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7 pass thefts send Jewell to title game

By Bill Richardson
sportswriter

In 11 regular-season football games, Northwestern of Iowa opponents intercepted only seven passes off junior quarterback Lee McKinstrey.

William Jewell College defenders swiped that many against him in a play-off game Saturday and used the turnovers as a springboard to a 23-10 victory in Liberty.

The triumph in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II semifinal lifted Jewell into the championship game next Saturday against Linfield College in McMinnville, Ore. Linfield defeated Westminster (Pa.) 37-9 in the other semifinal game.

Jewell needed all seven interceptions to slow down Northwestern's high-powered offense. With McKinstrey launching 65 passes and completing 26, the Red Raiders threatened constantly. They made 23 first downs to Jewell's 11 and totaled 493 yards to the Cardinals' 401. Yet they needed the help of a 29-yard pass-interference penalty to the Jewell 1 to score their lone touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Free safety Mike Newman, chosen the outstanding defensive player of the game, and free safety Paul Taylor each picked off three interceptions. Cornerback Mike Switzer had the other. The Cardinals' defensive line, led by tackle Guy Weber, sacked McKinstrey six times.

"Most of the turnovers were the result of our guys just hustling in there," Jewell Coach Vic Wallace said. "On a couple of them we got to the quarterback and caused him to throw interceptions. We almost got a couple more because of the pressure."

Weber sacked McKinstrey for a safety in the final quarter for the last points of the game.

"The defensive backs kidded me about that safety," Weber said. "They asked

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Just thought you'd enjoy reading these
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William Jewell's Guy Weber joins in the chant of "one more week" after Saturday's victory. (staff photo by Mark Hinojosa)

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me. "Why did you have to sack him, we had great coverage for another interception."

Jewell got all its offensive points from three big plays in the first half. Quarterback Kelly Groom connected with wide receiver Jimi Reed on a 78-yard pass in the opening 6 minutes, then found Reed for a 28-yard touchdown with 3 minutes, 13 seconds left in the first quarter.

Fullback Steve Hodges shed two tacklers and bounced outside for a 61-yard touchdown run in the second quarter as the Cardinals mounted a 21-3 halftime lead. Hodges, who gained 145 yards in 29 carries, was named the outstanding offensive player.

Northwestern's Steve Rhode booted a 23-yard field goal as time ran out in the first half, and McKinstrey scored the touchdown on a 1-yard run.

The Red Raiders, who entered the playoffs as the No. 1-ranked team in Division II, finished with a 12-1 record. Jewell takes a 10-1 mark into the championship game.

Northwestern, which had set four NAIA passing records and averaged 47 points a game during the regular season, appeared up to form on its opening possession. The Red Raiders drove from their 20 to the Jewell 19. The march was halted when McKinstrey's pass deflected off flanker Ryan Achterhoff and into the hands of Switzer.

Three plays later Groom found Reed open down the middle with single coverage and hit him at the Northwestern 45. Reed drew a helping block from split end An-

dre Nelson and raced to the goal untouched.

"It was an audible call by Kelly (Groom)," Reed said. "He saw there was no free safety over there and called for me to run a post pattern to the right. On the second touchdown, I faked a post and went toward the outside. We had real good protection on that one. Kelly had all day to throw."

Northwestern was frustrated on its second possession, a 76-yard march to the Jewell 4-yard line. McKinstrey hung the ball while throwing back to his right, and Newman picked off the interception.

Northwestern, trailing 21-0, drove 62 yards to the Jewell 6 just before halftime but settled for the field goal. After trimming the deficit to 21-10 in the fourth quarter, the Red Raiders reached the Cardinals' 23. On second and 1 Northwestern had a first down in hand on an 11-yard run by Jim Svoboda, but he fumbled and Taylor recovered.

McKinstrey's 33-yard screen pass to wide receiver Kevin Rohlfs to the Jewell 30 set the stage for the Northwestern touchdown early in the fourth quarter. A 29-yard pass-interference penalty against Newman in the end zone put the ball on the 1, and McKinstrey swept left for the score.

Northwestern had a final threat after recovering a Groom fumble on the Jewell 32 with 8 minutes, 55 seconds left. McKinstrey completed a 12-yard pass to the 20, then tried to go deep on first down and was intercepted by Taylor.