

¹³⁶ Jewell topples top team in NAIA quarterfinals

LIBERTY, Mo. — Five interceptions can really spoil a quarterback's afternoon — especially if the quarterback plays for the top-ranked team in the nation.

William Jewell College intercepted five of Kevin Skogen's passes as the Cardinals' defense sparkled in a 19-14 NAIA Division II quarterfinal playoff win Saturday afternoon over No. 1-ranked Pacific Lutheran University.

The Cardinals, ranked No. 2, are now 11-0 and advance to a semifinal game on Dec. 5 against Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Pacific Lutheran finishes the season 9-1.

The Lutes, from Tacoma, Washington, found the passing lanes both profitable and painful.

Skogen's accurate passing set up both Lutes' touchdowns.

But Skogen's errant passing set up most of Jewell's scoring. On two touchdown drives and one field goal drive, the Cardinals gained the ball via an interception.

Offensive player-of-the-game, Kelly Groom of William Jewell, threw 3- and 1-yard touchdown passes to Marty Hensley. Jerry Burch kicked field goals of 22 and 28 yards. Groom finished with 12-of-21 accuracy for 150 yards and no interceptions.

Skogen's 17-of-33 accuracy for 167 yards was comparable — except for the five interceptions. Credit Skogen's passing problems to a ferocious William Jewell defense. The Lutes gained only 24 yards rushing.

Skogen was quick to acknowledge the pressure of Jewell's defensive line.