

Cards host powerful Northwestern in semis

By **DON REED**

Staff Writer

LIBERTY, Mo. — Offense, offense, offense.

That might be a good description of Saturday's NAIA Division II semifinal football playoff game here between William Jewell and Northwestern, Iowa.

Northwestern, 12-0 entering the 1 p.m. contest, leads the nation in scoring offense with almost 50 points a game while the 9-1 Cardinals have scored around 34 points an outing.

Even with all the offensive jargon floating around, William Jewell Coach Vic Wallace says it might be a good idea to keep an eye on defense.

"There's a lot of talk about their offense and our offense but defense is going to win this game for you," Wallace said Tuesday afternoon.

It was defense that kept the Cardinals from being eliminated in the opening round of the playoffs. A surge by the defensive line stopped Sul Ross State's two-point conversion attempt in the third overtime of a 1-point contest.

"I just tried to charge across the line, get as much depth as possible," Guy Weber, senior left tackle, said of the decisive play. "I don't really know what happened. The back just bounced out and (David) Armstrong and (Tim) Johnson got him."

The Cardinals scored on their possession of the last overtime and kicked the extra point for a 44-37 lead. Sul Ross scored but opted for the two-point try. A pass fell incomplete but Jewell had 12 men on the field and Sul Ross got another shot. Out of a T-Formation, Maurice Stephens followed the two other backs into the right side of the line. Jewell defensive back Armstrong turned the play in and linebacker Johnson made the stop.

"The line just stacked it up and he cut back to me," Johnson said of the winning play. "There wasn't any pressure out there, just a lot of intensity. We really hadn't had anything happen this season to pull us together. Maybe that play will do it, make us an even better defensive team."

The Cardinals have ranked as one of the top 15 defensive teams in the nation all season and Johnson thinks

the Red Rage may be able to surprise Northwestern.

"They've got a very powerful offense," Johnson, a 5-foot-11 sophomore from Kansas City, Mo., said. "I don't think they've seen our style of defense. I think we'll surprise them."

"They're quick, they move well and are aggressive," Coach Vic Wallace said of his defense. "We don't have any real big kids but they move real well."

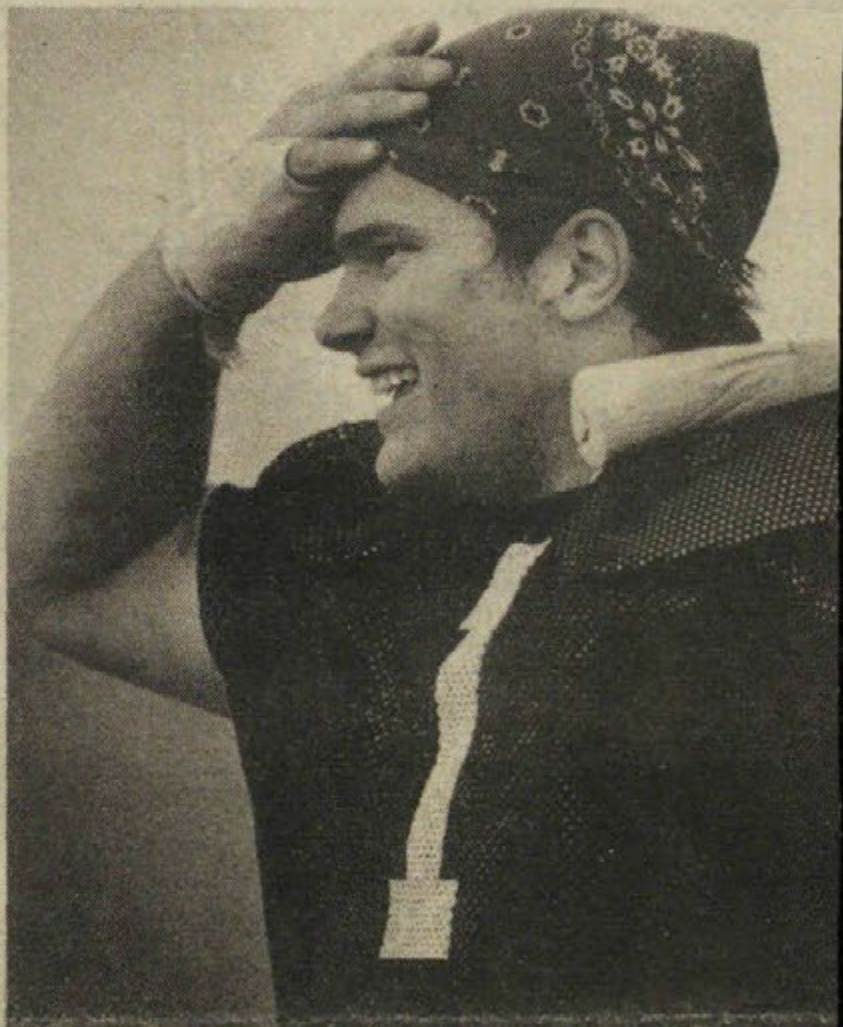
The other defensive tackle is Jan Redmond, a 6-foot, 220-pound junior. Steve Montgomery, a 6-foot-1, 190-pound sophomore is one end and Jerry Twigg is 6-foot-2 and 190 pounds at the other end. Weber is the biggest lineman at 6-foot-1 and 225.

"Most of us on defense have been playing together for a couple of years and that really helps us out there," Weber confided.

William Jewell has had only one bad outing this season, a 9-7 setback against Mid-America Nazarene Oct. 30.

The Cardinals post an impressive 40-5-1 record over the past three years, including post-season play where Jewell has now advanced to the national semifinals three straight years.

Even with all that playoff experience, Weber knows he and his teammates will have their toughest assignment ever this Saturday. "They're probably the quickest offensive line we've seen, especially the guards," Weber said.



Defensive tackle Guy Weber takes a breather at workout.