

**Fur and feathers to fly...**

# Cards clash with 'Cats in title game

by Scott Burton

Two of the country's best will square off tomorrow afternoon in McMinnville, Ore. to determine a new national champion in Division II of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics football playoffs.

Sixth-rated William Jewell College of Liberty, Mo. (10-1) will challenge second-ranked Linfield, Ore. (11-0) with the winner claiming rights to boast number one status.

"It feels great," said Jewell Coach Vic Wallace. "We've talked about doing this all season and now we've got a chance to win it all."

William Jewell, 23-10 winners over top-ranked Northwestern College of Orange City, Iowa last Saturday, is making their third post season appearance in as many years. Linfield, a 37-9 victor over Westminster, Penn. last weekend, is making their eighth NAIA playoff appearance.

"We know they're a pretty good ballclub," said Linfield offensive Coach Wes Suan. "They're good or they wouldn't be here."

The Wildcats, champions of the Northwest Conference, are coached by 16-year veteran Ad Rutschman. Rutschman has posted a career record of 121-31-2.

"I don't think this team of Rutschman's has quite as much talent as playoff teams of the past," said Suan. "We've had our ups and downs all season. Injuries have given us a battle as well."

Linfield, finishing second in the 1961 and 1965 NAIA playoffs, will be without the services of running back Mike Freeman. Freeman suffered stretched ligaments in his right ankle in first round play against California Lutheran.

"Freeman was a big loss," said Suan. "He was a big part of the offense. We had lost Robert Davis (knee) earlier in the season. We'll go with two freshmen tomorrow."

Those two freshmen, Danny Prowell and Dino Gipaya, have seen limited action. Prowell has rushed for 372 yards in 81 carries. Gipaya will be starting his first collegiate game.

doing what it takes to keep winning."

Jewell, Heart of America Athletic Conference champions, is playing for their first ever national title. "We're happy to be there," said Wallace. "I can't say enough for all the

## Extra Card lost in Lobo shuffle

Running back Scoop Gillespie is known for keeping the Cardinal bench on their toes during the progress of William Jewell football games. Gillespie encourages his teammates to keep the "12th" man (referring to the Jewell bench) alive and well.

What Gillespie didn't realize four weeks ago in Alpine, Tex. was that Jewell defensive back Brian Fairchild would become a "real" 12th man. The mistake nearly cost the Redbirds a triple-overtime victory in quarterfinal play of the NAIA playoffs against Sul Ross State University.

"We were in our goal line defense," said Fairchild. "It was my fault. After we broke the huddle I realized that I had made a mistake, but it was too late."

The Cardinals, who play for the NAIA Division II National Championship tomorrow afternoon in McMinnville, Ore. against Linfield, had taken a 44-37 lead in the third overtime period. Sul Ross bounced back to score on Andrew Hill's four-yard touchdown run. Sul Ross then opted to go for a two-point conversion and try for a victory.

Lobo quarterback Larry Hill's conversion pass was incomplete, but Fairchild's presence in the Jewell secondary gave Sul Ross a second chance from the 1½-yard line.

"I was scared," Fairchild shook his head. "I could just see them (Sul Ross) making the conversion and winning the game on their second try. I thought that if Sul Ross did score that nobody in the world would talk to me again. I wondered if I'd have to transfer."

The Lobos failed to score on the second conversion try and Jewell emerged a one-point victor. "I was happy," said Fairchild. "It not only feels great to think about surviving against Sul Ross, but it's great to be playing for the national title tomorrow."

Fairchild, a reserve from Clinton, Mo., admits that he's made it a point to double check since the mistake. "I had never done that type of thing before," he said. "I'm happy about the playoffs. I am a little disappointed with myself for the fault. I kinda' wondered (if Sul Ross had won) if it would be the last day of my life."

"The injuries have hurt us to an extent," continued Suan. "We've struggled with the injuries all year, but we've still been able to mix it up offensively. We'll run from the I-formation and the strong wing. We've been

fans and people that have helped make this possible."

Linfield, 9-2 a year ago and competing in the Oregon Bowl, competes against conference foes Pacific Lutheran, Willamette,

Whitworth, Lewis and Clark and Pacific College in regular-season play. Pacific Lutheran, the top-rated team in Division II of the NAIA last year, was eliminated by Jewell 19-14 in 1981 quarterfinal play in Liberty.

"They (Linfield) play some good opponents," said Wallace. "We're expecting a good football game."

The Wildcats are led by quarterback Randy Mueller. Mueller has thrown for over 1700 yards and 16 touchdowns.

"Mueller has helped us to execute in the playoffs," said Suan. "We did fumble in our first two possessions against Westminster, but we bounced back from a 9-0 deficit."

Jewell, with Steve Hodges rushing for 146 yards and a touchdown, raced to a 21-0 lead in their semifinal win over Northwestern. Cardinal quarterback Kelly Groom tossed two TD passes to Jimi Reed.

"We don't know that much about Jewell," said Suan. "I think their offense looks pretty good. Defensively, Jewell's two interior linemen (Jan Redmond and Guy Weber) look very good."

Wallace is expected to go with Jewell's usual backfield of Groom (QB), Hodges and Scoop Gillespie. The trio have been the heart of Jewell's offensive ground attack all season.

"We've heard some things about the consistency of Jewell's backfield," added Suan. "I'm expecting both teams to play their guts out. It's the final game of the year and the winner is the national champion."

Last year's Division II co-champions, Concordia, Minn. and Austin, Tex., did not make this year's playoffs. The 1980 champion Pacific Lutheran, was eliminated by Linfield during regular-season play.

Tomorrow's Jewell-Linfield kickoff is set for 12:30 Pacific Standard Time (2:30 Central Standard Time).