

Red rage ignites

When you're hot; you're hot when you're not; you're not

By STEVE BOWMAN

Can you believe it? Four weeks ago the William Jewell football team was faced with their most disastrous season in years. After tying Missouri Valley and tasting a bitter defeat at the hands of Baker, the red rage had turned to a dead rage. Jewell had plummeted from first place to ninth in less than two weeks and their fans were beginning to wonder if the winning tradition-the playoff tradition-needed a Kelly Groom and a Guy Weber to continue.

But then the rage became red hot again, it's furnace stoked by sorely needed offensive firepower. Running backs Scoop Gillespie and Steve Hodges combined for more

than 550 yards in the next three games and wide receiver Jimi Reed burned cornerback after cornerback.

And Jewell's defense? They just kept up what they have been doing all season long, giving up only 9.8 points per game in ten games. Linebacker Tim Johnson and safety Mike Newman have led a defense that is not only stingy, but downright selfish.

The Cardinals continued the onslaught last Saturday, pummeling an embarrassed Wilmington 51-7 and advancing to a Dec. 3 semifinal contest with Northwestern (Iowa).

Still, Head Coach Vic Wallace was "definitely surprised" with the lopsided

score. "You're always surprised at something that overwhelming," he said.

According to Wallace, it is a case of the right things happening at the right time. "We are peaking. I don't think it's that we are red hot. That indicates that we'll cool off...We are playing as well as any team I have ever coached. Our offense and defense are both playing with hunger and enthusiasm, and our defense had the best effort they've had in the three years I've been here."

Wallace pointed out that in the Cardinal's last five games, including number two Baker and number three Wilmington, his offense has averaged 472 yards a game.

So, the next question in what four weeks ago looked like a highly questionable season is, will the Cardinals continue raging against Northwestern College? Jewell beat them last year, but also beat Baker and Missouri Valley.

"Northwestern's two biggest strengths are their whole offense, led by first-team All-American quarterback Lee McKinstrey," Wallace said.

"The second thing is their very complicated, aggressive defense. They are going to challenge us."

If the Cardinals continue their offensive scoring barrage (205 points in four games) McKinstrey and Co. have their work cut out for them.