



Sophomore runningback Maurice Stephens (14) broke two school and one conference pass receiving records as he pulled in 14 receptions for 134 yards

and a touchdown in the Lobos' 49-7 TIAA win over Lubbock Christian College.

by SRSU

Lobos open national championship quest with William Jewell here Saturday at noon

And then there were eight.

When the 1982 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II race started there were 97 teams vying for a playoff berth. That race is down to eight, including the number four ranked Sul Ross State University Lobos. And there hasn't been as much excitement in the air since the first train came through.

It's been 17 years since the Lobos were in a playoff game and they've never won one. But come Saturday at high noon SRSU Coach Joe George will try and improve on that record. Sul Ross and Alpine will host the number six ranked Division II team, the William Jewell Cardinals from Liberty, Mo.

The Cardinals will arrive in Alpine about 4 p.m. tomorrow after a flight to Midland. They will be staying at the Sunday House and will head straight for Jackson Field

for a workout after arrival.

Tomorrow night a banquet is planned at Mountainside Cafeteria for players, coaches and officials from both schools. A limited number of tickets are available to the public for the banquet. The tickets cost \$10 each and can be purchased at the Student Life office in the Administration Building on the Campus.

Some general admission tickets for the game were still available at presstime Wednesday but all reserve seats were sold. If any tickets are available at the gate Saturday they will be sold for \$6 each.

The banquet and game are both conducted by the NAIA. Wally Schwartz, who is associate executive director of the NAIA, is the game coordinator. Tarleton State Coach Buddy Fornes will be in charge of the game itself. Fornes will be representing the NAIA coaches association.

The three other quarterfinal games being played this weekend pit St. John's (Minnesota) against Northwestern in Orange City, Iowa; California Lutheran versus Linfield Oregon in McMinnville, Oregon and Wilmington (Ohio) against Westminster in New Wilmington, Penn.

The quarter-final winners will pair off on Dec. 4. The national final will be played Dec. 11.

George is looking for a game that will pit finesse against power as the Lobos take on the Cardinals.

"William Jewell is a physical team and that's the type of offense they run. They rely on the run and will try to beat you on the long pass. Sul Ross is more a finesse team, relying on the high percentage pass plays combined with a balanced running attack," George said.

The statistics seem to back him up. The Cardinals run slightly more than two running plays for every pass, rushing this season 443 times and passing 215 plays. The Lobos have thrown the ball 320 times and rushed for 313 plays.

The game will feature two of the top quarterbacks in the nation in the Lobos' Larry Hill, a 6-1, 190-lb. senior, and Cardinal signal caller Kelly Groom, a 6-0, 175-lb. senior.

Hill is ranked in the top 10 in the nation in total offense, averaging 243.6 yards a contest and is No. 6 in the nation in passing

with a 257.4-yard average.

While Groom is not ranked nationally in passing, he is 14th in total offense, averaging 210 yards a contest. He has passed for 1,615 yards on the season.

The Lobos' running attack will be led by fullback Andrew Hill, a 6-0, 210-lb. Lockhart junior, while runningback Steve Hodges, 5-10, 200-lb. junior, is the Cardinals' leading ground gainer.

A. Hill has carried the ball 158 times this season, picking up 575 yards for a 3.6-yard per carry average. Hodges has carried the ball 166 times for 760 yards for a 4.9 average.

The Lobos' top receiver is Maurice Stephens, 5-11, 170-lb Liberty Hill sophomore. He has pulled in 56 catches on the year

Defensively, the two teams are well matched in rushing-yard prevention. Both defenses are ranked in the top 10 nationally against the rush. The Cardinals are allowing 68.8 yards a game on the ground while the Lobos have held their opponents to 70.1 yards a game.

The pass defense could make the difference in the game. William Jewell has allowed 132 yards a game through the air while the Lobos have given up 203.2 yards a contest to the pass.

Sul Ross rolled to its second Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association title this year with an 8-0 record. William Jewell, winners of the Heart of America Conference, has an 8-1 record with their only loss coming to Mid-America Nazarene 9-7.

for 643 yards and eight touchdowns and is ranked as one of the top three receivers in the nation. For WJC, 6-3, 195-lb. junior wide receiver Jimi Reed is the leading receiver with 38 catches for 769 yards and two touchdowns.

The Lobos are averaging 404.9 yards a game total offense, and the Cardinals have 386.4 yards a game total offense. The Lobos have averaged 273.4 yards in passing and 127.7 yards rushing. The Cardinals average 203 yards through the air and 184 yards rushing.

Both teams are ranked in the top 10 in the nation in scoring offense with only one and a half points separating the two teams. Sul Ross is averaging 32.1 points a game, and WJC is averaging 33.6 points a contest.