cardinal sports

October 1 1980

Second-ranked Redbirds chalk up another win

by Scott Burton

Quarterback Kelly Groom completed 19 of 26 passes for 386 yards in leading William Jewell to a 49-0 Heart of America Athletic Conference football victory over Central Methodist last Saturday.

Groom, who's led Jewell to a 23-0-1 regular season record the past three years, connected on nine of his first 10 attempts.

"Groom performed as well as he has in the past," said Cardinal offensive lineman Mike Rogers. "He's level-headed and he knows what to do. He does the job."

Scoop Gillespie's five-yard run midway through the opening quarter gave Jewell a 7-0 lead. The Cardinals used a 45-yard Jimi Reed flea-flicker pass to tight end Scott Martin minutes later for a 14-0 lead.

Jewell added two second quarter touchdowns that were set up by pinpoint passing from Groom. "He's (Groom) similar to a steering wheel on a car," laughed Rogers. "He steers the offense and keeps the engine running smoothly. He's a big part of the offensive machine."

The Cardinals, 3-0 overall and 2-0 in the HAAC, led 42-0 after three quarters. Running back Steve Hodges rushed 14 times for 85 yards.

"The backs go hard," added offensive lineman Mark Mundell. "It makes it easier for the line to go hard when we know the backs are going hard."

Central Methodist, 1-2 and 0-2, threatened only once in the contest. Following Jewell's opening touchdown, the Eagles marched inside the Cardinal 10 yard line, but a 29-yard field goal attempt was no good.

Rogers and Mundell both credit Groom for keeping the Jewell offense rolling. "Kelly prepares thoroughly before each game," said Rogers. "He does a great job."

"Groom is a triple threat," said Mundell.
"He can run, he can throw and he can be efficiently accurate. He comes through in so many situations."

Reserve quarterback Scott Sandridge passed 20 yards to Darrell Schwabe for Jewell's final touchdown.

"I think the team quickness as a whole is one reason we're playing well," said Mundell. "We've got the potential for a better football team than that of a year ago."

The Cardinals return home Oct. 9 to play Graceland College. Kickoff is set for 2 p.m.

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WJ-Scoop Gillespie 5 run (Steve Hudson)

WJ—Scott Martin 45 pass from Jimi Reed (Hudson kick)

WJ-Steve Hodges 2 run (Hudson kick)

WJ—Jeff Gourley 29 pass from Groom (Hudson kick)

WJ-Hodges 35 run (Hudson kick)

WJ-Hodges 2 run (Hudson kick)

WJ—Darrell Schwabe 20 pass from Scott Sandridge (Hudson kick)

Game Leaders

Rushing—Hodges 14-85, Gillespie 5-55 and Groom 4-20.

Passing-Groom 19-26, 386 yards.

Pass Receiving—Reed 9-204 and Hodges 3-50.

Remaining Schedule

Oct. 9 Graceland

Oct. 16 at Missouri Valley

Oct. 23 Baker University

Oct. 30 at Mid-America Nazarene

Nov. 6 at Benedictine

Nov. 13 Tarkio