

Burch's field goal gives Cardinals tie

By Bill Richardson

sports writer

Two perfect football records ended Saturday when Baker and William Jewell fought to a dramatic 10-10 tie in Liberty.

The duel between the unbeaten Heart of America Conference teams, played before a capacity crowd of more than 6,000

Heart of America

fans, reached its emotional peak when freshman Jerry Burch kicked a 49-yard field goal for Jewell with 28 seconds remaining in the game.

Considering the circumstances, and the absence of its leading rusher, David Cunningham, because of an ankle injury, Jewell was elated to get a tie. The tie probably won't hurt either team in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II playoff picture.

Baker, 8-0-1, went into the game ranked No. 2 and Jewell, 9-0-1, No. 4. Each has one game remaining before the NAIA selects eight teams a week from today for the Division II playoffs.

Baker, which was averaging 59.9 points a game this year, was not happy about the deadlock.

"Our kids are down," said Baker Coach Charlie Richard. "We thought we should have won. I guess that's natural when you feel you have the game won and somebody comes back to tie you."

Quarterback Chuck Ervin probably summed up the feelings of his Baker teammates. "We beat ourselves. They got all the breaks. As you could see, the way they were jumping up and down after the field goal, they were happy with the tie. We weren't."

The teams went into the game ranked 1-2 nationally in total offense in NAIA statistics. The Wildcats from Baldwin, Kan., gained 321 yards rushing in the

hard-hitting battle. Jewell rushed for 191. Baker led in total offense 391-269.

Tailback Anthony Flanders gained 183 yards on 22 carries to lead Baker. Fullback Taylor Gill added 117 yards on 26 carries.

After a scoreless first quarter, Baker drove to the Jewell 5 but failed to cash in when a 22-yard field-goal attempt by barefooted kicker Tony Butts was wide.

Jewell, behind the running of junior halfback Vic Davolt, went ahead 7-0 in the second quarter on a 90-yard drive. Davolt's 41-yard run to the Baker 25 was the big play.

The drive almost died after a holding penalty, but 18 seconds before the half ended, Kelly Groom rolled left and threw a 16-yard pass to Marty Hensley in the end zone. Burch kicked the extra point.

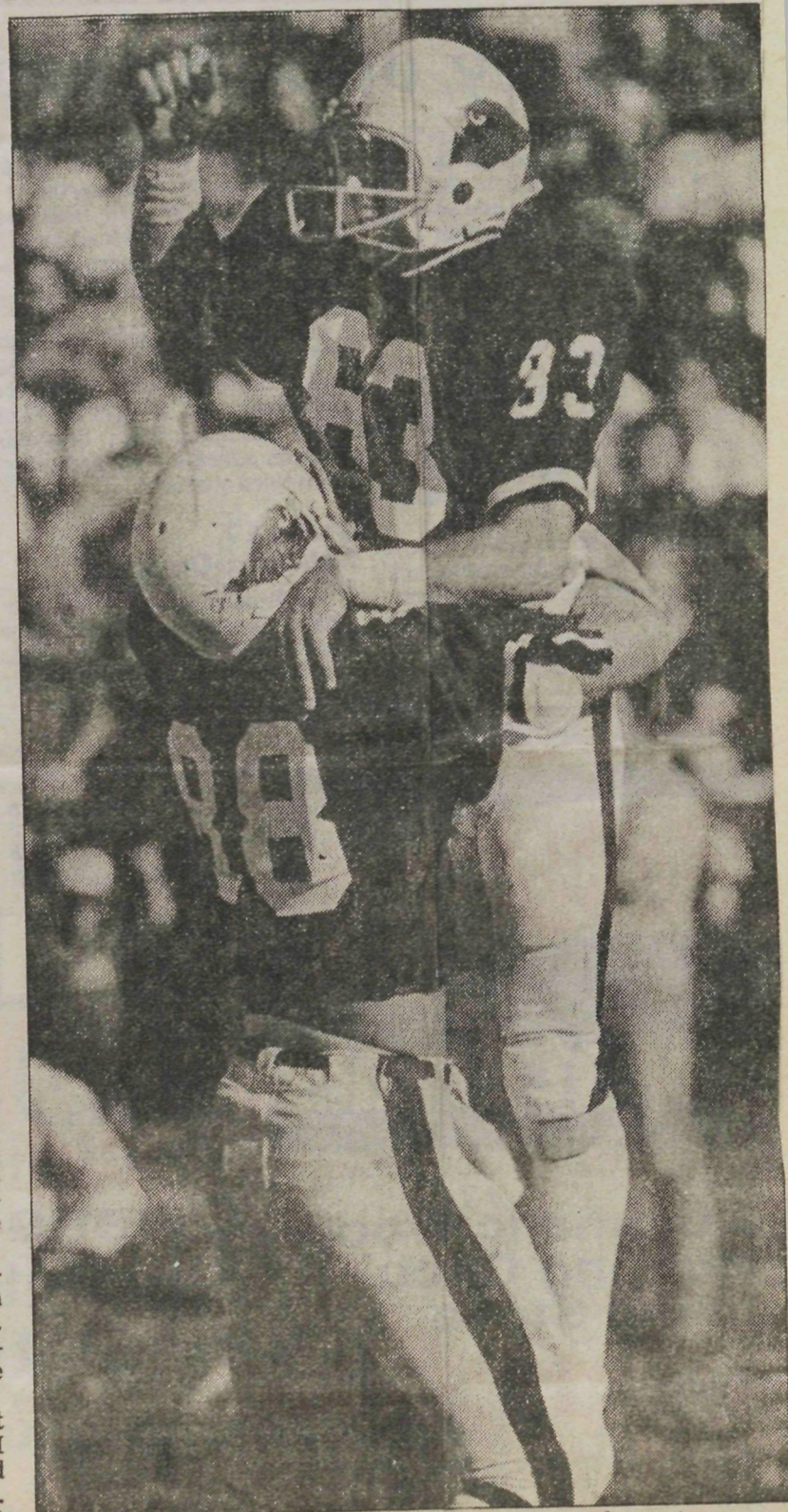
Baker went on the attack in the third quarter, moving 91 yards to gain a 7-7 tie. Ervin teamed with Bates for a 35-yard completion on third-and-9 from the Baker 10 for the key play.

A pass interference penalty against Jewell at the 1 set up Gill's plunge for the touchdown.

Butts gave Baker a 10-7 lead late in the third quarter with a 48-yard field goal. The Wildcats had a chance to lock up the game on a fourth-quarter drive to the Jewell 13. But on fourth down, a pass intended for Bates in the end zone was incomplete.

Jewell had two late opportunities, the first misfiring when Burch missed a 42-yard field goal. But the freshman kicker was accurate with a high floater on the Cards' last opportunity.

"My timing was off on the first one," Burch said. "The last one, I took my time and followed through and it was straight. There was some pressure, but not as much as I've felt in past games."



Scott Martin celebrates William Jewell's second-quarter touchdown by lifting teammate Marty Hensley. (staff photo by Jim McTaggart)