



Vic Wallace, new head football coach at William Jewell, instructs players during a late-summer practice.

Jewell, Baker heading for a close race

In 1980, when Baker and William Jewell played football twice, the difference in total points was three. The unbeaten teams battled to a 10-10 tie in the regular season and shared the Heart of America Conference title.

Jewell defeated Baker 20-17 in the opening round of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II playoffs. The Cardinals lost to Wilmington of Ohio 31-17 in the semifinals the following week.

The margin between Baker and Jewell in the conference coaches' 1981 pre-season poll is almost as close as it was on the football field last fall. Baker, picked to finish first, was six points ahead of Jewell in the low-score-wins tabulation. Baker had nine points; Jewell 15.

Missouri Valley drew 23 points for third place. Graceland and Ottawa tied for fourth with 32 points. Then came Central Methodist with 46 points, Mid-America Nazarene with 50, Culver-Stockton with 58 and Tarkio with 59.

Two key factors are in Baker's favor. Coach Charlie Richard has 100 players out for football, including 70 upperclassmen. And the big game with Jewell on Nov. 7 will be at Baker. Both the regular-season contest and the playoff game last year were at Jewell.

What pleases Richard most is his defensive line. Four starters are back, and they will be joined by Danny Lee, a 6-foot-6, 275-pound tackle who transferred from West Virginia.

All-conference players returning for the Wildcats are receiver Bobby Bates, center Steve Gastelum, offensive tackle Greg Jones, linebacker Chris Brown and defensive tackle Joe Lux.

Richard needs a quarterback to replace Chuck Ervin, who directed the 1980 offense. There's a four-way battle for the job. The Wildcats lost tailback Anthony Flanders, who rushed for 1,511 yards, but they still have fullback Taylor Gill, who had 1,020.

Kevin Cummings, who was an All-National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics District 10 punter and place-kicker last year at Washburn, has transferred to Baker and could handle both jobs for the Wildcats.

Vic Wallace, an assistant at Texas Tech, has taken over as William Jewell coach. The Cardinals should continue their winning tradition under Wallace, who has 67 lettermen returning.

Jewell lost running star David Cunningham, but the Cardinals have an

experienced backfield with Vic Davolt, Fernandars Gillespie and Steve Hodges. Wayne Landrum, a transfer student from Missouri Southern, will give the Cards a big back.

Junior quarterback Kelly Groom ran the Jewell attack last year and passed for more than 2,000 yards. He returns 10 pounds heavier at 170.

One of Jewell's big weapons is Jerry Burch, whose 11 field goals included a game-tying 49-yarder against Baker. He also kicked 43 of 44 conversion attempts.

1980 standings

	Conf.	Games	All Games
William Jewell	7	0 1	11 1 1
Baker	7	0 1	9 1 1
Graceland	5	3 0	6 3 0
Mo. Valley	5	3 0	6 3 0
Ottawa	4	4 0	6 4 0
Culver-Stockton	3	5 0	4 6 0
Mid.-Am. Nazarene	2	6 0	3 7 0
Cent. Methodist	2	6 0	2 8 0
Tarkio	0	8 0	0 10 0