

Gibler Worried By Jewell Stats

By Bill Richardson
A Member of the Sports Staff

In the last two weeks undefeated William Jewell has outscored its opponents 100-30 and gained the No. 2 ranking in the NAIA Division II football poll.

That's enough to impress anybody, especially the coach of Jewell's next opponent.

"We're concerned," said Coach Ken Gibler of Missouri Valley, another rated team that faces the Cardinals in the renewal of a traditional rivalry Saturday night in Liberty.

"There's a good reason William Jewell is ranked No. 2. They have outstanding personnel. You take Mark Capra, their quarterback, and Randy Wepler, their offensive tackle. They were good enough to be on Missouri's squad. And Missouri wanted David Cunningham, a running back. I don't

want to sell their other players short, but they have real quality in those three."

Gibler doesn't have such big-time players at Valley, but he has come up with a pretty fair team overall. The Vikings, whose seven-game season shows a one-point loss to Ottawa and a tie with Missouri-Rolla, have developed a reputation for hanging tough.

"We've struggled the last few weeks," Gibler said. "We got the job done against Central Methodist (21-3 on three interception returns for touchdowns) and Baker (24-20 on a pass in the final 16 seconds), but we didn't get it done against Ottawa (3-2 loss)."

"We think we've got a good defense. But this game against Jewell is going to be touch-and-go for the defense. With most teams you try to take something away that they do well, like the

pass or the run. But it's going to be difficult to take anything away from Jewell. They do it all well."

Gibler said he has a basically young team. The Vikings lost 14 starters from the 1978 team that reached the NAIA Division II semifinals.

Valley's top defensive players are safety Gene LaMura, tackle Bob Brinkley and linebacker Mike Doolin from Winnetonka. The offensive unit has been gored by injuries to halfback Rex Sawyer and fullback Duane Miller.

Sophomore Trent Mitchell, a 6-foot-1, 180-pounder from College Park, Ga., has taken over the quarterback reins handled in 1978 by Al LaMura, who had a trial with the Dallas Cowboys last summer.

It has been an up-and-down season for Mitchell, who definitely had an "up" moment against Baker when he

took the Vikings on an 81-yard touchdown drive the final 3 minutes, hitting slotback Rib Fitzpatrick with a 7-yard pass for the winning touchdown.

Punter Tim Martin has played an integral role in Valley's successful season. His foot could keep Jewell's offense backed up Saturday night.

About 8,000 fans are expected to pack Greene Stadium on the William Jewell campus for the annual renewal of the big game on each team's schedule.

"This is always a real tough game for both teams," said Gibler, who will coach against the Cards for the 12th time. "These games are usually very well played, and are exciting. We had to come from behind to win last year. In 1973 both teams were ranked and they beat us 28-23.

"This game always means a lot to the fans of both schools."

Five Area Teams Have Spot in Poll

Five area teams have crashed the NAIA Division II football poll, with Bethany and William Jewell retaining the top two spots.

Joining the Swedes and Cardinals in the top 20 are Missouri Valley of Marshall, Mo., No. 13; Tabor of Hillsboro, Kan., No. 16 and Friends of Wichita, No. 18.

Bethany of Lindsborg, Kan., and William Jewell of Liberty are undefeated at 7-0. They received 13 of the 16 first-place votes. The others went to Findlay (Ohio), which ranked third with a 5-0-1 record.

Tabor, 6-1-0, and Friends, 5-1-0, were unranked last week. They are battling Bethany for the Kansas Conference championship. Missouri Valley, 5-1-1, moved up from 16th the week before. The Vikings play at William Jewell Saturday night in a game for the Heart of America Conference lead.

Tabor hasn't lost since suffering a 35-6 defeat to Hastings (Neb.) in its season opener. Friends has won four straight games since bowing to Bethany 14-6.

The Heart of America Conference could wind up with three teams in the top 20. Graceland College of Iowa, 4-3, received enough votes to make the honorable mention list. Graceland has yet to play Jewell and Valley.

Missouri Western of St. Joseph, the only area team ranked in NAIA Division I, slipped into a tie for 12th with Virginia State after being upset by Missouri Southern. Missouri Western, 6-1, was ranked seventh last week.

Texas A&I, Western State (Colo.) and Central State (Okla.) held on to the top three places in the Division I poll. Each has a 6-0 record. Texas A&I garnered all 16 first-place votes.

Kearney State of Nebraska, which is battling Pittsburg State and Missouri Western for the Central States championship, is ranked eighth. Pittsburg, leading the conference, is unranked

NAIA Division II Top Twenty

The Top Twenty teams in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II football poll, with season records and points:

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| 1. Bethany (Kan.) | 7-0-0 | 309 |
| 2. Wm Jewell (Mo.) | 7-0-0 | 297 |
| 3. Findlay (Ohio) | 5-0-1 | 269 |
| 4. Jamestown (N.D.) | 5-0-0 | 269 |
| 5. Gustavus Adolphus | 6-1-0 | 260 |
| 6. Midland Lutheran | 6-0-0 | 235 |
| 7. Northwestern (Iowa) | 6-1-0 | 223 |
| 8. Pacific Lutheran | 5-1-0 | 218 |
| 9. Austin (Texas) | 6-1-0 | 190 |
| 10. St. John's (Minn.) | 5-1-0 | 174 |
| 11. California Lutheran | 5-1-1 | 166 |
| 12. Illinois Wesleyan | 5-1-0 | 128 |
| 13. Missouri Valley | 5-1-1 | 125 |
| 14. Concordia (Minn.) | 4-2-0 | 97 |
| 15. Dickinson St (N.D.) | 4-1-0 | 94 |
| 16. Tabor (Kan.) | 6-1-0 | 65 |
| 17. Illinois College | 5-1-0 | 37 |
| 18. Friends (Kan.) | 5-1-0 | 34 |
| 19. Linfield (Ore.) | 3-2-1 | 30 |
| 20. McMurry (Texas) | 6-2-0 | 30 |

but received votes from among the 16 selectors.

Pittsburg State, 5-2, has a chance not only to protect its first-place position in the standings but to move into the rankings. Pittsburg will be host to Kearney State Saturday afternoon.