

**Go Cardinals!**

## Area football kicks off on wide front today

By Bill Richardson  
A Member of the Sports Staff

From Mexico City to Sioux Falls to Akron.

All aboard for the opening of the area college football season.

There also are games closer to home, with Mid-America Nazarene at William Jewell tonight featuring that part of the 15-game opening-week schedule.

Ottawa University kicks off a series of eight games between National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and Mexican teams. The Braves from the Heart of America Conference will play the Aztlan Wolves today in Mexico City. It's part of an exchange program between the Kansas City-based NIAA and the Mexican Football Federation. The Torreon Spartans play Bethel College in Newton, Kan., Sept. 13.

The 45-man Ottawa squad left Friday for Mexico and is scheduled to return Sunday, probably with a victory. Football teams in Mexico were repeatedly trounced by NIAA opponents in the first series of games last season.

Also traveling far for openers are Missouri Western, which plays Augustana in Sioux Falls, S.D., and Northeast Missouri, which plays at Akron of Ohio.

William Jewell displays a new-look offensive unit against Mid-America Nazarene in Liberty. The Cardinals have replaced their singular strike weapon of Mark Capra to Steve Schermerhorn with a more varied attack.

Sophomore Kelly Groom, who runs the option and veer well, will be backed by a stronger ground game than the Cardinals had in their 9-2 season last year. For one thing, David Cunningham has shaken off knee

problems and is running like he did in 1978. Junior Vic Davolt is showing the promise of his freshman year.

Transfers Mike McGill and Lavelle Hatcher and holdovers Steve Hobick and Marty Hensley give Jewell excellent receivers. Linebacker Gary Ainsworth, 1979 tackle leader, will miss the opener with a knee injury.

It's only the third year of football for Mid-America, which makes its debut in the Heart of America Conference. The Pioneers lost to Jewell 30-3 last season.

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