

# 'Dogs take down Central College

**Josh Sisson**  
Staff Reporter

Senior 125-pound wrestler Allen Stokes hadn't wrestled a live match in more than a year.

He seemed right at home, though, on the mat in Pershing Arena on Monday night. Stokes stuck his opponent in 2:34, and the 'Dogs took it from there, easily knocking off Central College (Iowa) 40-12.

Sophomore Dan Keller followed Stokes with a technical fall against Central's Nate Forsythe. After Central forfeited the 141-pound match, it found itself down 17-0 and staring down the barrel of a long night in Kirksville.

Head coach Dave Schutter said he liked the intensity his lightweight wrestlers brought at the outset of the dual.

"I was happy with the start," Schutter said. "I thought Stokes wrestled well. He's been off a year and came back his senior year and looked good. Keller carried it right on from where he was at nationals last year. Moving up a weight, he looks strong."

Stokes took a medical redshirt last year after injuring his shoulder.

He said he couldn't wait to get back in on the action.

"It felt great, especially being the first match, getting that first takedown and hearing the crowd," Stokes said. "I hadn't heard it in over a year, so it was definitely a lot better than sitting on the sideline last year."

Another Truman wrestler coming off a medical redshirt is senior All-American Gregg Nurrenbern. Nurrenbern made quick work of his opponent, pinning him at the

2:19 mark in the 184-pound bout.

Like Stokes, Nurrenbern said his return was a long time coming, but it was well worth it.

"It felt really good," Nurrenbern said. "I'd been looking forward to it for a long time. It was a great feeling getting back out there and winning a match."

Schutter was glad to see his big All-American back to old form.

"At 184, I'm real pleased," Schutter said. "Gregg's been off a year, and he's come back looking solid. He looks like he's worked hard and trained hard."

Truman's other All-American senior picked up his first victory of the young season. Dustin Teeman, who placed sixth in the national tournament last March, won by technical fall against Central College's Robert Baxter in the 157-pound match.

Schutter said Central is no slouch against which to open up the dual-meet season.

"Central College has had a real strong tradition up there in [NCAA] Div. III," Schutter said. "The last two or three years, they've been in a rebuilding stage and got a new coach, but they have great facilities, a great wrestling room, a strong tradition. It's a quality win, definitely, to beat that program."

Stokes said he expects his team to continue its success throughout the dual season.

"We should win a lot of duals this year because we have a lot of guys that are going to get lots of pins and tech falls, so we'll score a lot of points as a team when we do win," Stokes said.

The wrestling team travels to Warrensburg, Mo. Sunday to compete in the annual CMSU Open.



Chris Waller/Index

Sophomore Dan Keller looks for an opening against Central College's Nate Forsythe. Keller won the bout by technical fall at 6:19. Keller garnered the third most wins on the team last year with a 32-19 record.

# Football wins final game of season in convincing form

**Josh Sisson**  
Staff Reporter

Something had to give in Goodwell, Okla., on Saturday.

One might expect a battle between a pair of 1-9 teams to become an ugly struggle. Truman came out sharp, though, and it was a struggle for Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

The 'Dogs came out firing on all cylinders and pounded Oklahoma Panhandle 49-17.

Head coach Shannon Currier was particularly pleased with Truman's balanced offensive attack.

"We were really efficient on offense," Currier said. "We moved the ball downfield quickly when we needed to. At the same time, we were able to run and throw."

It was easily Truman's best offensive game of the season as the 'Dogs piled up

536 yards of total offense.

True freshman quarterback Michael Long played his best statistical game as a Bulldog, completing 20 of 30 passes for 319 yards. He continued to limit the turnovers, throwing just one interception on the day. His three touchdown passes easily made up for the lone pick.

Currier said he sees the development in his young quarterback and plans to continue pushing him.

"We really want him to strive to become the most improved quarterback in the conference, and I think he's capable of doing that," Currier said.

The 'Dogs wasted little time in letting Oklahoma Panhandle know it would be a long afternoon. Truman scored on each of its first two drives. Sophomore running back Mike Patnode capped off both marches with scoring runs of five and 15 yards. Patnode made it a hat trick with a third score later in the second half.

Currier said getting a jump on the competition is always paramount.

"I think it's important in every game to be able to start strong, not only for the demise of the other team, but for your own team's confidence," Currier said.

For the second straight week, Patnode eclipsed the 100-yard plateau, this time going for 134 on 21 carries. He doubled his season touchdown tally from three to six in the game.

After a slow start, Patnode said the past two weeks have gotten him back in a groove running the ball.

"Personally, it's helped me regain some confidence in myself," Patnode said. "Hopefully it'll help me going into the offseason, and we'll see what happens next year."

Long connected on a pair of 34-yard strikes to junior receiver Ryan Bonner and senior receiver James Walton in the second quarter. The 'Dogs headed to

the halftime locker room with a 28-10 advantage.

Junior wide receiver James Perry caught Long's third touchdown pass later in the second half. Senior running back Jerard Levenson found paydirt for one final time in the fourth quarter as the 'Dogs continued to pull away.

While the offense moved up and down the field, the 'Dogs also played some stout defense. Oklahoma Panhandle could muster only 186 yards. The 'Dogs recorded 16 tackles behind the line of scrimmage, keeping Oklahoma Panhandle off stride all afternoon.

Oklahoma Panhandle wanted to run the option against Truman, but its offense didn't have near the success that other teams have enjoyed.

Junior linebacker Larry Giglio, who recorded three and a half tackles for losses on the day, said he and his teammates were more prepared.

"When you've played a team like Pittsburg State [University], everyone knows their option responsibilities," Giglio said. "When you play another option team, you don't have to think so much. You're just playing football. It also didn't hurt that they were much slower and easier to react to."

Truman's win ends the nine-game losing streak and leaves the team with the same record it posted last year.

Currier said the 'Dogs are a better football team than they were in 2004, despite the identical win totals.

"We were as bad as we'll ever be last spring when we had 50 guys out there and [were] thin at all positions," Currier said. "The official we had in our first game this year saw us in the spring, saw us beat Winona, and he thought it was a dang miracle that we pulled that off and got to where we did, so I think we have made the progress."

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