

# Formidable-again Baker finds Jewell looming as a potential thorn once more

## Baker makes 10 points do against Jewell

By Bill Richardson

sportswriter

**B**aldwin, Kan.—Ten points in the opening quarter were enough for Baker's rugged defense as the Wildcats slapped a 10-0 shutout on the William Jewell Cardinals in a battle of nationally ranked small-college football teams Saturday night.

The victory virtually assures Baker, 7-0, a spot in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics playoffs. The Wildcats, ranked No. 4 in the battle for the eight-team post-season Division II competition, have survived the rugged part of their Heart of America Conference schedule and have only Central Methodist, Culver-Stockton and Tarkio remaining.

Jewell, which hasn't won in two weeks, dropped to 5-1-1. The Cardinals now are in jeopardy of not making the playoffs for the first time in four years. They were ranked No. 5 in the NAIA Division II poll entering the game.

Baker's defense also is No. 1 in Division II with a 138.7 average. Baker gave up 204 yards to William Jewell, but its defense made the big plays in stopping the Cardinals' offensive threats. Jewell's top threat was a drive to the Baker 19 just before the half. Safety Roger Mallory of Baker stepped in front of a Scott Sandridge pass at the goal and returned the ball 36 yards, ending the threat.

"We played aggressive, strong and quick," Baker senior linebacker Chris Brown said. "Everytime it came time to hold them in a crucial situation, we did it. Jewell has beaten us the last three years and kept us out of the playoffs. This year, we were ready, fired up and had enthusiasm."

Baker maintained a habit of scoring quickly. The Wildcats moved 80 yards on their first possession for a touchdown, quarterback Chuck Rhodes connecting

with tight end Joe Boeh on a 46-yard pass. It was the sixth time in seven games Baker had scored on its initial possession.

After Brown recovered a fumble on the Jewell 33, the Wildcats drove to the 6 but were stalled and settled for a 25-yard field goal by Ron Frazier with 5 minutes, 48 seconds left in the quarter.

Jewell's defense was as tough as the Wildcats' in the last three quarters, limiting Baker to two first downs. One came on a 34-yard run by Vic Austin to the Jewell 7. The Cardinals held as Baker

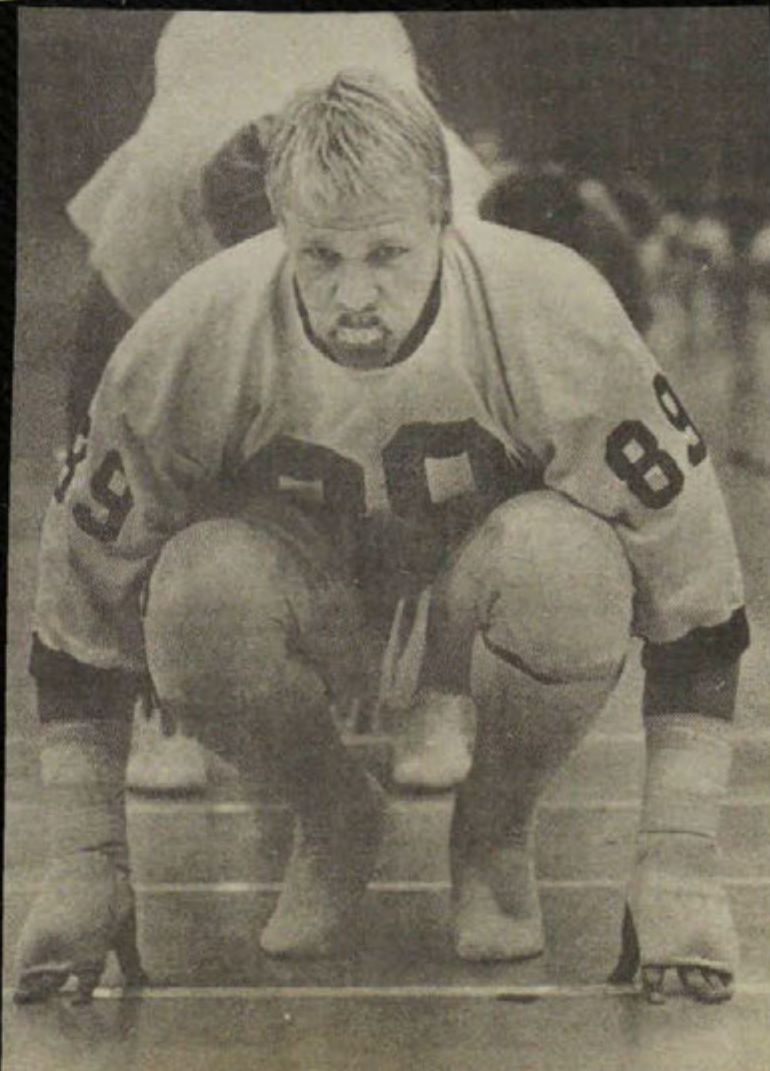
passed up the field goal.

But Jewell moved only sporadically, and then most of the time in its own territory as freshman Darin Liston pinned back the Cardinals with precision punting. One kick went out on the William Jewell 1.

"They (Baker) didn't do anything special," Jewell receiver Jim Reed said. "They just played tough on defense. I never thought we'd get shut out. Maybe we can get another shot at them and do better next time."

Baker Coach Charlie Richard scored his first victory over Jewell, his alma mater, in five meetings. One game ended in a tie.

"I thought it would take 24 points to win this game," Richard said. "It's really a big surprise. We played as good a defensive game as I've ever seen. We had a good first half on offense, then Jewell's defense dominated us in the second half. The muddy field hurt our option runs, and that's a big part of our game."



Paul Iwanaga/Staff

Junior Tim Johnson is one of the 125 who turned out this year.