

Jewell's '82 title chase to begin in Texas, where '81 hunt ended

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For the second straight year, William Jewell's football title hopes are riding on a trip to Texas.

The Cardinals fell out of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II playoffs last year with a loss to Austin College in Sherman, Texas.

William Jewell gets another chance at noon Saturday. The Cardinals, 8-1, are paired against Sul Ross State, 8-0, in Alpine, Texas, in the opening round of the NAIA Division II playoffs.

Other Division II playoff games Saturday match California Lutheran, 9-1, against Linfield (Ore.), 9-0, in

McMinnville, Ore.; St. John's (Minn.), 9-0, against Northwestern (Iowa), 11-0, in Orange City, Iowa; and Wilmington (Ohio), 8-1, vs Westminster (Pa.), 8-1, in New Wilmington, Pa.

Jewell, which topped the NAIA Division II poll for four straight weeks before losing to Mid-America Nazarene on Oct. 30, wound up sixth in the final rankings. The Cardinals were eighth last week. Findlay (Ohio) and Pacific Lutheran (Wash.), which were ranked ahead of the Cardinals last week, were defeated Saturday and dropped out of the top eight. William Jewell defeated Tarkio 48-7 in its last regular-season game Saturday.

Northwestern wound up as the No. 1 team, followed by Linfield, St. John's, Sul Ross State, California Lutheran, William Jewell, Westminster and Wilmington. The NAIA office in Downtown Kansas City considered travel costs and host-site availability in determining the pairings.

Jewell Coach Vic Wallace said Sunday that his players are not especially excited about making another trip to Texas. And he views that as a good omen.

"I think last year a lot of players were looking forward to the trip," Wallace said. "This year the total talk is about nothing but football. The players don't care where we go — to Baldwin, Kan., or Alpine, Texas.

They're just interested in going down there to win a ballgame."

The Cardinals will have plenty of time to think about traveling Friday, when they leave for South Texas. Wallace said the team plans to take a commercial flight to El Paso, Texas, and go by bus the remaining 175 miles to Alpine.

Once they take the field, the Cardinals expect to encounter a pass-minded opponent with a big fullback. All the information Wallace will have available on Sul Ross State will come from three game films and statistical sheets and rosters.

"The NAIA has arranged for us to exchange three game films," Wallace said. "We shipped our films out today

(Sunday) and we should get theirs at 10 o'clock (Sunday) tonight. For the playoffs, the NAIA doesn't allow us to do any calling around and talk to coaching friends about Sul Ross State. All our scouting work has to come from films and statistical information."

It's the first time in the playoffs for Sul Ross State, a member of the five-team Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Its eight victories were scored against conference opponents in a double round-robin. The Lobos defeated Austin 23-21 and 32-25. Jewell lost to Austin 33-28 in the Division II semifinals last year.

Sul Ross also owns a 17-7 victory

over Nuevo Leon of Mexico. The NAIA office said it regards members' games against Mexican opponents as exhibitions because of a difference in eligibility standards.

In NAIA national statistics last week, Sul Ross quarterback Larry Hill ranked 10th in total offense with an average of 236 yards a game. His passing average was 253 yards a game. Losses on quarterback sacks are included in rushing figures in college statistics.

Fullback Andrew Hill, no relation to the quarterback, had 11 touchdowns in seven games and tailback Maurice Stephens had 42 catches for 509 yards and seven touchdowns.