

William Jewell could again play role of spoiler

Baker mapping out another fine year

By United Press International

Most college graduates welcome the chance to return to their alma mater each fall for a football game or two.

But not Charlie Richards. At least not any more after having made two very costly trips back to his alma mater William Jewell for football games last fall.

The first visit cost Richards, who was in his first year as the head coach of Baker University, both a No. 1 national ranking and an unblemished record when his previously unbeaten Wildcats were tied by Jewell, 10-10, on the ninth weekend of the season.

The second visit came two weeks later when his Wildcats were paired against their fellow Heart of America Athletic Conference co-champion in the quarterfinal round of the NAIA Division II playoffs. Baker fell to Jewell in that one, 20-17, to finish the season 9-1-1.

Richards has the material this season to compete again for the national championship — and his task will be a bit easier this fall because William Jewell must travel to Baker for their only scheduled meeting Nov. 7.

"I've sent a map up to William Jewell to make sure they know how to get down to Baldwin City (Baker campus)," says Richards, a 1963 graduate of Jewell. "We had to make the trip up to their place a few too many times last year. We don't want them to forget where we are."

Baker must absorb the loss of five all-conference players, including All-America defensive end Emory Hamilton. "We said all along he was a major college player and he proved it — he transferred to Florida State this year," said Richards.

But the Wildcats return five other all-conference

players and further bolstered themselves with a flood of transfers, including three from NCAA level schools — defensive tackle Danny Lee from West Virginia, defensive back Rudy Booker from Tennessee State and running back Ric Nepote from Northern Iowa.

Baker has also added three potential contributors from upstate NAIA Division I member Washburn University: quarterback Jerry Rauschelback (who threw 53 passes in one game last season), 6-4, 230-pound defensive end Joe Meyer and All-CSIC defensive backpunter Kevin Cummings.

Here's the rundown of the remaining eight schools in their projected order of finish according to the coaches' poll:

William Jewell: Vic Wallace makes his debut as head coach of the Cardinals and the first thing he must do is find a replacement for All-America fullback David Cunningham, who finished second in the nation in rushing last season with 1,500 yards. Jewell might depend more on the pass this season with quarterback Kelly Groom, who threw for 1,939 yards in 1980.

Missouri Valley: Ken Gibler is in his 14th year as head coach and he has guided the Vikings to at least a share of six of the last eight HOA titles. Quarterback Trent Mitchell returns and Missouri Valley will also rely heavily on the talent off its 1980 junior varsity squad that went 8-0 and allowed only 15 points.

Graceland: All-conference quarterback Russell Burch, who threw for 2,000 yards and 19 touchdowns, heads the list of 11 returning offensive starters from a 6-3 finisher of a year ago. But Graceland must play at both Baker and Missouri Valley this season.

Ottawa: This will be the last year for the Braves in the

HOA because they'll be transferring allegiance to the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference in 1982. "We hope to get out alive," says Coach Nyle Salmans. "This will be the last chance these teams have to beat up on Ottawa." The strength of the Braves will be its secondary, which returns intact after having posted a school record 30 interceptions last season.

Central Methodist: The Eagles finished a humble 2-8 last year but Coach Don Shinnick feels his veteran offense "will be able to move the ball against anybody." The reason? Four starters return along the offensive line as well as the passing combination of quarterback Craig Brown and All-America end Chuck Thole.

Mid-America Nazarene: Coach Gordon DeGraffenreid is 9-16 in the three-year history of Nazarene's football program and he hopes to ride the skills of quarterback Tim Baker and of defensive backs Al Carlson and Russ Draper this year for his first .500 finish. "We're building," says DeGraffenreid. "I just hope we're building fast enough to satisfy the administration."

Culver-Stockton: Coach Vince Okruch learned one valuable lesson in his debut last year. "We lacked the depth to play with the Missouri Valleys, Bakers and William Jewells," he says. To remedy that problem, Okruch recruited 58 freshmen for the 1981 season.

Tarkio: First-year Coach Scott Swofford inherits the nation's longest losing streak — 27 games. In addition, the Owls haven't won a conference game in three years. "We want to do three things this year," Swofford says. "First, we want to earn the respect of the players and coaches around the league. Second, we want to give a 60-minute effort each game. And third, we want to break the losing streak..."