

NAIA sets Baker-Jewell rematch

By Bill Richardson

A Member of the Sports Staff

That anticipated rematch between William Jewell and Baker is coming sooner than expected.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics has paired the two area football powers for the first round of its Division II playoffs. Jewell and Baker, which tied 10-10 on Nov. 8, will meet at 1 p.m. Saturday in Liberty. The first game was also played on William Jewell's field.

There had been speculation Baker, 9-0-1, and Jewell, 10-0-1, might be in the semifinals of the 8-team playoffs. According to the NAIA office here, geographical and economic factors weighed heavily in the pairings. Three of the four first-round games match regional opponents.

The only long-distance game will find Valley City of North Dakota, 7-0, at McMurry of Abilene, Tex., 9-1. Hanover, Ind., 8-1, plays at Wilmington Ohio, 7-1, and Linfield of Oregon, 9-0, plays at Pacific Lutheran, 8-1, in Tacoma, Wash.

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The Jewell-Baker pairing means there will be an area team in the semifinals. Charles Eppler, NAIA director of communications, said Sunday the organization is considering two possibilities for the semifinals.

"We could have the Hanover-Wilmington winner go to the West Coast, and the Jewell-Baker winner would be host to the Valley City-McMurry winner," Eppler said. "Or we could send the McMurry-Valley City winner to the West Coast and have the Jewell-Baker winner be the host to the Hanover-Wilmington winner."

Eppler said that the willingness of teams to serve as host figured in the selection of sites. He said that Valley City State was ruled out because of weather conditions and that McMurry said it could be a host to only one game. Hanover did not wish to be a host team. Eppler said that Baker was hopeful of securing Haskell Stadium in Lawrence, Kan., for a playoff site, but was not certain it could serve

as host for more than one game there.

The semifinal games will be played two weeks after the opening round on Saturday, Dec. 6. The championship game will be played Dec. 13.

In the final rankings, William Jewell moved up from fourth and into second place after its 56-6 victory over Culver-Stockton Saturday. Baker remained in third after beating Ottawa 23-3. Other rankings showed 1, Linfield; 4, Pacific Lutheran; 5, Hanover; 6, Wilmington; 7, McMurry; 8, Valley City. Anderson of Indiana, which was second last week, fell out of the top eight after being upset by Hanover 28-13.