

Sustain heavy injuries

Cards dump Tarkio; ready for homecoming

The William Jewell College Cardinals improved their season record to 5-0 with a 27-6 victory over the Tarkio Owls Saturday in Tarkio. The Cardinals used their patterned big play offense and a tenacious stingy defense in gaining the victory.

Tarkio's offensive game plan, using the pro-set formation, worked well for the Owls, but a hard-hitting defense caused five Tarkio fumbles, halting potential drives for the Owls. Tarkio fumbled a mid-field at 8:37 of the first quarter, and the Cardinals recovered.

At that point, on the first play from scrimmage, junior quarterback Kelly Groom lofted a perfect pass to senior wide receiver Mike McGill, who took the ball near the 10-yard line and went in untouched to put the Cardinals on the scoreboard. Sophomore Jerry Burch added the conversion, and it was 7-0.

Early in the second stanza, Tarkio engineering a 10-play drive before the Cardinals tightened their

defense. Tarkio's Randy Jackson booted a 27-yard field goal, making it 7-3.

Two possessions later, the Cards went air bound on a splendid drive to reach paydirt, taking over on their own 33-yard line. Three Groom passes to senior Marty Hensley and another to McGill put the ball out of bounds at the 1-yard line. Running back Steve Hodges bulled his way into the end zone for the score. Burch again was good with the PAT, and the scoreboard read 14-3.

At 1:25 left in the half, Burch split the upright with a 43-yard field goal to send the Cardinals into the dressing room, leading 17-3. Concern was shown, however, because the Cardinals' running back situation looked bleak. Fernandars Gillespie was injured and did not suit up for the game, and in the first quarter, Vic Davolt was injured, not to return to action for the remainder of the game. Davolt was on crutches Sunday awaiting the word from the

team doctor.

A third-quarter drive by the Cardinals was their best of the day, but a clipping penalty cut it short. A 48-yard field goal attempt by Burch had plenty of distance, but hit the goal post and caromed off.

A 5:10 in the third quarter, another Cardinal drive — this one of 13 plays, was successful, after a Burch field goal was perfect from 25 yards out, and it was 20-3.

Tarkio then put its offense in motion on a drive that started on its 26-yard line, and culminated with a Randy Jackson 32-yard field goal, making it 20-6 early in the fourth quarter.

At 7:13 in the final quarter, Groom, on a keeper, went to his right, avoiding would-be tacklers, for 15 yards and another Cardinal score. With the Burch PAT, it was 27-6 and that ended the scoring.

A win like this should please the coach. But Head Coach Vic Wallace showed concerned after the win. "We have a number of problems with our running backs," he said. "Scoop (Gillespie) did not play. Vic Davolt went out with an injury, followed by Steve Hodges and Greg Jacobson. We won't know the extent of their injuries until mid-week, but I'm worried at this point."

Wallace smiled, however, when talking about the hitting and aggressiveness of the linebackers. "I liked what I saw from Tim Johnson,

Gary Ainsworth, Wendell McGill and Steve Mattingly," he said. "Our defense is improving with each game."

On offense, Wallace added, "We felt we had to pass because of the way their defense was set up. Kelly (Groom) called a very smart game. His passing (15-26-1) was better than the stats would indicate. Marty Hensley, with five catches for 85 yards and Mike McGill, with five for 70 yards, showed their ability to get open."

Only two touchdowns have been scored off the defense all season. And Saturday's game again showed why. Freshman Tim Johnson led the way with solid hits that had the fans moaning. He made three solo tackles, was credited with nine assisted tackles and recovered one fumble. Wendell McGill had three solos, six assists, had one quarterback sack, and broke up two passes.

Gary Ainsworth was credited with six assists, while defensive back Paul Taylor had three tackles, with six assists, broke up one pass and had an interception. In addition, Art Davis, Dave Montgomery, David Millan, Steve Mattingly and Guy Weber all turned in excellent games said Wallace.

The Cardinals' next outing will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday against Ottawa. It will be homecoming for the Cardinals at Greene Stadium, and should be a classic matchup for these Heart of America Conference foes.

