

Colleges (William Jewell)

Cards young and excited

Stan McGarvey, second-year football coach at William Jewell, believes this year's team is the greatest group of young men that he has ever worked with.

"The attitude of the players on this team is outstanding," informed McGarvey. "We're terribly young—but excited."

McGarvey will have his work cut out for him this season because the Cardinals are indeed a very young football club—and they play in the Heart of America Conference, one of the best in the land.

"I'd say our conference, on a smaller level, is comparable with the Big Eight and Pac 10 on a larger scale," said McGarvey. "There are some sound football teams in the conference this season."

The conference coaches selected the Cards for a third place finish this year, but McGarvey is hoping for more improvement over last year's 2-4 mark.

"We have 10 crucial ball games this year and our freshmen will play a big part for us," he said. "Our depth is really our freshmen and how good we can be depends on how early we mature."

The Cardinals finished 14th in the nation in rushing last season and figure to have a sound ground game again—if David Cunningham recovers soon from a leg injury. The fullback churned out over 1,300 yards last year, second leading rusher in the NAIA.

Vic DeVault and Mark Cline will take over a running back in the early going.

Mark Capri returns at quarterback and McGarvey says he is a different player this year.

"He's worked real hard this summer and he will be a different player," McGarvey said. "We're expecting a lot from him."

The Cards will run a wide open offense from the veer and McGarvey said that Jewell will put points on the board.

On defense they will be attacking the offense, trying to force the turnover. The Cards will be in a 50 defense, a variation of a 3-4 setup.

"We have to be mentally prepared for each game, because we are so young," explained McGarvey. "We won't be a fancy team—we'll stick with the basics."

The Cardinals' boss said in the conference race, but he believes Baker University added that Ottawa may be the dark horse.