

cardinal sports

Groom and flea-flicker too much

Cards remain patient, beat Baker

by Scott Burton

It wasn't a flashy, overpowering attack that led William Jewell to a 20-10 weekend football victory over Baker University. And it wasn't a sloppy, inconsistent approach that gave the Cardinals their ninth victory in as many outings.

But a cool, confident quarterback named Kelly Groom kept the Cardinals poised in the early-going and it resulted in a late second quarter touchdown that put William Jewell on top for good.

"You can talk about good quarterbacking," said Jewell Coach Vic Wallace, "and you can talk about good quarterbacking. Kelly did an outstanding job and just played one great football game."

Groom rushed for 83 yards and connected on 12 of 23 passes for 199 yards. The Baker defensive unit was doing their job shutting down the Cardinal running backs, but apparently they forgot that Groom was a running threat and has completed over 50 percent of his passes this season.

"We tried to stop Jewell's wide stuff," Baker Coach Charlie Richard added. "Groom made the difference. We shut down the rest of Jewell's game, but we didn't expect Groom to scramble so well. We couldn't control him."

Baker took a 3-0 lead in the second quarter on a 34-yard field goal by Kevin Cummings, but Groom found Marty Hensley, who finished with eight receptions for 136 yards, on a 43-yard scoring strike minutes later.

Baker, falling to 7-2 overall and 5-2 in the Heart of America Athletic Conference, increased the margin to 10-7 on an eight yard run by Ben Reed.

But Groom refused to let the Cardinals fold. With 19 seconds left in the half Jewell relied on a 42-yard flea-flicker pass to set up a one-yard sneak by Groom.

"It was a well-executed play," said Wallace. "We've decided to call it the Wildcat Special. It was a turning point. There's no doubt about that."

The Cardinals faced a third down and 23 just inside Baker territory. Groom's handoff to Hensley began a double-reverse option pass that ended in a 42-yard gain to Mike McGill. "We had worked on the trick play all week long," said Wallace. "I sent it in to Kelly and he made it go."

"It couldn't have worked any better," Groom praised. "It was a big play, but we needed a big play to keep us rolling."

The Cardinal razzle-dazzle put Jewell on top 14-10 at the half. Baker proceeded to have one of their worst second halves of the season.

The Redbird defensive unit allowed only 10 yards of total offense in the final half. "What can you say," smiled Jewell defensive coordinator Dan Griggs. "It's gotta make a coach happy to hold the nation's number two total offensive team to 179 yards, let alone 10 second half yards."

The victory assures Jewell of at least a share of the conference crown. The Cardinals host HAAC foe Culver-Stockton Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. for the final regular season contest of 1981.

The season...

Jewell 31, Mid-America Nazarene 7
Jewell 14, Graceland 10
Jewell 42, Benedictine 15
Jewell 28, Doane 3
Jewell 27, Tarkio 6
Jewell 17, Ottawa 3
Jewell 44, Central Methodist 0
Jewell 25, Missouri Valley 13
Jewell 20, Baker 10

William Jewell Coasts To Ninth Win Of Season

BALDWIN CITY, Kan. (UPI) — Kelly Groom passed for two touchdowns and rushed for another Saturday night to pace second-ranked William Jewell to a 20-10 victory over Baker and a share of the Heart of American Conference crown.

Jewell won its ninth game of the season, seventh in the league, and can win the league title outright with a regular season-ending win next week. Baker, ranked 11th in the NAIA Division II before the game, slipped to 7-2 overall and 5-2 in the Heart of America.

Groom, who finished the night 12-of-23 for 197 yards, found Marty Hensley with a 43-yard

touchdown strike to give the Cardinals a 7-3 lead.

With 19 seconds left in the first half, after Ben Reed had given Baker the lead with an 8-yard scoring run, Groom slipped over from the 1 for a 14-10 Jewell halftime lead. Groom set up his own score with a 60-yard pass.

The Cardinal defense stiffened in the second half, allowing just one Baker first down and the Jewell offense was able to control the ball with two long drives. One of those drives resulted in a 5-yard Groom-to Mike McGill touchdown pass.

Baker took a 3-0 lead early in the second period on a 34-yard field goal by Kevin Cummings.

Baker was able to manage just 165 yards total offense while Jewell had 330.