

Jewell's Nov. 5 game with Benedictine marked the Cardinals' 26th straight game at home without a loss.

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Cardinals climb into playoffs

William Jewell projected itself into the NAIA Division II football playoffs for the fourth consecutive year by trouncing Tarkio, 41-0, Saturday in a Heart of America Conference game in Tarkio.

The Cardinals scored all the points needed to win on their first possession. Quarterback Scott Sandridge, a graduate of North Kansas City High School, ran 19 yards for the touchdown. The series may have proved costly, however, as Sandridge suffered a knee strain. His status for the playoffs is unknown.

Paul Troth replaced Sandridge

and guided the Cards into position for Dave Riley's 27-yard field goal, which increased Jewell's first-quarter lead to 9-0.

The Cardinals buried the Owls under a 22-point barrage in the second period. Senior running back Steve Hodges, the game's leading rusher with 105 yards on 10 carries, scored from the eight, then tossed a 42-yard halfback pass to Jimi Reed. Troth ran for a two-point conversion after Reed's score. The Cards had missed two-point tries after their first two touchdowns.

Troth ran nine yards to score, then

passed to Jeff Gorley for the conversion and a 31-0 halftime advantage.

In the third quarter, Scoop Gillespie picked up the bulk of his 98 rushing yards by breaking loose on a 60-yard scoring run. Riley added the extra point, then closed the scoring with a 39-yard field goal.

Jewell piled up 543 total yards, including 382 rushing, in lifting its final conference mark to 5-1-1. Baker won the conference with a 7-0 record.

The Cardinal defense held the Owls to two rushing yards and 116 passing.

The NAIA playoffs open Saturday. Jewell, 8-1-1 and ranked seventh, hosts Wilmington, Ohio, 8-1 and ranked fourth, at 1 p.m. in Liberty.

Linfield, Ore., which downed the Cards for last year's national championship, did not qualify for the playoffs after finishing 7-2. The other quarterfinalists are Baker at Pacific Lutheran; Westminster, Pa. at Findlay, Ohio; and St. Thomas, Minn. at top-ranked Northwestern of Iowa.

The semifinals will be December 3, the finals December 10.