

William Jewell rolls on to NAIA playoffs after clipping Wildcats 56-6

William Jewell walloped Culver-Stockton, 56-6, in the final regular season game for both teams. William Jewell now goes on to the NAIA playoffs.

The Cardinals controlled the game throughout, scoring on eight of the fifteen times that they had control of the ball, and rolling up 425 yards in offense, while the defense held C-S to 158 yards. One of the amazing statistics of the game, is that the Wildcats lost five yards in rushing on 28 carries.

Overall, it was not a very good day for the Wildcats, as they fell to a 4-6 final overall record, and 3-4 in conference. One bright spot was the passing of freshman quarterback Mike Whitacre, who threw for 163 yards on eight receptions, out of 20 attempts.

Whitacre, starting in place of injured quarterback junior Mike Musick, passed 11 times in the first half, completing four for 131 yards, before relinquishing the position to Musick, who played some in the third quarter.

Jewell's first score came on the first drive of the game, as they took the opening kick-off

60 yards downfield, on a drive that culminated with a one-yard keeper by sophomore quarterback Kelly Groom. Freshman Kelly Burche's first of eight extra points made it 7-0.

On the Wildcats' third play from scrimmage they tried a new formation, "the shotgun", which ended in a disaster, with center Sam Hargrave's hike going over the head of Whitacre. Senior George Ott punted from within his own end zone, Jewell scored on the very next play and that was pretty much the end of the game for Culver-Stockton.

The Wildcats only score of the game came in the third quarter. The Cardinals had scored a touchdown and the ensuing kick-off was returned by sophomore Bob Califf to Jewell's 49.

Musick then passed to sophomore Rich Allen for 20 yards and Bill Knitting for six to move the ball down to the 23. Musick then scrambled for 12 yards and handed off on the next play to Califf, who gained nine. Three plays later, junior Steve Bendell punched it across from the one. An attempt for a two-point

conversion came up short.

Even though the Wildcats lost this game, the final one of the year, the coaches, the players, and even the campus should be proud of the job that has been done this season. Coach Okruch came to C-S in the middle of July, with a very small number of recruits and did a superb job of guiding the team to its 4-6 record.

Happy over the fact that he came in late and did a good job, Okruch still feels that there is room for improvement. "We need to improve next year, but we play in a very tough conference, so it isn't going to be easy. We're going to have to get some people in here to fill the empty shoes of some of our graduated players and then we're going to have to get some more."

The coaching staff has already gotten down to the business of recruiting, over 300 people have been contacted already, about possibly playing at C-S. So hopefully the Wildcats can get the numbers in next year, that were so sorely missed this past season.