

Pittsburg, Jewell, NW Missouri Looking for Conference Titles

It's magic number time for area colleges, with Pittsburg State, William Jewell and Northwest Missouri grasping for favorable title position in football games this weekend.

Pittsburg State, with a 4-1 conference record, needs victories on the road the last two weeks to be assured of at least a tie for the Central States Intercollegiate Conference championship. The Kansans play at Missouri Western, which still nurtures some title hopes with a 3-2 mark. Kearney State of Nebraska shares the league lead with Pittsburg at 4-1.

"Both of us still have a chance for the conference championship, although Pittsburg is in a much better

area colleges

spot than we are," said Rob Hicklin, Missouri Western coach.

Quarterback Mike Solomon, who sat out last week's 23-21 loss to Washburn, is expected to start for Missouri Western in the 1:30 p.m. game at Spratt Stadium in St. Joseph. Back Rodney Stephenson has 893 yards and needs only 47 more to break the Griffons' school record. Quarterback Mark Hittner and fullback Richard Overton lead Pittsburg State.

William Jewell, seeking an NAIA Division II playoff spot, takes its 8-0 rec-

ord on the road in a 7:30 game tonight against Baker in Baldwin, Kan. Jewell could clinch a tie for the Heart of America title with a victory.

Coach Joe Girardi of Baker says the Wildcats must stop the Cardinals' veer offense, particularly the running of David Cunningham and the passing of Mark Capra. Baker features the passing of quarterback Rod Froebe to Bobby Bates and Darryl Brown.

Northwest Missouri can assure itself of no less than a share of the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association crown with a victory over Lincoln today in Maryville. If the Bearcats win and Southeast Missouri defeats Northeast in Cape Girardeau, Northwest would own the crown outright. In the other MIAA game today, Southwest Missouri plays Central Missouri in Warrensburg.

Although ranked No. 1 in NAIA Division II, the Bethany Swedes are involved in a three-team race for the Kansas Conference title. The Swedes and Tabor are each 6-0, Friends is 5-1. Tabor plays at Friends today, while Bethany is host to Bethel tonight.

Tabor features a strong defense and the passing combination of Rod Wallace to Kerry Dennison. Friends, which has won six straight since a 14-6 season-opener loss to Bethany, is primed for what may be its final title opportunity.

"This is the shoot-out," said Coach Dale Liston of Friends. "The key is stopping their passing game, and hopefully moving the ball on them."