

Jewell Provides WU With Stern Challenge

By Dave Dorr
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Backyard squabbling of the jaw-to-jaw combat variety on the football field isn't all bad. It can generate rivalries that are out of sight.

That is to say, when Washington University and William Jewell College square off at Francis Field tomorrow at 7 p.m., it could best be described as being in the take-no-prisoners category.

The Bears, digging in with sharpened claws so as to get the Ken Henderson regime off on solid footing, are 1-1 and, most important, don't consider themselves a soft touch. Those days are a thing of the past on the Hilltop.

Jewell, as usual, is loaded. The Cardinals are 4-0, ranked sixth in the country in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II poll and have a roster dotted with St. Louisans. For that reason alone, the game commands more than a cursory glance locally.

"It is a big game for us," said Jewell Coach Stan McGarvey. "It is a big game for our alums; we have a lot of them in St. Louis. We'll be bringing a lot of St. Louis players with us."

Jewell has picked off a number of area athletes of late, a trend that Henderson would like to reverse. Recruiting has been placed at the highest priority level by Henderson and his staff and if they can stop the exit of St. Louisans to outstate points in Missouri, the chances are that Henderson will soon shape a program akin to that of McGarvey. That, at the minimum, is Henderson's projection.

"I like playing people like this," Henderson said of Jewell, "because we have everything to gain. When you play them, you also play tradition. These next two games (Wabash is the other, at WU on Oct. 11) can make us a bonafide college football program."

If the Bears win both, of course. Jewell has made a habit of handling the Bears and that's the thing Henderson is trying to get turned around. Despite an

offensive line that is as green as grass, the Cardinals showed championship grit by coming from behind to win their last two games.

Jewell was down to Doane College by three touchdowns, but surged to win, 24-21, at Crete, Neb., last week with a defense that limited Doane to 38 total yards in the second half. It was an interception by linebacker Steve Mattingly (Chaminade High) that sealed the victory.

"We went into the season feeling that the defense would have to carry us till our younger people could gain maturity," said McGarvey.

It has, with Mattingly, strong safety Bruce Hill (O'Fallon, Mo.), safety Lonnie Bruns (St. Clair) and outside linebacker Troy Mitchell (Hannibal) being the sturdiest of the starters.

Jewell attacks with quarterback Kelly Groom, a 6-foot sophomore who is

averaging 102.5 yards passing this season, and 200-pound senior running back David Cunningham of Louisiana, Mo. He has rushed for 670 yards on 85 carries and has scored four TDs.

Backing up Groom is Andre Nelson, the quarterback on Webster Groves High's Class 4A state championship team of a year ago. Southwest High's Fernandars "Scoot" Gillespie is scheduled to start at a running back spot tomorrow. DeSmet's Dan Christian is playing on the specialty teams. His dad is Bob Christian, the Spartans' head football coach.

While the Bears do not stand in awe of Jewell, they'll not be foolhardy.

"You play possession football," said Henderson. "If they're in your territory you go by the book or they'll getcha. If it's fourth-and-one, you punt. No gambles. No funny stuff. We're going after 'em."

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