

# Football can't finish upset

**Bulldogs unable to take lead on three chances in fourth quarter**

**Josh Sisson**  
Staff Reporter

If the Washburn University Ichabods expected a Homecoming stroll through the park Saturday, they were wrong.

The MIAA-leading Ichabods needed 14 unanswered fourth-quarter points to pull off a 21-14 win and prevent the determined 'Dogs from staging an unlikely upset.

Head football coach Shannon Currier saw improvement in every phase of the game.

"We played the best team in the region, the No. 1 team in the conference, and we played them very well," Currier said. "We played very well in special teams. The defense played excellent and got a couple turnovers. The offense moved the ball. We need to get more points on the board, but we're making progress."

The Truman defense made huge plays all afternoon, and it started with Washburn's first drive. The Ichabods moved the ball deep into Truman territory but stalled inside the 20-yard line. On fourth-and-two, senior free safety Jason Douglas stuffed Washburn running back Trent Hearn a yard short of the first-down marker.

When the Truman offense went three-and-out for the second time in the first quarter, Washburn took over near midfield. The 'Dogs gave them a taste of their own medicine, however, forcing the Ichabods' three-and-out.

The 'Dogs showed signs of life on their third drive when they marched 71 yards in nine plays. They came away with nothing, however, as senior place-kicker Mark Kamphoefner's 37-yard field goal attempt was blocked.

Currier said a number of things need to be addressed in practice to

improve the placekicking game.

"We're going to have more live snaps than we've had, just to really attack the protection in practice, so we'll be ready in a game," Currier said. "We definitely need to execute that field goal. It could have been the difference in the game had we scored late."

Junior linebacker Larry Giglio gave the offense a spark in the second quarter. He stripped Hearn of the ball, giving the 'Dogs possession on the Washburn 23. Truman cashed in on the very next play as true freshman quarterback Michael Long found senior wide receiver James Walton in the end zone.

Giglio killed Washburn's next drive as well, intercepting a pass from quarterback Jordan Brill at the Ichabod 36-yard line. Truman failed to turn the pick into points, but Kamphoefner's punt pinned Washburn at its own three.

Giglio said his teammates helped him make the big play.

"I was in the right place at the right time, I guess," Giglio said. "The D-line got great pressure on the quarterback and made him throw the ball a lot quicker than he wanted to and before the receiver was ready. It hit his hands and came right to me."

Hearn quickly got Washburn out of the hole with a 76-yard run, but the 'Dogs didn't give any more ground. Connor Sabel's 38-yard field goal missed wide left, and the Ichabods came up empty.

Washburn finally evened the score when Mike Odupitan caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from Brill with 43 seconds left in the first half. Washburn only converted four of 15 third-down plays for the game, but a 20-yard completion on third-and-17 kept the eventual scoring drive alive.

The 'Dogs regained the lead in the third quarter when senior running back Jerard Levenson scored on a one-yard touchdown dive. Junior wide receiver Ryan Bonner made the big play of the drive, catching a 20-yard pass from

Long on third-and-18 to help set up the score.

Levenson had his own kind of Homecoming on Saturday. In Truman's last trip to Topeka, Kan., two years ago, Levenson gouged the Ichabods for more than 200 yards. This time he rushed for 117, giving him two 100-yard rushing games in as many weeks.

The big guys up front created Levenson's running lanes Saturday.

Redshirt freshman left guard Chris Lorren said things are coming together for the offensive line after a rough start to the season.

"Guys aren't making as many mental mistakes," Lorren said. "Guys know their assignments and are working hard."

Washburn got the equalizer in the fourth quarter when Hearn squirted through the line for a 31-yard touchdown on fourth-and-one.

The Ichabods took their first lead later in the fourth when Hearn capped off a nine-play 64-yard drive with a four-yard touchdown run.

The 'Dogs had three chances to get the game tied again, but penalties and turnovers undermined their efforts.

Currier said Long's late interceptions are characteristic of a young QB.

"It's all about experience ...," Currier said. "It's unfortunate that a true freshman's our best quarterback right now because he could benefit from learning more, but for right now we believe he gives us the best chance to win."

Currier said he expects last week's performance to give the 'Dogs a boost as they prepare to host Pittsburg State University this Saturday in Truman's Homecoming game.

