



Associated Press

Jewell running back Scoop Gillespie follows block by teammate Mike Johnson.

Jewell takes NAIA playoff win

By **DON REED**

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LIBERTY, Mo. — William Jewell safety Mike Newman said Wilmington College caused its own demise in the first round of the NAIA Division II playoffs Saturday.

"They laughed at us, our size, at the banquet last (Friday) night," Newman said. "They twisted our arm the wrong way. That was exactly what this team needed."

Newman took particular exception to the Ohio team's attitude, and intercepted three passes to lead the No. 7 Cardinals to a 51-7 upset victory over the No. 3 Quakers.

The victory also avenges a 31-17 loss to Wilmington in the 1980 semifinals. That loss, 29 games ago, was the last time William Jewell lost here at Greene Stadium.

William Jewell's defense kept that streak alive Saturday by holding the Quakers to just 52 yards rushing and 86 passing.

"We were very concerned, looking at Wilmington's record (8-1), the players they have, that our defense would be pushed to the limit," Cardinal Coach Vic Wallace said after his team raised its record to 9-1-1.

The Cardinals will play at home again in the semifinals Dec. 3

against top-ranked Northwestern, Iowa.

While Jewell's defense shut down Wilmington, the Cardinal offense was just as awesome and finished with 325 yards rushing and 181 passing.

Senior quarterback Scott Sandridge and running back Scoop Gillespie each rushed for two touchdowns to lead the scoring binge.

In addition, Gillespie and backfield mate Steve Hodges each had 100-yard-plus games. Gillespie ran the ball 20 times for 126 yards, and Hodges picked up 128 yards on 22 carries, including a 1-yard touchdown run.

Sandridge completed seven of 15 passes, and was voted the offensive MVP for his efforts.

Not surprisingly, Newman earned the defensive honors for his three thefts. Newman said his team's five interceptions off Wilmington senior Jim Sposet were a result of several things.

"He's a good quarterback but our line was putting the pressure on him. He was confused with our coverages and sometimes I could tell he wished he hadn't thrown the ball," Newman assessed.

Two of Newman's interceptions set up second-half touchdowns that padded Jewell's 20-6 halftime lead, and turned the game into a blowout.

After a Robert Brinser punt pinned the Quakers at the 9 late in the third quarter, the Cardinal defense took over. Sposet's third-down pass for Kevin Eberhardt was grabbed by Newman at the 35 and returned down to the Quaker 7-yard line. Gillespie picked up 5 yards off right tackle on first down, and got the ball on the same call the next play and squirted into the end zone. Dave Riley kicked the extra point to boost Jewell's lead to 27-7 with 2:11 left in the quarter.

Sposet, who completed just 6 of 28 passes, tried again to hit Eberhardt two plays later and Newman picked the ball off at Wilmington's 40 and brought it down to the 22. This time it took Jewell three plays to hit paydirt, with Hodges going the final yard on the last play of the third quarter. Riley's kick made the score 34-7 and the rout was on.

Defensive back Cory Wohlford intercepted a Sposet aerial at the 35 to set up Jewell's next touchdown. Backup quarterback Paul Troth threw a 13-yard scoring strike to wide receiver Jimi Reed and Riley's kick made the score 41-7.

Troth threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to Reggie Hill minutes later to make the score 48-7, and Riley added a 35-yard field goal for the final score.