

Pioneers hang on for 9-7 victory

Mid-America stuns top-rated Jewell

by Scott Burton

"If" was a common word added to William Jewell's vocabulary following last Saturday's 9-7 Heart of America Athletic Conference loss to Mid-America Nazarene College.

If the Cardinals had played like a top-ranked NAIA Division II power, if the Cardinals had regrouped after a dismal first half and if the Cardinals would have scored only one-third of their 38-point per game average the quest for an undefeated regular season would have continued.

But Mid-America Nazarene was playing football—not exactly championship caliber football, but football better than NAIA number one rated William Jewell.

"We played basically fundamental football," said Mid-America head Coach Gordon DeGraffenreid. "We made adjustments here and there and we went back to the basics."

William Jewell, 6-1 and snapping a 28-game regular season winning streak, never did get their nationally-ranked offense on track. The Cardinals were held to 23 yards of rushing offense and 155 yards in the air.

"We knew we didn't have the speed to completely stop a club like Jewell's," said DeGraffenreid. "We really started working hard a week prior to Jewell. The defense did a good job of containing the Jewell offense."

Mid-America, 4-4 overall and snapping a four-game losing streak, took advantage of a Jeff McGuire-mishandled punt-snap and drove 40 yards in 11 plays early in the first quarter. Glen Wesley capped the drive with a one-yard plunge. The extra point was blocked by Paul Taylor.

"I guess you could call this our bowl game," said a smiling Mid-America defensive Coach Curt Ammons. "We're not that deep personnel-wise like Jewell. But we did some things right and we realized Jewell might be a little down after a game like Baker. William Jewell had two big games prior to us (Missouri Valley and Baker) and it's easy to have a letdown."

Neither Jewell nor Mid-America could find the scoreboard following the Pioneers' 6-0 lead. Mid-America hung onto the six-point advantage at halftime.

"Our kids had a good approach the entire week prior to Jewell," echoed Pioneer defensive assistant Paul Stephens. "It's always

goal by Scott Daniels.

William Jewell, falling behind for the first time this season, threatened late in the third quarter inside the Mid-America 20 yard line. The Cardinals faced a fourth and six from the Pioneer 16 yard line and opted not to go for a field goal. Jewell quarterback Kelly Groom tried to find wide receiver

Jewell gets into the NAIA playoffs and wins the National Championship. It'll do nothing but say good things for the area and conference."

William Jewell scored its only points late in the fourth quarter. Groom directed a 65-yard, 10-play drive. Scoop Gillespie scored



Mid-America Nazarene celebrates last Saturday's 9-7 upset over formerly top-rated NAIA power William Jewell.

exciting to play a top-ranked team. We've had a disappointing season after winning our first three. We came close in some of our losses. It's a good feeling to beat somebody like William Jewell."

The Pioneers, with a football program only in its fifth year, took a 9-0 lead midway through the third quarter on a 46-yard field

Andre Nelson in the end zone, but the pass was incomplete, giving Mid-America the football on downs.

"It's great to knock off the number one team," said DeGraffenreid, "but I'm sorry it had to be William Jewell. They've got a great program and I respect Coach Vic Wallace and Jewell as much as anyone. I'm hoping

on a one-yard run and Steve Hudson kicked the extra point.

Jewell travels to Benedictine, Kan. (Atchison) tomorrow night for a non-conference game. Benedictine, rated in the NAIA Division II top twenty a good part of the year, has posted a 6-2 record. Kickoff is set for 7:30.