

Jewell jars Mid-America 31-7 with defense, explosive plays

By Bill Richardson

sports writer

Three big offensive plays and a stifling defense featured William Jewell's 31-7 Heart of America Conference football triumph Saturday over Mid-America Nazarene in Olathe.

Sophomore back Fernandars "Scoop" Gillespie set Jewell's big-play theme in motion late in the first quarter with an 87-yard touchdown run off left tackle. Quarterback Kelly Groom connected with tight end Scott Martin for a 47-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter.

The Cardinals from Liberty

saved their best for last, completing a 69-yard flea-flicker pass in the fourth quarter. Groom threw a backward pass to sophomore receiver Randy Doyle, who in turn passed to Mike McGill at mid-field. McGill was all alone; he outraced the defenders to the goal.

The Jewell offense needed the spectaculars in order not to be outshone by the defense. Paced by tackles Wayne Schmidt and Guy Weber, the Cardinals' newly installed 4-3 defensive alignment held Mid-America with only 123 yards total offense.

Coach Vic Wallace, former Texas Tech assistant who was mak-

ing his debut as Jewell coach, said he had taken the 4-3 concept from the defense used by national college champion Georgia last season.

"It's more like a wide tackle-6 defense," Wallace said. "It's a defense meant not to be affected by shifts and changes in strength."

Mid-America Coach Gordon DeGraffenreid was impressed. "We never did consistently block that 4-3," DeGraffenreid said. "It's a defense where they overload you and the quarterback can't automatic out of it."

The Jewell defense actually pitched a shutout. Mid-America's

touchdown came on defensive end Kenneth Jolly's 55-yard interception return in the third quarter. The Cards stopped a threat inside their 10 following a fumble in the second quarter and shut off another inside their 20 in the third quarter. Both times, Mid-America kicker Danny Jacques missed field-goal attempts.

Jewell, which reached the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II semifinals last season, totaled 499 yards on offense. But Wallace thought his team was sporadic.

"We had to do things like resort to trick plays to move the football," Wallace said. "We weren't

consistent. We're capable of moving it much better. Our pass protection was terrible today."

Groom, junior quarterback from LaGrange, Mo., downplayed his performance, despite throwing a touchdown pass and completing nine of 16 for 126 yards.

"I threw the touchdown pass, but look what else I did—four interceptions and two fumbles," Groom said. "I should play a lot better than that, and my play will get a lot better. From a team standpoint, our defense looked awesome and our offense at times had shades of doing promising things."

Three of the four interceptions

of Groom passes were by Mid-America senior free safety Jim Couchenour. The other was on the touchdown run by Jolly, who swiped a pass in the left flat and ran untouched to the end zone.

Doyle, a converted quarterback who threw the touchdown pass on the flea-flicker, also had the distinction of catching a touchdown pass. He received a 9-yard pass from reserve quarterback Andrew Nelson in the fourth quarter. Jerry Burch kicked all four extra points for the Cardinals and a 24-yard field goal.