

Wilmington attack ousts Jewell 31-17

By Bill Richardson

sports writer

To say Wilmington College controlled the line of scrimmage in defeating William Jewell 31-17 Saturday would be an understatement.

The Ohions completely dominated it offensively, piling up 404 yards in 80 rushes while eliminating the Cardinals from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II football playoffs.

Wilmington was just as dominant on defense. William Jewell, which suffered its first defeat in 13 games and finished 11-1-1, collected only 11 yards in 21 rushing attempts.

Despite the one-sided rushing statistics, William Jewell held a 10-9 lead at the half and had a remote chance of getting back in the game in the fourth quarter. But the Cards' hopes faded when an onside kick after their second touchdown bounced away from a Jewell player and Wilmington recovered, preserving its victory.

The triumph before a crowd of about 3,000 (2,476 paid), at Greene Stadium on the William Jewell campus in Liberty sends Wilmington, 9-0-1, into the Division II championship game next Saturday against the Pacific Lutheran (Wash.), which beat Valley City (N.D.) 32-0 Saturday.

Sophomore halfback Gary Worthy and senior fullback Russell Williams combined for 358 yards rushing and accounted for all four of Wilmington's touchdowns. Worthy had 199 yards in 35 carries and touchdowns on runs of 2, 5 and 22 yards while Williams rushed for 159 yards in 29 carries, including a 39-yard touchdown burst.

Worthy was named the outstanding offensive player of the game while Jewell strong safety Bruce Hill, who had a 26-yard in-

terception return, was named the top defensive player.

"They just blew it down our throats," said Hill of Wilmington's domination. "They didn't beat us on a big play or anything, they just beat us by controlling the line of scrimmage. We were hitting people, but we weren't pushing them back. We were getting knocked backward."

Wilmington Coach Bill Ramseyer, a former member of the Missouri football staff, said he felt the key play for the Quakers came when Williams bolted 39 yards for their go-ahead score in the final 5 minutes of the third quarter. Wilmington added a 2-point conversion for a 17-10 lead.

"That was the turning point," Ramseyer said. "That run completely took it away from Jewell."

With power back David Cunningham bottled up for only 62 total yards (13 rushing, 49 receiving), Jewell had to depend on quarterback Kelly Groom's passing to have any kind of an offense.

Groom gave the Cards a 7-0 lead late in the first quarter on a 10-yard touchdown pass to tight end Scott Martin, and added a 22-yard touchdown completion to the same receiver in the fourth quarter. Martin caught the pass after it deflected off receiver Mike McGill.

McGill's 56-yard kickoff return set up a 21-yard field goal by Jerry Burch on the final play of the first half.

Wilmington's four touchdowns followed Jewell turnovers, the Quakers cashing in on three interceptions and a fumble recovery from 24, 37, 45 and 31 yards out. Jewell gained the ball four times on turnovers, three on interceptions.

Wilmington quarterback John Calhoun, a 6-foot-4, 231-pound senior, completed only 5 of 11 passes for 56 yards.