

Jewell coach likes challenge of game with top-rated team

By Bill Richardson

A Member of the Sports Staff

Either Vic Wallace is eager for a challenge or he's making the best of a situation he can't control. Probably some of both.

At any rate, the William Jewell football coach says he is happy to be playing top-ranked Pacific Lutheran in the opening round of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II playoffs.

Jewell is ranked No. 2 in the NAIA's final poll. But after the top eight teams are determined for the playoffs, the NAIA regards all teams as equal and pairs them in the interest of economics and, if possible, proximity.

Thus the NAIA has created a power showdown in the quarterfinals by matching Pacific Lutheran, 9-0, against William Jewell, 10-0, at 1 p.m. today in Liberty. In other games today, Austin (Texas), 9-1, plays Panhandle (Okla.), 8-0; Westminster (Pa.), 9-0, meets Anderson (Ind.), 8-1; and Dickinson State (N.D.), 7-0, faces Concordia (Minn.), 9-0-1.

"To me, this is the greatest thing that can happen," Wallace said of Jewell's opening opponent. "It's what football is all about — two undefeated teams meeting with respect for each other. I don't know if we're good enough to beat Pacific Lutheran, but we're going to give it the best we've got."

Wallace said cutting his squad to the 42-man limit required by the NAIA for post-season competition was the most unpleasant aspect of the game. He said that 55 to 60 players usually see action for the Cardinals. Wallace made the cut to 41 Sunday, reserving the final spot for a decision after the final workout.

"It was not only the emotional part involved in it, we had to determine priorities as to who would be most valuable in considering Pacific Lutheran's offensive and defensive strengths," Wallace said.

Injuries could also be a factor. Guards Mark Mundell and Mike Rodgers have been bothered by shoulder-area injuries, although both have been doing well in practice, Wallace said.

Wallace said he is impressed by Pacific Lutheran's overall defense. And Jewell defensive coordinator Dan Griggs said he is impressed by the Lutes' soundness on offense.

"Everything they do, they do well," Griggs said.

Jewell stresses offensive balance. Fernandars "Scoop" Gillespie has rushed for 612 yards on 105 carries

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and Steve Hodges has 601 yards on 103 carries. Marty Hensley has 32 catches for 547 yards and Mike McGill 29 for 522. Quarterback Kelly Groom has been a double threat, throwing for 1,341 yards and rushing for 376.

Pacific Lutheran's top offensive threat is fullback Mike Westmuller, who has rushed for 971 yards.

In event of a tie at the end of four quarters, the teams will use an over-

time system to break it. Each team gets the ball at its opponent's 20-yard line and can make a first down while attempting to score a touchdown and conversion or a field goal. If the teams are still tied, the system is repeated until a winner is determined.

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The mythical junior college championship may be decided Sunday afternoon when No. 1-ranked North-eastern Oklahoma A&M, 9-0, meets No. 2-ranked Butler County of El Dorado, Kan. The teams play in the Rodeo Bowl in Arkansas City, Kan.

Jewell's first-round opponent in playoffs is top-ranked team

Pacific Lutheran University and William Jewell College, the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II final football poll for the 1981 season, will meet in the first round of the national playoffs at 1 p.m. Saturday in Liberty.

In addition to the Jewell-Pacific Lutheran matchup, No. 7 Anderson College (Indiana), 8-1, will play No. 4 Westminster College (Pennsylvania), 9-0, in New Wilmington, Pa.; No. 8 Dickinson State (North Dakota), 7-0, will play No. 3 Concordia College (Minnesota), 9-0-1, in Moorhead, Minn.; and No. 6 Austin College (Texas), 9-1, will play No. 5 Panhandle State (Oklahoma), 8-0, in Goodwell, Okla.

Pacific Lutheran, 9-0, of Tacoma, Wash., is the defending Division II champion and has won 14 consecutive games, the longest streak in the NAIA. Jewell, 10-0, lost to Wilmington of Ohio in the semifinals of last year's playoffs.

Westminster, Concordia, Austin and Anderson also have been in the playoffs before. Westminster won the title in 1976, and '77; Concordia won in '78; Austin lost in the '79 quarterfinals; and Anderson lost to Westmin-

ster in the 1970 title game. Dickinson State and Panhandle State are first-time participants.

The pairings for the playoffs are not based on a team's final ranking. All top eight teams are considered to be of equal strength.

However, since the NAIA sponsors all playoff games and provides the transportation for participating teams, pairings are based on geographic locations, when possible.

Three other area teams finished in the top 20: Bethany College of Lindsborg, Kan., from the Kansas Conference finished 13th; Missouri Valley of Marshall, Mo., and Baker University of Baldwin, Kan., members of the Heart of America Conference along with Jewell, finished 17th and 18th.

Pittsburg State, which defeated Missouri Western 25-6 on Saturday, probably will earn a berth in the Division I playoffs. The final Division I poll and playoff pairings will be determined next Sunday.

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