

Missouri Western Offense Awesome in 72-44 Victory

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ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—Points almost outnumbered people in the inaugural Moila Shrine Bowl football game Saturday as Missouri Western outscored William Jewell 72-44.

The wild offensive show produced 1,221 yards, and only an endzone interception of a 3-yard pass kept the score from rising even higher. There were 16 touchdowns, eight conversion kicks and six two-point conversions.

Only 1,600 fans showed up on an afternoon with temperatures in the 40s to see the point parade that finished in near darkness. The game hit the 100-point mark with 9 minutes, 56 seconds left to play.

"It was a matter of who was going to score the most points," said quarterback Mark Capra of William Jewell, who completed 32-of-64 passes for 418 yards and three touchdowns. "Everything we expected to work, worked."

Things worked even better offensively for Missouri Western, which rolled up 671 yards to Jewell's 550, and scored almost at will. The Griffins' offense never turned the ball over and had to punt only once.

Quarterback Mike Solomon of Missouri Western threw 33 times, and completed 20 for 352 yards and three touchdowns. Solomon, a senior from Blue Springs, was healthy after being hobbled for four games because of a collar-bone injury. Solomon was named the outstanding player of the game.

Missouri Western broke a four-game losing streak to finish 7-4 for the season. William Jewell dropped to 9-2 with its second loss in three games.

"We knew we could score against them," said Coach Rob Hicklin of Missouri Western. "I thought it would be an offensive game, and if I had been predicting I would have guessed it would have been something like 45-30. But I never dreamed it'd be anything like this."

Tempers flared on the William Jewell bench when Missouri Western successfully executed an onside kick after scoring its final touchdown with 3:54 left to play. Jewell players called it dirty pool, but Hicklin wasn't apologetic.

"They've done it themselves," Hicklin said. "They did it on Graceland with a lead late in the game. I don't

feel we were trying to run up the score. I felt we had to keep the ball away from them because we weren't stopping their offense."

Coach Stan McGarvey of Jewell disagreed. "They were trying to bury us alive," McGarvey said with a half-smile. "I don't think they care much for us. We've recruited some people they wanted. I think this rivalry goes back a pretty good ways."

Missouri Western never trailed as Solomon and Rodney Stephenson, 202-pound sophomore back, shredded the William Jewell defense. Solomon hit Tim Hoskins for 10- and 29-yard touchdown passes and Pat Casey for a 15-yard score. Stephenson scored three times on runs of 4, 35 and 57 yards on the way to a 185-yard rusing day.

William Jewell, which trailed by three touchdowns throughout most of the second half, sent six players into the endzone for touchdowns. The most spectacular score came on Capra's pass completions of 69 yards to Rob Schermerhorn and 29 yards to Tom Boyd. David Cunningham scored on a 22-yard run, Vic Davolt on a 3-yard run, Jeff Gourley on a 3-yard pass and Capra on a 1-yard sneak.