

Jewell players try to keep lid on as they near top

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Only one game stands between William Jewell College and its first national football championship.

After losing in the semifinals of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II playoffs the last two years, the Cardinals qualified for the title game Saturday with a 23-10 victory over Northwestern College of Iowa.

In the championship game, William Jewell, 10-1, will meet Linfield, 11-0, Saturday in McMinnville, Ore., at 2:30 p.m. Central time. Linfield defeated Westminster (Pa.) 37-9 in a semifinal game Saturday.

"This is what we've been waiting for the last three years," Jewell defensive end Jerry Twigg said. "Winning the national championship has been our main goal. It's our last hurdle."

Although the Cardinals are assured of the most prestigious season in their football history, the players have been reserved about celebrating.

"We've just got to keep everything normal for another week," defensive tackle Guy Weber said. "We can't celebrate too much. I think our inexperience hurt us in the playoffs before."

"Now, we've been together so long and that has helped us out. We'll be up for the championship game. But we've got to keep playing our normal game, doing the things we've been doing all year."

Jewell used seven interceptions as a springboard in shutting down Northwestern, the NAIA's most prolific offensive team. In addition, the Cardinals' defensive unit sacked quarterback Lee McKinstrey six times and recovered two fumbles.

"We knew this game would be decided by who had the best defense," Jewell Coach Vic Wallace said. "You can't go out and outscore everybody."

We made some defensive adjustments as the game went along. We thought that Northwestern would run the ball more at first, and we were concentrating a bit more on stopping their running game.

"After we saw what they were going to do for the day — passing as much as they did — we made some adjustments. We changed our secondary coverage and our linebacker drops some. We went to more of a pro 4-3 defense and covered the tight end better. The tight end was open a lot in their first series."

"We shifted linebacker Steve Mattingly over to be head up on the tight end. Bob Beatty, our assistant coach who calls the defensive signals, made

the adjustment on the sideline, and it worked really well for us."

Northwestern, which finished 12-1, fell behind Jewell 21-0 before scoring on a field goal as time expired in the first half. It marked the first time this year that Northwestern had trailed in a game.

"We just made some mistakes at crucial times," Northwestern Coach Larry Korver said. "We moved the ball early, but we didn't put it in like we usually do. You have to give them credit on the interceptions. They were where they needed to be."

Linfield, in the NAIA playoffs for the eighth time, also will be seeking its first national title. The Wildcats, who lost to Pittsburg State 12-7 in the

1961 championship game in Sacramento, Calif., have a 5-7 record in the playoffs.

In regular-season play this year, Linfield defeated Southern Oregon 27-13, Western Washington 41-21, Eastern Oregon 30-10, Oregon Tech 40-35, Pacific 41-0, Lewis and Clark 20-16, Willamette 43-14, Whitworth 49-14 and Pacific Lutheran 27-7. Linfield has defeated California Lutheran 20-16 and Westminster 37-9 in the playoffs.