

Jewell finishes off regular season and Tarkio, awaits playoff

By Bill Richardson

sportswriter

Saturday was a big day for William Jewell as the Cardinals closed their regular football season with a 48-7 romp over Tarkio in Liberty.

But today could be even bigger.

The Cardinals, 8-1, will learn their playoff fate when the National Association of Inter-collegiate Athletics determines its eight-team field for the Division II championships. Jewell was ranked eighth in last week's Division II poll.

Heart of America

"It's not what your rating is that counts," Jewell Coach Vic Wallace said. "The key thing is to get in the playoffs. We're hoping everything works out for us. It's out of our hands now."

The Cardinals certainly had control of their destiny against Tarkio, which ended its season with a better-than-expected 4-5 record. The Owls were hopeful of a good showing after beating Mid-America Nazarene last week, the week after Mid-America had upset Jewell.

"I thought it would be a tough game coming in," Wallace said. "As it turned out our kids were ready to play. From the start there was not much doubt that we were going to win."

The Cardinals ran up a 31-0 lead by halftime, then used their reserves most of the second half. Steve Hodges, who rushed for 91 yards in 13 carries, departed after going 17 yards for a touchdown in the opening 6 minutes of the third quarter. He scored Jewell's first touchdown on a 1-yard run with 4 seconds left in the first quarter.

Tailback Scoop Gillespie, the outside runner of the Hodges-Gillespie tandem, also played sparingly. Gillespie rushed for 46 yards, including a 7-yard touchdown run on a sweep in the second quarter.

The Cardinals used three quarterbacks, with Scott Sandridge and Paul Troth, in relief of starter Kelly Groom for more than half of the game, also figuring in the scoring. Sandridge ran 9 yards for a second-quarter score and Troth passed 11 yards to Doug Kauffman for a third-quarter touchdown.

Kicker Steve Hudson booted field goals of 30 and 46 yards and five extra points.

The Jewell defense held Tarkio's running offense to 12 yards, and Cardinal safety Doug Switzer returned an interception 11 yards for a touchdown. Otherwise, quarterback Mike Butt gave the Owls a respectable offense with 15 completions in 36 attempts for 183 yards. Butt directed a 65-yard drive for the Tarkio touchdown. He passed 6 yards to Keith Barnes for the score in the opening minute of the final quarter.

Freshman receiver Marty Wright took a pounding while running pass routes over the middle against Jewell's secondary but wound up with seven catches for 105 yards for Tarkio.

The victory wrapped up the Heart of America Conference championship for William Jewell at 6-1. Tarkio was 3-4 in the conference.

"We're ready to roll," Gillespie said, expressing Jewell's hopes of

continuing its season with a playoff game next weekend. "We got down a little bit after losing the Mid-America game, but we never lost sight of our goal. We're looking forward to playing great teams from now on out. We don't care who we play. We just want to play football."



Celebration

William Jewell College defensive tackle Guy Weber (left) hugs Doug Switzer, a defensive back, after Switzer returned an interception 11 yards for a touchdown early in the second quarter of Saturday's 48-7 victory over Tarkio. (staff photo by Dan Seifert)