

Jewell proves too much for Baker

Baldwin, Kan.—Undefeated William Jewell dominated play in the second half Saturday night and posted a convincing 20-10 Heart of America Conference football victory over Baker University before 5,500 fans.

Quarterback Kelly Groom directed the attack as Jewell controlled the ball and allowed Baker to have it for only 5 minutes, 42 seconds of the second half.

Groom's 5-yard touchdown pass to Mike McGill was the only score of the second half, but the Cardinals were never in danger as their defense held Baker to only 10 yards in the last two quarters.

The Cardinals, ranked second in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II poll, boosted their record to 9-0 and virtually assured themselves of a playoff spot. Only Culver-Stockton stands in way of an unbeaten season for Jewell.

The victory also clinches at least a tie for the conference title.

The loss virtually eliminates Baker, 7-2 and ranked 11th in NAIA Division II, from the playoffs. The Wildcats will close their season Saturday against Ottawa.

Groom, a junior from LaGrange, Mo., gained 83 yards on 23 carries and baffled the Baker defense with quarterback draws and option runs. In addition, Groom completed 12 of 23 passes for 199 yards. Receiver Marty Hensley caught eight for 138 yards.

"Groom was the difference," Baker Coach Charlie Richard said. "We shut down most of their game, but he came back on us in the second half with quarterback draws and he scrambled well. We couldn't control him."

"We tried to shut off their wide stuff, but that left us open up the middle for him to run the draw."

Groom credited his offensive line for the ball-control game in the second half.

"That's the best half of football our line has played all season," Groom said. "The linemen just decided to take it to them in the second half and we started moving the ball."

Jewell Coach Vic Wallace, who is yet to lose in his first year as Jewell's head coach, said, "We controlled the ball with the same plays we've been using all season—14, 44 and 40 traps—and we decided we were going to stick

with them in the second half and make them work. Groom did a super job of quarterbacking, he opened up our offense and he utilized the time very effectively with long counts."

The second half was in contrast to the evenly played first half. After a scoreless first quarter, Baker took a 3-0 lead on a 34-yard field goal by Kevin Cummings.

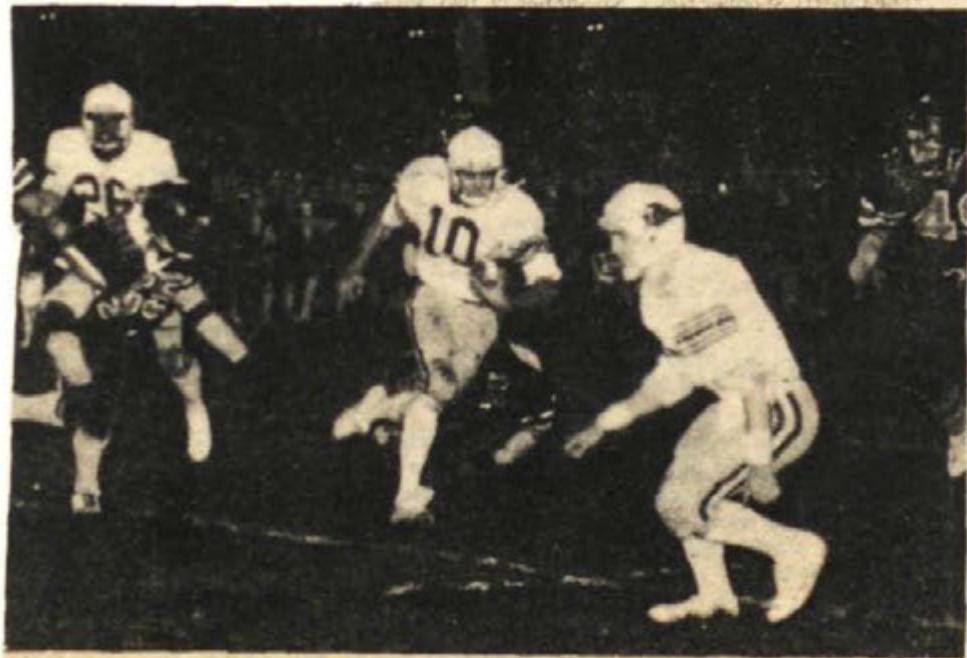
Jewell came back to take the lead on a 43-yard touchdown pass from Groom to Hensley. Groom rolled left out of the shotgun and found Hensley open down the left sideline.

Baker retaliated on a 8-yard by Ben Reed. The play was set up on a 53-yard pass play from Pee Wee Phillips to Dan Boxell.

With 19 seconds left in the half Jewell took the lead for good as Groom sneaked in form the 1. Jewell set this one up with a flea-flicker pass play. On third down and 23, Groom took a pitch-back and connected with Mike McGill for 42 yards to the Baker 2.

Jewell moved 51 yards for its last touchdown and scored with 55 seconds left in the third quarter on the 5-yarder to McGill.

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Quarterback Kelly Groom dodged a Wildcat defender and added to his total yardage for the day. Groom led all Card rushers with 83 yards on 23 carries in William Jewell's 20-10 victory over Baker Saturday. (photo by David Owen)