

No. 1 Jewell ties with Valley, puts ranking in jeopardy

By Bill Richardson

sportswriter

William Jewell College still is unbeaten, but it's unlikely the Cardinals will be No. 1 in the next National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II football poll after their 14-14 tie with Missouri Valley Saturday in a Heart of America Conference game in Liberty.

William Jewell, 5-0-1, was in position to determine its own destiny after scoring a touchdown with 1 minute, 11 seconds left. Cardinals Coach Vic Wallace chose to kick for one point and a tie instead of going for a two-point conversion that could have won the game.

A loss probably would have tumbled Jewell far down in the rankings and diminished its chances of making the NAIA Division II eight-team playoffs. But Wallace said the poll was not the dominant factor in his decision to take the kick,

which was made by Dave Riley.

"I knew a tie would hurt us less than a loss, but if we hadn't been ranked at all I would have done the same thing," Wallace said. "I figured we could get the ball back and have a legitimate chance to kick a field goal. Valley crossed us up. They showed they were going for the tie by running the ball. If they passed it, we figured we had a chance for an interception. We thought if we got the ball back on their side of the 50, we had a chance to win."

Jewell did get the ball back, on its own 37 with 14 seconds left. After a 7-yard gain on a sideline pass, kickoff man Eddy Adden came in for a 73-yard field-goal attempt. Adden's kick was short.

Heart of America

Valley Coach Ken Gibler, who said his Vikings were a first down away from winning, left no doubt about what he would have done in Wallace's situation. "I'm surprised they didn't go for two."

Actually, Jewell could be considered

fortunate to get out with a tie in its homecoming game before a crowd of 3,789 in Luther Greene Stadium. The Cardinals gained a 7-0 lead in the first half as quarterback Scott Sandridge capped a 57-yard drive with a touchdown from the 1. But Missouri Valley, 3-2-1 dominated play in the half.

The Vikings were midway through the quarter by a fumble at the Jewell back Tony Walker yards for a first down. Quarterback Don completed an apparent yard touchdown pass back Steve Cowan. Vikings drew a penalty play, but came back Cowan on a well-executed double-reverse for a touchdown run. Mike ley's conversion tied the score 7-7.

The Vikings moved ahead 14-7 early in the fourth quarter when Winkler completed a 42-yard touchdown pass to split end David McGehee. Winkler escaped a hard rush and found McGehee at the Jewell 5, with no defenders within 20 yards.

"We're in a zone 99 percent of the time," Jewell defensive coordinator Dan Griggs said. "When we go man coverage, we go for the sack. We thought we had the quarterback and our cornerback came up to stop the run."

Two Jewell threats were stopped inside the Missouri Valley 40 in the fourth quarter and Valley appeared in good position for the upset with the ball at its 25 and just under 2 minutes to play. Winkler was trapped on a third-down bootleg for a 12-yard loss, then Bill Babyton's punt went out on the

Vikings' 38. The Cardinals scored on a flea-flicker, receiver Reggie Hill passing 45 yards to Jimi Reed. Hill took a backward pass from Sandridge before throwing to Reed.

Hill, a junior who played quarterback at East High, said the play wasn't in the Cardinals' game plan. "But when the game came down to the wire we went for it," Hill said. "The cornerbacks were playing off me all day and I had plenty of time to show. I saw Reed make his post cut to the corner and laid it in there."

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