

Undefeated Cards whip Ottawa

The William Jewell Cardinals dominated the action in the Heart of America Athletic Conference game against Ottawa Saturday at Greene Stadium, winning 17-3. The game was filled with slips and miscues caused from a hard rain during the second quarter, but the Cardinals were winners in every statistic.

The Cardinals offense rolled up 427 yards while Ottawa was held to only 72 yards. The Cardinals showed versatility in running and passing with 196 yards rushing on 41 carries, and the aerial attack showed excellence with 231 yards, on 23 of 43.

Again, the stingy defense of William Jewell was prominent. Ottawa rushed 33 times, gaining only 37 yards, and the Braves' celebrated passing attack was limited to 35 yards on 28 passes. There was plenty

of solid hitting in the contest; each team forced five turnovers.

The Ottawa Braves' much-talked-about freshman quarterback Nacho Bueno had little success in setting up his offense. The front four on the Cardinals' defense and their trio of linebackers had seven quarterback sacks. The defensive secondary of the Cardinals held Hercules Stancil, the All-Conference receiver for Ottawa, to two catches, good for 20 yards.

Cardinal junior quarterback Kelly Groom capped an early first quarter drive with a perfect 10-yard pass to senior Marty Hensley to open the scoring. After sophomore Jerry Burch added the conversion, it was 7-0 for the home team.

In second quarter action, the Braves must have thought it was Christmas.

On two consecutive fourth downs, the Cardinals' aggressive rush was guilty of roughing the kicker penalties, enabling the Braves to get into field goal range. At that point, junior Curtis Fletcher made good on a 37-yarder to bring the Braves close at 7-3.

With the Cardinals closing in on another score, hard rains came and the offense was forced to settle for a Jerry Burch 27-yard field goal while the fans were running for cover.

Within 10 minutes, the sun was shining brightly and the Cardinals responded with another scoring drive. Groom found Greg Jacobson down the middle for a 19-yard TD strike. The junior runningback caught the ball and had to fight for the final yard, scoring his first points of the year. Burch again added the PAT, and it was 17-3 as the first half ended.

The second half saw both teams engaging in slipping and sliding. The Cardinals had other potential scoring drives nullified with fumbles and penalties. With the Cardinals driving hard, a fumble inside the 5-yard line saw an Ottawa recovery. And William Jewell was also guilty of 14 penalties for a season high 145 yards. Without those, Jewell could have doubled its score.

One big plus for the Cardinals was their avoidance of injuries. The runningbacks had five on the injury lists but all can be expected to return to future action.

On defense, the Cardinals were awesome. Seven quarterback sacks were recorded with freshman Steve Montgomery getting four, and linebacker Wendell McGill responsible for two. Another note — showing the versatility of the Cardinal offense — was that 10 different Cardinals caught passes from three different throwers.

Defensive coordinator for the Cardinals, Dan Griggs, was elated about his team's statistics. "It shows how good we are, when you realize our defense has given up only two touchdowns in six games," says Griggs. "We have given up an average of less than 200 yards per game for the season. Every position on defense is sound and healthy for the rest of the season."

The offense has been just as explosive, averaging over six yards per play from scrimmage all season — a stat that has Head Coach Vic Wallace beaming. "There is a lot of work to be done. The big part of our schedule is ahead of us," he said.

The conference race is shaping up with three teams tied for the lead: Missouri Valley, Baker, and William Jewell. This weekend, Baker travels to Missouri Valley for a big showdown while the Cardinals travel to Central Methodist.

Successive weekends have the Cardinals hosting Missouri Valley, then traveling to Baker.

A number of games are yet to be played before the national playoffs are decided, and the Cardinals plan to be in the thick of things.

AREA COLLEGES

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Defense has been the hallmark of William Jewell's unbeaten football season. This was evident once again last weekend as the Cardinals held Ottawa to only 72 yards. Ottawa had gone into the Heart of America Conference game averaging 347 yards a game.

The Cardinals recorded seven quarterback sacks against Ottawa with freshman defensive end Steve Montgomery getting four and senior linebacker Wendell McGill two.

"It shows how good we are, when you realize our defense has given up only two touchdowns in six games," said Dan Griggs, Jewell's defensive coordinator. "We have given up an average of less than 200 yards a game for the season."