

# Optimism abounds at William Jewell

## in wake of furiously fast start

By Bill Richardson  
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Four games, four victories. Nine quarters without giving up a touchdown. The No. 1 ranking in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II football poll. And next, an open date to savor early success.

These are the good times for the William Jewell Cardinals, who may be even better than last season, when they missed winning a national championship by one game.

The Cardinals, who toyed with Central Methodist in a 34-3 victory Saturday night in Liberty, may not be as productive offensively as they were a year ago. But defensively, they're much better.

"We're a lot better than last year; we're a lot more aggressive," senior linebacker Jerry Twigg of Liberty said. "We're at least three strong everywhere. A real good sign of a championship team is how strong you are on depth."

Defensive coordinator Dan Griggs, who returned to William Jewell this fall after being away a year and a half at Southern Colorado and Princeton, said the Cardinals may not be as strong physically as last year but they have more speed and are playing with a great deal of confidence.

"The kids have been in a lot of big games, and they believe in each other," Griggs said. "This group is kind of like Georgia's Junkyard Dogs defense — no big stars, just a bunch of kids who like to get after it. They do a good job of penetrating."

Jan Redmond, senior tackle from Van Horn; Mike Jones, sophomore linebacker from Center; David Millen, senior nose guard

from Linneus, Mo.; and Mike Johnson, sophomore tackle from Brookfield, Mo., were among the standouts as the Jewell defense limited Central Methodist to 103 total yards.

Vic Wallace, whose Jewell teams have lost only one regular-season game since he took over as head coach in 1981, said he is looking forward to the open date.

"It allows you to heal up, regroup and go back to fundamentals," he said. "You don't get to do that during a game week. You have to work on your opponents. If there's anything negative about it, I guess it's that a coach worries about losing his competitive edge."

Baker, Missouri Valley, Benedictine and Mid-America Nazarene — four of Jewell's next five opponents — all scored impressive victories Saturday.

Baker, 3-0, routed Graceland 39-0; Missouri

Sunday, September 25, 1983

Valley, 2-1, edged Washburn, an NAIA Division I opponent, 21-20; Benedictine, 2-1, defeated Nebraska Wesleyan 49-40; and Mid-America Nazarene, 2-1, which has the NAIA's No. 1 defense, defeated Colorado College 13-7.

Jewell returns to action Oct. 8 against Graceland in Lamoni, Iowa, and then plays Missouri Valley on Oct. 15 in Liberty. The Cardinals go to Baker Oct. 22 and play at home against Mid-America Nazarene on Oct. 29 and Benedictine on Nov. 5.