

Cardinal Sports Release



WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE • Liberty, Missouri 64068 • 816-781-3806, Ext. 255, 256

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Week #3

Hello, CARDINAL fans:

WHEW!!! What a game!! Every season ticket holder, every Cardinal fan, every alumni, every student, everyone has to be extremely proud of the WILLIAM JEWELL CARDINAL FOOTBALL TEAM after last Saturday's game. But WE did not buckle. In a miracle win, OUR CARDINALS defeated the Yellowjackets 14-10, in Lamoni, Iowa, in a game that had everything.

Admittedly, we came out on the short end of many statistics. But, the main stat is the one with :00 on the scoreboard, that denoted the final score. WE WON! This game should be enough to get every fan out for OUR home opener this Saturday night, that starts at 7:30 PM, in Greene Stadium. Wear your RED colors, and greet the team as they go for win number 3. Let's see if the season ticket holders, and the alumni can out-yell the students. The TEAM is deserving of all the cheers you can muster. WE play Benedictine this week, and it is bound to be a tough game. All the games this year WILL be tough. More about that later.

There were so many great plays, so many great efforts, so much desire and determination from the 61 players that traveled to Graceland last week, it would take ten pages to tell it all. I'll let Coach Wallace tell about it later on in this letter.

You would have to see it to believe it. For instance: Marty Hensley's unbelievable catch in the third quarter. There was no way he could catch it. HE DID!! Gary Ainsworth and the great effort in knocking down a potential touchdown pass on Graceland's last play of the game. It meant VICTORY for the CARDINALS. Mike McGill's super punt return that set the CARDINALS rolling for their final score. It would take a video tape replay to show you. Words alone, cannot tell about it. SCOOP Gillespie made almost every one of his yards gained on his own. If he ever plays a better game, I want to see it. Andre Nelson's pass play for the two point conversion was a scene of excellence. But, Coach Wallace had others to praise. The guys that seldom get it. They are called the COBRAS. The defensive line. Guy Weber, Wayne Schmidt, Jan Redmond, and Steve (EARTH MOVER) Holeman played with more desire than any foursome in CARDINAL history. They were on the field for 81 plays. The more they were drained, the more effort they put out. Come out Saturday. You will LOVE this TEAM OF YOURS!

Sure, we were down 10-0 when the final quarter got under way. When the chips are down is when you can tell a great team. A 9-play drive, with Kelly Groom diving in on a keeper play, culminated an 83-yard drive to get US on the scoreboard. It was then 10-6 after a two-point conversion failed. Our defense held on their next series. Then, Mike McGill returned a punt, fighting his way 45 yards down to the Graceland 35 yard line, with the clock running down. A flea flicker was incomplete. Kelly carried to the 27, and Scoop scooted to the 23 for a first down. Mike McGill went four more on a flanker reverse, before Groom again went 3 yards to the 16 on a quarterback keeper. That's when Kelly Groom threw a strike to Marty Hensley in the end zone for the big TD.

More heroic efforts were about to happen. Andre Nelson came in, and on a fake conversion, passed to Scott Martin for the two pointer. IT WAS A FANTASTIC EFFORT. In reality, that was the winning play. Because here is what happened next.

Graceland took over with 5:51 on the clock. After 10 plays, they had the ball with a first down on the Cardinal 8-yard line. Two running plays put them on our 3, with 45 seconds remaining. Mike Newman made a good play knocking down a third pass. On the fourth down, Gary Ainsworth knocked down a pass that was in the end zone and would have meant sure victory for Graceland. That was it. The clock showed :33, and Groom held the ball intact for the two running plays. The clock ran out. It was mad HYSTERIA on the JEWELL sidelines. And, rightfully so.

Defensively, we had another stand out game. Tim Johnson had 2 solo tackles, 19 assisted tackles, 1 interception and 1 blocked punt. Not a bad outing! Gary Ainsworth was credited with 1 solo, 19 assists, and knocked down two passes. Wendell Schmidt had 12 assists and broke up two passes, while Gary Newman had 5 solo tackles and 8 assists, with 2 pass blocks. Paul Taylor couldn't have been better. He was all over the field with 3 solos, 2 assists, 1 interception, and he knocked down two aerials. Troy Mitchell was credited with 1 solo and 11 assists. SEE, I TOLD YOU I WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO STOP.

On offense, Marty Hensley caught 4 passes for 81 yards, and Scoop Gillespie caught 3 for 43 yards, along with 12 carries for 71 yards. Steve Hodges bulled his way with 10 carries for 36 yards. We could go on and on..

But, enough from me for now, HERE IS THE WALLACE HOTLINE:


It seems that everywhere in sports--writers, fans, and even the players themselves refer to 'the great effort' or 'how do you play with your backs to the wall', or simply, 'the great comeback'. Last Saturday's game against Graceland was all of these wrapped in ONE. I saw Marty Hensley make one of the greatest catches I've ever seen at any level of football. I saw Mike McGill return a punt on nothing but desire. I saw Fernandars Gillespie take a pitch out, break six tackles and run twenty-seven yards. I saw an offense down 10-0 come back to score 14 points in the last 12 minutes. I saw Wayne Schmidt and Guy Weber virtually collapse from exhaustion on the sideline, take the field one more time to stuff Graceland's offense in their own backfield. I saw Mike Newman and Gary Ainsworth play for 59 minutes in 95 degree weather and then make two great pass defensive moves, with less than a minute left, to save the victory. I saw a total defense respond, with a total effort, when TOTALLY exhausted. But, most of all, I saw a total team cheering each other from the sideline, meeting their comrades as they came off the field with wet towels and water. I saw coaches giving vital instructions. I saw our trainers administering first aid, and our managers fixing equipment. I saw a whole sideline of Jewell fans crowding the field, yelling encouragement. I saw us never give up and I saw us win in the finest sense of the word, as a TEAM, as a SCHOOL, and as a COMMUNITY, with nothing except that super individual and unified effort. I'm proud to be a part of William Jewell, Liberty, and the Cardinal football team.

Now, back to me. Thanks Coach. We are also proud of you, and your untiring effort. If you think Coach Wallace is excited now, wait until he talks to you at Friday morning's breakfast. Come on out at 7:00 a.m. at Shoney's Big Boy Restaurant for YOUR weekly meeting with the Coach.

FLASH.....We have just been notified that Tim Johnson has just been selected as the Heart of America Conference Player of the Week and the NATA District 16 Player of the Week.....S U P E R!!!!

One more thing, our Junior Varsity will play Benedictine on Monday night, September 21st, at Greene Stadium. Game time is 7:00. Come out and watch the team of the future for the Cardinals. They need your support.

See you at the game!



Bill Kersten

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