every time, scoring with a 24 yard field goal in the second quarter, and 4 extra points.

A couple of bright spots for MANC were Ken Jolly's interception and 55 yard scamper into the Cardinal end zone, and Cichenours 3 interceptions of Cardinal aerals.

Individual stats for the CARDINALS saw Gillespie lead the rushing parade with 119 yards on 9 carries, with his 87 yarder being the longest for the game. Steve Hodges carried nine times and bulled his way for 60 yards with a high carry of 14 yards. Mike Phillips looked good on some tight end reverse plays on 3 occasions good for 21 yards. These were the CARDINAL leaders in rushing.

In our passing attack, Kelly Groom was on target with 9 completions out of 17 attempts, good for 132 yards, while Andre Nelson completed 6 of 8 for 54 yards. Randy Doyle completed his only attempt for a 69 yard strike. All three of the QB's connected for a touchdown.



On defense, there were many standouts for OUR CARDINALS. Tim Johnson led the way with 13 tackles, while Wayne Schmidt and Guy Weber were credited with 12 each. Gary Ainsworth was good for 8 stops as another leader for the defense. We had 6 quarterback sacks with Troy Mitchell getting two of them. All in all, we had 27 players who were credited with tackles.

For more about the game and our upcoming opponent, we will hand the ball to Coach Wallace for THE WALLACE HOTLINE:

First, I'm happy with the win and with the enthusiasm displayed by our players at various times throughout the game. We still have a long way to go to learn to be intimidators. We intimidated sometimes and other times were unsuccessful. When I call for a punt block, I want the punt blocked, not just a good rush. When we put the rush on a passer, I want him sacked. That's the defense we called, not one to get a good rush. When we call the power off tackle, I want power, not just running the play and pulling the guard ahead of the ball carrier.

"Football, and I guess anything to me, is 'simple', 'either you do or you don't. Either you win or you lose. Either you block a punt or you don't. You don't almost do anything. If you almost do something, but don't you CAN'T.

As head coach, one of my jobs is to create style. I want to play fair and have fun. And, by having fun I also want to develop 106 doers.

We scouted Graceland Saturday night and they will test both our physical ability and our style. They have an excellent offense, returning their entire offensive unit, along with All-Conference quarterback Russell Eruch, and sixteen seniors. They use a lot of formations, motion, and defenses. Teams that use these tactics are attempting to create the style by making us adjust to theirs, and not play our game. We don't want to play on our heels and let our opponent do anything which will dictate to us how we play.

If you plan to see the game, expect Graceland to use quick, power lead plays, some drops, and do a lot of throwing. You can also expect to see us on the attack both offensively and defensively."

Now, back to me. Thanks Coach, for letting us know what to expect. Please try to come to the Friday morning breakfast. You won't be disappointed. Oh, yes, about last weeks' goof in this letter. I said Wayne Schmidt was injured and out for the season. That was Mike Schmidt. This shows me that you are reading this letter. You better, because their might be something about you in the next one.

See you Friday morning,

*Bill*

BILL KIRSTEN