

Local colleges

William Jewell, Baker duel at the top in football

By Bill Richardson

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Appearances in national post-season competition made it a big year for the William Jewell and Baker football teams and the University of Missouri-Kansas City women's basketball team.

Jewell set a record for National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II competition by making the playoffs a fourth straight year. But a 30-12 loss to eventual champion Northwestern of Iowa in the semifinals left the Cardinals still looking for their first national title.

Baker had its best season in modern history, going undefeated and registering six shutouts. Included was a 10-0 victory over Jewell. The Wildcats, ranked No. 2 in Division II, lost to Pacific Lutheran 35-3 in the semifinals.

The UMKC women's team, bolstered by several Kansas area high school stars who returned home after starting their careers at major colleges, posted a

30-5 record and won the third-place game of the NAIA's national eight-team tournament at Kemper Arena.

Another third-place winner in the NAIA was the Fort Hays State men's team, which had a losing record the season before. The Tigers from Hays, Kan., swept unbeaten through the Central States Conference race and compiled a 30-4 record, including a victory over top-ranked Chaminade of Hawaii in the NAIA's third-place game at Kemper.

Central Missouri State continued its climb in football by gaining a share of the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association title. Washburn of Topeka pulled off the Cinderella football story of the year among Kansas-Missouri schools by going from 1-9 in 1982 to 8-2 and the Central States football championship in 1983. Park College continued its domination of track and cross country in NAIA District 16, and William Jewell's baseball team reached the NAIA's national tournament.