

# Bethany May Move To Top Spot in NAIA

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Keep winning and the ranking will follow.

That could be the case for the Bethany Swedes, who stand on the verge of reaching the top spot in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II poll.

Bethany, ranked No. 2 last week, downed Kansas Wesleyan 41-7 Saturday for its 25th straight regular-season victory. The Swedes' chances of moving up to No. 1 were virtually insured when Gustavus Adolphus of Minnesota, the top team last week, lost 18-13 to St. Olaf.

William Jewell also may be playing the numbers game while waiting for the NAIA poll to be released Wednesday afternoon. The Cards, who were ranked No. 6 in Division II, defeated No. 19 Ottawa 44-13 to stay unbeaten at 6-0.

Missouri Western could be looking to advance in NAIA Division I. The undefeated Griffons surged in the fourth quarter to topple Emporia State 31-14 for their sixth triumph.

While not occupied with thoughts of national rankings, the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association will spend time trying to figure out who is in command of its race. It could be Northwest Missouri, which surprised pre-season favorite Southwest Missouri 31-22 Saturday. The Bearcats, who last month broke a 15-game losing streak, have won three of their last four and are 2-0 in the conference.

Among the independents, Evangel of Springfield won after four winless weeks by beating Benedictine 34-13, and Mid-America Nazarene, in its second year of football, pushed Culver-Stockton to the wire before losing 22-21.

Quarterback Mark Eggers passed for more than 300 yards to lead Bethany. Tight ends Randy Linton and John Mack had big receiving days, Linton catching eight passes for 139 yards and Mack 5 for 68 yards and two touchdowns.

Tabor, 5-1 overall, kept pace with Bethany in the Kansas Conference by downing Southwestern 28-21. Tabor had 281 yards passing, with Rod Wallace's 33-yard throw to Kerry Dennison breaking a 21-21 tie in the third quarter.

David Cunningham, William Jewell's top rusher last season, saw his first action of the year Saturday and

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contributed two touchdowns to the rout of Ottawa. The Cards amassed 214 yards rushing. Mark Timberberg's 48-yard interception return for a touchdown and Jack Staci's sixth theft of the season that thwarted an Ottawa comeback bid paced the defensive effort.

Missouri Western, trailing Emporia State 14-3 in the second quarter, came to life after recovering a fumble. The Griffons took control in the fourth quarter when Tim Hoskins caught his second touchdown pass of the game from Mike Sullivan. Greg Zickefoose paced the losing Hornets with 187 yards rushing.

Missouri Western shares the Central States Conference lead with Pittsburg State, which got a scare before shaking off cellar-dwelling Fort Hays State 27-26.

Northwest Missouri parlayed a powerful rushing attack and five Southwest State turnovers into an upset victory. Donald Lott gained 146 yards in 33 carries as the Bearcats rushed for 284 yards. Injuries have wrecked Southwest Missouri, which has lost its top two quarterbacks and its original starting backfield.

Northeast Missouri scrambled the MIAA picture by spilling co-leader Missouri-Rolla 3-2. Northeast State preserved the victory by stopping Bryan Paris of the Miners on a fourth-down play at the 2-yard line. Missouri-Rolla had recovered a fumble on the Northeast 8 and gave Paris the ball four straight times.