

Jewell won't see a duplicate

Ohio NAIA team has heavier backs than team that beat Cards in '80

By Bill Richardson
sports writer

Memories. They're savored richly and then put aside. That's the approach Wilmington Coach Bill Ramseyer is taking toward a return visit to Liberty, Mo., for a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II football playoff game against William Jewell.

In a 1980 semifinal game, Wilmington swept in from Ohio, dominated play in the second half and beat Jewell 31-10 behind the power running of John Worthy and Bernard Williams.

"That's in the past; this is 1983," said Ramseyer, putting on his game face for the quarter-

final showdown at 1 p.m. Saturday. "I don't like to compare teams or players. The backs we have now are a different type from Worthy and Williams. They're a little heavier."

Freshman tailback Spencer Littlejohn, who is 6 feet, 218 pounds, junior fullback Ted Mehlman, 6-2, 220, and senior quarterback Jim Sposet head the Wilmington pro-type offense, which features power sweeps and drop-back passes.

Wilmington, 8-1, has reached the playoffs against Jewell, 8-1-1, despite being wracked by injuries. The Quakers, ranked fourth in the next-to-last Division II poll, locked up a berth with a 13-10 road victory over No. 2 Findlay last week. The youthful defensive unit continued steady improvement as

Wilmington won its seventh straight game.

Meanwhile, Pacific Lutheran, 7-2, is making the most of 1980 memories as it prepares to be host to Baker, 10-0, at 3 p.m. Central time Saturday in Tacoma, Wash. Pacific Lutheran won the NAIA Division II championship in 1980 with a victory over Wilmington.

"We've been in the playoffs four of the last five years, and we're battle-tested, so to speak," Pacific Lutheran Coach Frosty Westering said. "The championship we won in 1980 has given us prestige. Linfield from our conference won the Division II championship last year.

"We're on such a roll right now. We've won four in a row, and we've played a strong

schedule. Our keys are our balance and our experience. We're a wide-open team, but you won't find us leading the offensive statistics because we're so even on rushing and passing. We are in the top 10 (fourth) against the rush."

Westering said quarterback Kevin Skogen and fullback Jeff Rohr have been the spark plugs for the Lutes, whose losses were to Central Washington 15-14 and to Linfield 30-27. After studying films, Westering said Baker was impressive. "They're a very physical team, and the stats speak for themselves," Westering said. "They're No. 1 in every defensive category (total defense, defense against rushing and scoring defense). This ought to be a great game."

Jewell romps 51-7, but Baker tumbles 35-3 in NAIA Division II games

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Picking up where they left off in the regular season, the William Jewell Cardinals rolled past Wilmington (Ohio) 51-7 Saturday in Liberty in the opening round of the NAIA Division II football playoffs.

After suffering a mid-season shutout loss to Baker, Jewell regrouped and outscored its final three opponents 154-28, earning a berth in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II playoffs for a record fourth straight time.

Now the Cardinals, who lost in the championship game last year, are headed for a semifinal showdown against Northwestern (Iowa) on Dec. 3 in Liberty. The other semifinal matches Westminster (Pa.) at Pacific Lutheran.

William Jewell looked strong in all phases of play in snapping Wilmington's seven-game win-

ning streak. The Cardinals held Wilmington to only 57 yards rushing and intercepted five passes, three by free safety Mike Newman. The Jewell offense powered for 325 yards on the ground as Steve Hodges ran for 128 and Scoop Gillespie for 126. Quarterbacks Scott Sandridge and Paul Troth combined for 181 yards passing.

Despite the overwhelming statistics and 20-7 halftime deficit, the Quakers stayed in contention until struck by a series of turnovers in the second half.

"We thought we had to throw the ball to get back in the game," said Wilmington Coach Bill Ramseyer, whose team beat Jewell 31-17 in the 1980 playoffs. "But everything we tried to do snowballed, and it deteriorated from there. We could do absolutely nothing on the ground. That No. 57 (Tim Johnson), their middle linebacker, was at the point of attack all day. We knew coming into the game Jewell had extreme quick-

ness, and they sure do."

Jewell drove 62 and 60 yards on its first two possessions for a 14-0 lead. The running of Hodges and passing of Sandridge featured the marches. Sandridge capped the drives with touchdown runs of 1 and 10 yards. Gillespie, who later provided big ground plays, was used mainly as a blocker on the first two drives.

Sandridge said Wilmington was dropping off a defensive end to help cover wide receiver Jimi Reed, and that made an inviting target for power sweeps to Jewell's left side. Gillespie's blocking opened the way as Hodges consistently ran left.

"It would have been silly not to utilize the left side when they were giving it to us," said Sandridge, who played most of the game despite wearing a knee brace.

Wilmington closed to 14-7 in the second quarter after linebacker Mike Thompson's 24-yard interception return carried to the Jew-

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