

'Roos face William Jewell in semi-finals

RICHARD URSO
Sports Editor

In a historical first for Austin College, the Kangaroos host William Jewell College of Missouri at 1 p.m. Saturday in the NAIA Division II football semifinal playoff game.

William Jewell entered the second round of playoffs with a 19-14 win over top-ranked Pacific Lutheran. The Cardinals finished the regular season 10-0 and ranked second nationally.

The Cardinals won the Heart of America Conference championship under first-year coach Vic Williams, a coach for tight ends last year at Texas Tech.

The key to the Cardinal attack lies in Junior Quarterback Kelly Groom, a second-year starter who has led William Jewell to a 21-1-1 record while at the helm.

Groom has completed over 53% of his passes and thrown for over 1300 yards this season while rushing for an additional 400 yards.

Austin College coach Larry Kramer said Groom's effectiveness increases because of his excellent scrambling ability and quickness.

Along with this potent offense, Kramer said William Jewell has a strong defense.

Their defensive line - nicknamed by Cardinal supporters as "The Cobras" - is led by Kodak All-American defensive tackle Guy Weber, whose 10 quarterback traps leads the team.

The linebackers also add great depth to the defense. Seniors Gary Ainsworth and Wendell McGill (2nd team and 3rd team all-district, respectively) provide the experience, while freshman Tim Johnson (1st team all-district) provided young talent.

The Cardinals also sport a fine defensive back in Paul Taylor who was named defensive-player-of-the-game against Pacific Lutheran.

As Austin College fans know, the 'Roos are not without their own strengths. Senior Quarterback Larry Shillings, recently named NAIA Division II Kodak All-American, directs a highly potent air attack which includes Rort Dukes, Russ Roden, and Clay Oliphint as his primary targets.

The defense sports many fine ballplayers, also.

Although safety Chris Luper (AC's All-American safety for the past two years) will miss this game with an injury to his ribs, senior linebacker Randy Sims and senior lineman Larry Hickman can provide the experienced necessary leadership.

Coach Kramer, who shared TIAA coach-of-the-year honors with Sul Ross State's Joe George, urges all AC supporters to come watch the 'Roos and cheer them onto the finals!

Smaller Austin team challenges Jewell

By Bill Richardson,
A Member of the Sports Staff

If you can't join 'em, fight 'em.

That could be the motto this week for Austin College Coach Larry Kramer as he prepares his team for Saturday's football playoff game against William Jewell College in Sherman, Texas.

But it isn't. Kramer said he has been too busy to think about what it would be like to lead the opposition in the semifinals of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II playoffs.

Kramer's name was mentioned last winter when Jewell was seeking a replacement for Coach Stan McGarvey, who became an assistant at the University of Cincinnati. Kramer chose to stay at Austin, where he consistently has turned out winning teams. Vic

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Wallace, a late entry for the Jewell coaching job, was selected and has yet to lose a game for the Cardinals.

"I hadn't thought about the Jewell job at all, I've been concentrating so much on this game," Kramer said on Thursday. "Yes, it is ironic. But Jewell got the right man. Vic Wallace and his staff have done an outstanding job."

Kramer also is impressed by Jewell's talent, especially quarterback Kelly Groom, running backs Scoop Gillespie and Steve Hodges and receivers Mike McGill and Marty Hensley.

"They have two great defensive tackles (Guy Weber and Wayne

Schmidt) and a middle linebacker (Tim Johnson) who is really a good football player," Kramer added. "Their defensive line is much bigger than ours. If we had a big lunch, we might average 200."

Austin, co-champion of the Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association, compiled a 9-1 regular-season record, finished sixth in the final NAIA Division II poll and defeated Panhandle State (Okla.) 27-16 in the playoff quarterfinals. Jewell, No. 2 in the poll, is 11-0 after beating top-ranked Pacific Lutheran 19-14 in the quarterfinals.

Austin uses a slot-I offense. "It's more of a spread," Kramer said. "We don't have a true tight end. We feel it's an offense that opens things up more for us. We had two freshmen tight ends, and with the experience of our wide receivers, we felt this would be a

better offense for us."

Austin quarterback Larry Shillings completed 149 of 284 passes for 1,961 yards and 17 touchdowns during the regular season. His top receivers were Clay Oliphint with 51 catches for 728 yards and 10 touchdowns and Rory Dukes with 34 catches for 515 yards and three touchdowns.

Freshman tailback Van Hargis gave the Austin running attack a lift when he rushed for 123 yards in the playoff game against Panhandle.

Kramer said his top defensive performers have been tackle Larry Hickman and cornerbacks Kenny Kirby and Les Garcia.

Austin is putting in extra bleachers in anticipation of a crowd of 4,000 for the game. Kramer said the temperature is expected to be in the 70s.