"[Washburn] won, so obviously that's more important, but I think it gives us some confidence as we get ready for Pitt State," Currier said. "We played a good team and had a chance to win. Our hard work is paying off, and that's all we can focus on."



Chris Tharp/Index  
Junior wide receiver James Perry scores one of Truman's touchdowns Oct. 8 against Missouri Southern State University. Perry had eight receptions for 52 yards against the Ichabods last weekend.

## Women's golf swings into seventh at Kenneth Smith

**Joseph Barker**  
Staff Reporter

Taking its shortest trip of the year, the women's golf team headed west to take on a mixed field.

At the Kenneth Smith Invitational on Oct. 18 and 19 in Lee's Summit, Mo., the Bulldogs took seventh out of 11 schools. The tournament featured six Div. I schools, three Div. II schools and two NAIA schools. Truman was the top Div. II team, and it beat out the two NAIA schools as well.

"It was a good tournament for us," head coach Sam Lesseig said. "We beat everybody we needed to beat. Going into it I felt we needed to be the top non-Div. I school, and we were."

After a first-round score of 332 put the team in seventh place, the purple and white did little moving. They were 11 shots ahead of the eighth-place team, Rockhurst College (Mo.), and seven shots behind the fifth-place team, the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

The second round showed no movement up or down the leader board as the 'Dogs shot a 331 and maintained their seventh-place spot. They finished the tournament with a combined score of 663 – good, but not what Lesseig was looking for.

"I wish we could've been in the 320s [per round], but we weren't," Lesseig said. "Overall everyone had some high points and, obviously, some holes that they would like to forget."

Although the team did finish where they expected, there was still some disappointment in the finish. Sophomore Marta

## On the dance floor

Sophomore Marta Samojluk had an *outstanding* fall season

Date	Tournament	Score	Finish/Total Competitors
Sept. 3 to 4	Maverick Round-Up	167	15/47
Sept. 9	Knox Invitational	86	19/107
Sept. 10	Fighting Scots Invite	77	2/114
Sept. 17 to 18	Concordia Invitational	241	15/60
Sept. 24 to 25	Mustang Invitational	80	6/69
Oct. 2 to 3	Prairie Fire Invite	166	9/68
Oct. 17 to 18	Kenneth Smith Tourney	163	21/59

Designed by Ross Houston/Index

Samojluk said the tournament would've been better had the team been able to put together two solid rounds.

"I think on both days, we had players who did well," Samojluk said. "It was just unfortunate that we all couldn't do well on both days. On the first day,

[sophomore] Amanda [Senn] played really well, but on the second day she

didn't, and then on the second day, [sophomore] Laura [Westensee] played really well, but the first day she didn't. I think that if we can combine that and all play well both days, it would have been a little bit better."

Samojluk and freshman Julie Williams tied for highest finish on the Truman squad, both shooting a 163 (+19) in the

two rounds. The score was good enough to earn the duo a 21st-place finish.

"This week I felt really, really bad, but my scores weren't that bad," Samojluk said. "For myself I wasn't happy, but I could have been a lot worse."

Sophomore Laura Westensee was the next-highest finisher. She shot a 167 (+23) to finish tied for 31st. Rounding

out the rest of the scores were sophomore Amanda Senn, who finished tied for 39th with a 171 (+27), and junior Sara Lloyd, who finished in a tie for 44th and shot a 177 (+33).

"The first day I did not play as well as I would've hoped," Westensee said. "I had an 87. The second day I had an 80, which was a lot better. I was hitting the ball better. It was an all-around better round. It was good to end the fall season on a good note."

With the final shot at the tournament, the 2005 fall season ended. Although the 'Dogs didn't win a tournament on the season, they did manage some high finishes. In the seven tournaments, all on the road, the women had three second-place finishes. They also had two fourth-place finishes, an eighth-place finish and the seventh-place finish they received at the Kenneth Smith Invitational.

"We definitely had our good tournaments where we all came together and shot lower scores," Westensee said. "Overall, I think we could have put together more consistently lower scores. It just depended on who played well. I think we will have a better spring."

Even with the fall season just days over, Westensee isn't the only one thinking about the spring.

"I am glad that the fall is done, but I am really looking forward to the spring," Samojluk said. "I think we showed a lot of potential. We are all getting really close to shooting some really low scores. I think that the spring should definitely be a lot better, and we will all improve in the off-season."

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