Sports

Cardinals whip Central Methodist

Six touchdowns scored by six different players; an offense that generated 400 yards, and a rock-tight defense that held opponents scoreless led the William Jewell Cardinals to a 44-0 rout over the Central Methodist Eagles Saturday in Fayette.

The Cardinals' attack was evenly divided as they rolled to 203 yards rushing on 46 carries, while the passing aerials were effective for 197 yards, on 15 completions out of 23 passes. The defense also forced four fumbles and intercepted 2 passes, and was noticeable on several crushing hits.

The Cardinals, 7-0, scored on their second possession after they forced a bad kick. They took over on the Eagles' 46-yard line where they generated a 9-play drive that culminated with a 2-yard burst into the end zone by Steve Hodges, for the initial score. Jerry Burch added the PAT, and it was 7-0.

Later in the first quarter, after taking over at midfield, the Cardinals needed only three plays to find pay dirt. Fernandars "Scoop" Gillespie went 9 yards on a draw play, and Hodges carried for an additional 4. Gillespie broke through the hole made by the offensive line, and scampered 37 yards for an electrifying run that took a lot of steam out of the Eagles. Again a Burch conversion attempt was good.

Jeff Burch was good on a 25-yard field goal attempt that was the only scoring during the second quarter. The Cardinals substituted freely in that span, but lost little effectiveness.

The second half saw the Cardinals go to the air as junior Kelly Groom found both of his wide receivers for touchdowns. Mike McGill made a great grab for a 12-yard score and Marty Hensley was great on a 19-yard score. Burch missed his first conversion of the year, but Steve Hudson made one and the Cardinals led, 30-0.

The fourth quarter saw a new offensive unit for the Cardinals, but it didn't slow them down. Sophomore quarterback Andre Nelson ran for 15 yards and another score, while another drive netted another score as junior Wayne Landrum bolted the final yard. Two Hudson conversions wrapped up the scoring, and the final read 44-0.

First-year head coach Vic Wallace of William Jewell still wasn't totally pleased with his offense. "We went into the game figuring we could run on them," he said. "However, they used a goal line defense on almost every play. Our offensive line just did not execute like they are able to, and I don't know why."

"Kelly Groom had a great afternoon. He completed 12 out of 16 passes, and called a smart game," Wallace noted. On defense, our guys showed intensity, and had some good hitting. They were trying to neutralize our linebackers, but everybody played well." It was plain that Wallace was pleased with his defensive game plan.

The multi-talented Cardinals showed versatility, as eight different backs carried the ball for over 200 yards while eight other Cardinals were on the receiving end of passes. Mike McGill led the receivers with five catches for 82 yards and Gillespie led the ball carriers with 76 yards on 14 carries. Doug Switzer showed brilliance on an interception, combined with a 67-yard return of the aerial, while David Armstrong had an interception and a 16-yard return.

The linebacker corps led the defense on some sure tackles. Freshman Tim Johnson had one solo and 11 assists, while Gary Ainsworth had 12 assists. The other linebacker, Wendell McGill, was credited with one solo and seven assists. In the front line, Guy Weber led the "Cobras," wiich is a nickname for the front four. Weber had 11 assists, while Wayne Schmidt earned six assists.

William Jewell now stands at 7-0, with a big game against Missouri Valley this Saturday on the Cardinal home field. The two teams — each undefeated in conference play — will play at 7:30 p.m. in Greene Stadium. "We will have to play our best game," says Wallace. "We'll put some extra emphasis on our kicking game this week. I feel we must execute perfectly if we want to win against Missouri Valley."

First place in the conference, as well as a berth in the national playoffs, hang in the balance.