

Missouri Valley will test Jewell defense

By Bill Richardson
A Member of the Sports Staff

Undefeated William Jewell hasn't given up a touchdown in the last 18 quarters. But then the Cardinals haven't faced an offense like the one once-beaten Missouri Valley will throw at them at their area college football game at 7:30 tonight in Liberty.

Missouri Valley ranks sixth nationally in scoring offense in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics statistics with 32.4 points a game.

Dan Griggs, Jewell's defensive coordinator, is concerned about the Vikings' slot-T attack, which emphasizes misdirection plays.

"That's the worst kind of offense a defense like ours can play against," Griggs said. "We play an attacking style defense, and if we get one or two steps off in the wrong direction, we could have trouble.

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"Valley uses a lot of cross-back action. And they use the old single-wing style blocking with it. All their backs are very effective in running this offense. You can't key on any single one, like you could Taylor Gill of Baker, for instance."

William Jewell, 7-0 and ranked No. 2 in the NAIA's Division II poll, has allowed only 44 points this season. The Cardinals haven't yielded a touchdown since the Benedictine game Sept. 19. They've given up only four field goals to their last four opponents.

Missouri Valley, 7-1, is ranked No. 8 in the Division II poll entering the game at Jewell's Greene Stadium. In their last four games the Vikings won by scores of 50-0, 28-24, 49-7 and 23-20.

Griggs said Jewell's defensive unit has been sparked by linebackers Tim

Johnson, Gary Ainsworth and Wendell McGill and tackle Guy Weber.

"We've been lucky at times, but we've also played very well," Griggs said. "We've got good personnel, and the kids have blended into a cohesive unit. We have a fairly young secondary, yet we've had only one touchdown pass thrown against us."

Valley quarterback Don Winkler may increase that number. Griggs said that Winkler, a sophomore from St. Louis, has a strong arm. "He's got a bazooka," Griggs said.

The winner tonight gains prestige in the NAIA's rating game. Both Heart of America Conference teams have tough opponents next week. Jewell plays at Baker, which has lost only to Missouri Valley, and Valley plays host to Graceland.

In other Heart of America games, Culver-Stockton is at Ottawa, and Central Methodist is at Graceland to-

day and Tarkio is at Baker tonight.

Undefeated Missouri Western, ranked No. 4 in NAIA Division I, goes for its eighth straight victory in an afternoon game against Missouri Southern in Joplin. Once-beaten Pittsburg State, No. 12 in Division I, will be host to Wayne State (Neb.) today.

Central Missouri State, 1-3-3, will be at home for an afternoon game against Lincoln, 0-8, in Warrensburg; Northeast Missouri State, bidding for the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association title, is host to Southwest Missouri in a non-conference game while Northwest Missouri plays at Southeast Missouri.

Mid-America Nazarene of Olathe plays Benedictine tonight in Atchison, Kan., and Bethany of Lindsborg, Kan., ranked No. 17 in NAIA Division II, takes a six-game winning streak to Dodge City to face St. Mary of the Plains.