

Jewell braces for semifinal game

By Bill Richardson
A Member of the Sports Staff

If William Jewell and Northwestern of Iowa are tied at the end of regulation play in their National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II semifinal football game today, they'll take a 3-minute break and then resume action.

Jewell and Northwestern, which meet at 1 p.m. at Greene Stadium on the Jewell campus in Liberty, will use a tie-breaking system especially adopted for the first two rounds of the NAIA playoffs. If there is a tie in the title game, the finalists are declared co-champions.

Here's how the tie-breaker system works:

After a coin flip to determine possession, a team puts the ball in play at the opponents' 20-yard line with first down and 10 yards to go. If the offensive team makes a first down, it keeps the ball until it scores, loses possession on a turnover or runs out of downs.

The offensive team can score a touchdown and go for a one-point or two-point conversion, or kick a field goal.

After the first team has completed its possession, the other team goes through the same process from the opponents' 20. A period is completed when both teams have gone through an offensive possession. If the game remains tied, the process is continued. The defensive team is not allowed to score on an interception or a fumble recovery. It is remotely possible to score a safety.

Jewell went through three overtimes before defeating Sul Ross State of Texas 44-43 two weeks ago. The Cardinals scored a touchdown and kicked an extra point on their first possession but were matched by Sul Ross State. Neither team scored in the second extra period. Jewell scored in the third extra period on a touchdown and extra-point kick, then stopped Sul Ross on a two-point conversion that ended the game.

Jewell Coach Vic Wallace, who agonized through the tie-breaker ordeal in Texas, says he prefers the NAIA format over a type used by high schools in which play begins on the 10-yard line.

"Starting from the 20 allows you to use your whole offense, your whole defense and kicking game — all the strategies," Wallace said. "The high school rule is not a test of your whole offense. It's a question of how good is your goal-line offense, or defense. From the 10-yard line, you can't get a

first down. You can when you start from the 20, and that adds to the strategy."

Wallace said that given the choice on going on offense or defense first, he would take defense.

"That way, you know what you have to do when you get the ball," Wallace said. "If the other team scored a field goal, then you know you can win the game by scoring a touchdown. I think the team with the ball last has the advantage. It was like that at Sul Ross State. We held them scoreless in the second overtime period, and that put us in position to win the game with a field goal. Unfortunately for Jewell, it was blocked."

The more immediate concern facing Wallace and the Cardinals today is staying with the high-powered Northwestern offense. During the regular season, Northwestern averaged 497 yards a game, scored an NAIA-season

high of 515 points and set four NAIA passing records.

Northwestern quarterback Lee McKinstrey, who passed for 37 touchdowns and ran for 11 more, directs the Red Raiders' attack.

"Northwestern has excellent running backs and that helps their passing game," Wallace said. "With his running game so strong, McKinstrey uses play-action passes most of the time. That can force you to leave your underneath coverage."

Jewell, which is in the NAIA Division II semifinals for the third straight year, has a 9-1 record. The Cardinals' strengths are their defensive front led by tackle Guy Weber, the power running of Steve Hodges and Scoop Gillespie and the passing and option running of quarterback Kelly Groom.

Northwestern, 12-0, is in the playoffs for the fifth time.

Linfield wins, will face Jewell

By The Associated Press

McMinnville, Ore.— Quarterback Randy Mueller ran for two touchdowns and passed for a third on Saturday as Linfield rolled over Westminster of Pennsylvania 37-9 in the semifinals of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II football playoffs.

Linfield, 11-0, plays William Jewell of Missouri in the championship game on Saturday at McMinnville.

Westminster, 9-2 and winner of three previous national championships, jumped to a quick 9-0 lead, taking advantage of two Linfield fumbles.

Linfield took the lead for good on a 1-yard run by freshman Dino Gipaya with 6:01 left in the first half, then broke the game open with two touchdowns in the third quarter.

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