

3200 tickets sold

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# 'Bird Bowl' draws football backers

It was a great night for bird watchers, and an estimated 3,200 curiosity-seekers flocked into Greene Stadium on the William Jewell campus for a game-type scrimmage called the Bird Bowl.

A community concept for football fans, the Saturday event Saturday served a dual purpose: to give fans a pre-season look at the William Jewell Cardinals and the Liberty Senior High School Bluejays, and to raise money for a new lighting system for Greene Stadium.

Onlookers were not disappointed. A high calibre of play was evident. Coach Vic Wallace ran his Cardinals through a tough scrimmage that saw the team in white come out with a 14-7 win over the red team. All the players got into the action, and the coaches saw a lot of good things happen.

The lack of scoring by the Cards was not because of a lack of scoring power. It was quite the opposite. Junior quarterback Kelly Groom dazzled the fans with good passes,

handoffs and pitchouts with plenty of expertise.

Groom's problem lay in the fact that the Cardinal defense, his opposition for the night, is expected to be on par with the best defensive units in Jewell history. The lipebacking trio of Wendell McGill, Tim Johnson and Marty Hensley — backed up by Steve Mattingly and Gary Ainsworth — could be the best in the Heart of America Conference.

The defensive line is triggered by the bull-like rushes of Guy Weber and a host of willing pursuers, and a defensive backfield that is expected to be more than capable as the season progresses.

Offensively, it was good to see Mike McGill in top condition and snaring several passes. McGill just returned to the team Friday after suffering from an ankle sprain that has kept him from practice for two weeks. Also on the plus side was the quarterback situation, which looks like it will be good for a few years. Underclassmen Scott Sandridge,

Cory Wohlford, Mark McDowell and David Brock get in some game time and handle their chores efficiently. The Cardinals, who were picked third in pre-season rating, could live up to their advanced notices in many ways.

Likewise, it was a good night for the Bluejays, even though their final score read 0-0. Coach Ron Hall was also smiles after the scrimmage, pleased at the work of such standout performers as quarterback John Cook; running back Tim Trout; and promising players such as David Ordino, Kelson Houston and Jerry Mayberry.

The Cardinals open their 1981 season with an away game at Mid-America Nazarene this Saturday, Sept. 5. The game is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on the Olathe, Kan., campus.

The high school Bluejays open their season at home, under the lights of Greene Stadium, at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 4.