

Jewell, Coffeyville can cast a

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glance toward post-season play

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Midway through the season, William Jewell and Coffeyville are unbeaten and sitting atop their respective levels of football. And it appears the Cards and Ravens are just getting warmed up.

Jewell, No. 1 team in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II, showed a powerful ground attack in turning back Baker 39-18 Saturday night in Liberty.

Jewell has clinched a share of the Heart of America Conference championship. The Cards, 5-0, are two games ahead of their nearest competitors and have just two league games remaining. They play Mid-America Nazarene this Saturday in Olathe and Tarkio on Nov. 13.

Jewell and Coffeyville each have one tough game remaining. Jewell meets Benedictine, rated 15th in NAIA Division II, in a road game Nov. 6. Coffeyville's final regular-season game will be against Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, rated 12th in the junior-college poll, Nov. 21 in Coffeyville, Kan.

Although Jewell running back Steve Hodges said, "We're not thinking about the playoffs; we're taking it one

game at a time," the Cards are in a position where they have to be glancing over their shoulders to the the eight-team NAIA Division II playoffs.

Being No. 1 is no assurance the Cards will draw a favorable seeding. The NAIA match-ups are not based on

final rankings so much as they are geography and travel expenses. Thus Jewell could be paired in the opening round against Northwestern of Iowa, now No. 2 in the ratings.

William Jewell, usually noted for making the big play with the passing of Kelly Groom, rolled on the ground against Baker. The Cards totaled 302 yards rushing with Hodges gaining 150 yards and Scoop Gillespie 120.

The Cardinals upstaged Baker, which went into the game as the NAIA rushing leader with a 297-yard average.

"Jewell's running attack is better than it has been in the last three years," Baker Coach Charlie Richard said. "Their defense is also solid. But we moved the ball on them better than we did last year."