

Cardinals beat top-ranked Pacific Lutheran as final pass falls incomplete

In a game that wasn't decided until the final play, William Jewell defeated Pacific Lutheran 19-14 Saturday and advanced to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II football semifinals.

Jewell's secondary, which spent the second half holding off threats by the top-ranked Lutes, avoided its sixth pass-interference call of the afternoon in breaking up a desperation throw by the Lutes as time ran out.

The victory before 2,198 fans on the William Jewell campus in Liberty extended the No. 2-ranked Cardinals' unbeaten streak to 11 games and earned them a semifinal berth against Austin College on Dec. 5 in Sherman, Texas. In the other semifinal game, Concordia (Minn.) will play at Westminster (Pa.). The Division II championship game will be Dec. 12.

"All we were hoping for on that last play was not to get an interference call," Jewell Coach Vic Wallace said. "I think we got so many calls because our guys are pretty aggressive. We have a young team. It's the excitement of the whole thing and our inexperience."

Jewell ran up a 13-0 halftime lead on field goals of 22 and 28 yards by Jerry Burch and a 1-yard touchdown pass from Kelly Groom to Marty Hensley.

Pacific Lutheran rebounded from a lackluster first-half offensive performance with a 72-yard touchdown drive in the third quarter, capped by Kevin Skogen's 9-yard pass to Eric Monson.

Jewell drove 78 yards early in the fourth quarter for a 19-7 lead, Groom connecting with Hensley for the 3-yard touchdown.

The Cards seemingly had a grip on the game with 6 minutes remaining when a mistake opened the way for the close finish. Jewell punter Jeff McGuire was tackled on his own 30 after bobbling a low snap.

The Lutes, 9-1, cashed in the opportunity in three plays. Fullback Mike Westmiller burst into the end zone from 2 yards out after Skogen's 20-yard completion to Monson. Scott McKay's conversion cut the Cards' lead to five points.

Jewell moved to its 25 following the kickoff, but bogged down and had to punt. The Cards were too

eager on their punt coverage and drew a 15-yard penalty for piling on.

Pacific Lutheran set up for a final opportunity at the Jewell 43 with 37 seconds remaining. Skogen's first pass was incomplete, and on second down he was sacked for an 8-yard loss by Jewell tackle Wayne Schmidt.

On a sideline throwaway pass by Skogen to stop the clock Jewell was called for pass interference again. That left the Lutes on the Jewell 46 with 7 seconds left.

Skogen threw high and deep, but Jewell defenders Mike Newman, David Armstrong and Doug Switzer converged near the 5-yard line with two Pacific Lutheran receivers and broke up the pass.

"We knew we had to get into position, stay between their receivers and the goal line," said Newman, a sophomore free safety. "We wanted to knock down the ball, or tip it away. The ball was tipped and one of their guys dived for it but he was 2 yards away, and I really don't think he had much chance to catch it."

Newman said the pass defense looked clean, and he wasn't worried about another flag on the

play. As for the pass-interference calls, he said, "Some of them were kind of flagrant. Their receivers would be running under the ball and running right into us."

Pacific Lutheran Coach Frosty Westering lauded Jewell's defense, which pressured Skogen into five interceptions and held the Lutes to 191 total yards. Pacific Lutheran gained only 24 yards rushing.

"Their defense took us out of what we do well," Westering said. "They shut down our running game and forced us to throw the ball. Their defensive line did a great job on the pass rush, especially that No. 65 (Schmidt). Skogen's ball was floating, but he was throwing early."

"The greatest thing we did today was not to give up. We made a few line adjustments in the second half and we tried to throw the ball to our receivers on the outside. The longer we played, the better we got."

Jewell players scored a sweep in the outstanding-player awards. Groom, who completed 12 of 21 passes for 150 yards, was chosen for offense.