

Kangaroos earn spot in finals

SHERMAN — Quarterback Larry Shillings threw for three touchdowns and sneaked for another here Saturday afternoon as Austin College trimmed William Jewell's Cardinals, 33-28, and gained a spot in the Division II NAIA finals.

The Kangaroos, now 11-1 on the year, will meet Concordia College of Moorehead, Minn., for that NAIA Division II championship at 1 p.m. Saturday in Austin College's Louis Calder Stadium.

Shillings put on a real offensive show in a game chock full of offense. The senior quarterback, a product of Bryan Adams High School, tied an NAIA playoff record with his three touchdown passes. Shillings wound up the afternoon with offensive player of the game honors to go along with his 15 completions in 26 attempts, 234 yards, the three touchdowns and only two interceptions.

William Jewell running back Steve Hodges and quarterback Kelly Groom powered the Cardinals in a far from shabby losing effort. Hodges led all rushers with 17 carries for 102 yards and two touchdowns. Groom hit 11 of 28 passes for 165 yards, a touchdown, and only one interception.

Leading 16-14, Austin College opened the third quarter by driving 49 yards in 10 plays to score and go out in front 23-14.

Shillings set up that third Kangaroo touchdown with a 13-yard pass to Clay Oliphint at the Cardinal 13. Shillings got the touchdown on the next play with 10 minutes left in the period covering those 13 yards by hitting fullback David Simmons.

The Cardinals cut the Kangaroo margin to 23-21 with some passing of their own. Groom hit

wide receiver Marty Hensley with a 38-yard shot to the A.C. 9. That set up Groom's 9-yard scoring toss to Mike McGill with 4:15 left in the third quarter.

A.C. drove 46 yards in seven plays to boost its lead to 30-21. Shillings connected on a 21-yard pass to Clay Oliphint, putting the Kangaroos on the Cardinal 1. That was where Shillings sneaked for his rushing TD with 10:37 left in the game.

William Jewell rebounded, marching 80 yards in 11 plays. Hodges capped the drive, scoring his second touchdown of the game with 7:35 left on a 6-yard burst off right tackle.

Linebacker David Bowen staked the Kangaroos to their final points of the afternoon, a 22-yard field goal by Gene Branum. Bowen captured a Cardinal fumble at the William Jewell 47.

The Kangaroos drove to the 6, where Branum applied his toe with 1:27 left in the game.

Austin College and William Jewell exchanged turnover gifts for touchdowns before Shillings caught fire to lead the Kangaroos to a 16-14 halftime lead. Shillings had hit 8 of 17 passes for 128 yards, two touchdowns and an interception at the half.

William Jewell 7 7 7 7-28

Austin Col. 13 3 7 16-33

WJ—Hodges 5 run (Burch kick)

AC—Hargis 31 pass from Shillings (Branum kick)

AC—Oliphint 14 pass from Shillings (kick failed)

WJ—Groom 2 run (Burch kick)

AC—FG Branum 22

AC—Simmons 13 pass from Shillings (Branum kick)

WJ—McGill 9 pass from Groom (Burch kick)

AC—Shillings 1 run (Branum kick)

WJ—Hodges 6 run (Burch kick)

AC—FG Branum 22

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INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Passing — Austin, Shillings 15-26-2 234 yards; Jewell, Groom 11-28-1 165 yards.

Rushing — Austin, Hargis 20-67, Simmons 7-26, Shillings 17-9, Garrison 4-9, Turner 1-1; Jewell, Hodges 17-102, Gillespie 12-57, Groom 7-2, Phillips 1-12, Davolt 3-7.

Receiving — Austin, C. Oliphint 6-125, Hargis 3-68, Simmons 1-13, Roden 1-9, Turner 1-8, Dukas 1-9; Jewell — Kinsley 4-48, McGill 4-56, Davolt 2-19, Gillespie 1-6.