

# Jewell All Smiles About Bowl Berth

By Bill Richardson  
A Member of the Sports Staff

Perhaps they are only masking the disappointment of being squeezed out of the NAIA playoffs. But the William Jewell Cardinals are wearing a happy face over being selected to play Missouri Western in the Moila Shrine Bowl Saturday in St. Joseph.

"Anytime you have the opportunity to be invited to a bowl game, it's a feather in your cap," said Stan McGarvey, whose William Jewell football team finished regular-season play with a 9-1 record and the No. 10 ranking in the NAIA Division II poll.

McGarvey says the Cardinals have a special incentive in their approach to the bowl game, and it has nothing to do with showing up the selection committee of NAIA coaches.

"We like the challenge of playing a Division I team," said McGarvey. "Missouri Western is a good NAIA Division I team, and this game will give us an opportunity to see where we are in regards to their program.

"We like the idea of being involved in bowl festivities. We're looking forward to the banquet Friday night and to hearing George Plimpton as the speaker."

McGarvey isn't being deluded by Missouri Western's late-season slump. The Griffons were ranked sixth in Division I after winning six straight games. Then injuries struck and they lost four straight. McGarvey looks for Western to come into the game in top form.

"It'll be a dogfight for us," McGarvey said. "They're a lot like Baker with a team that is extremely talented.

We think we can make it an exciting game. It should be one. They like to throw, and we like to throw.

"In size, they're bigger than we are overall; and in speed, they have a few more individuals who can run quicker. They're a pretty talented team."

The sting of the 53-21 loss to Baker has abated somewhat for McGarvey and his players. The 29-0 lacing in the second half accounted for Jewell's drop in the NAIA rankings from second to 10th and subsequent elimination from the playoffs.

"Sure, not making the playoffs was a disappointment," McGarvey said. "Our young men were very concerned when we didn't get named. We felt like we were a national-caliber team, and we still feel that way. We just had one of those days at Baker.

"But we came back the next week and had a great game at Graceland (49-14 victory). Graceland had just played Missouri Valley a highly emotional game the week before and had played Baker a close game a few weeks earlier. We feel we showed that we are a top-notch football team."

Jewell became a top-notch team in a hurry. In 1978, McGarvey's first season as coach, the Cardinals had a 2-8 record. Now they have earned a bowl bid.

The Moila Shrine game will climax the college careers for nine Jewell starters. They are quarterback Mark Capra, receiver Robin Schermerhorn, safety Jack Stasi, tackle Randy Wepler, center Dennis Williams, guard Mike Hogan, tackle Sid Silvey, cornerback James Merrell and line-backer David Bullock.