

'Dogs fall to CMSU

Josh Sisson
Staff Reporter

Everything that could have gone wrong did in Warrensburg on Saturday.

Truman made every mistake imaginable, and Central Missouri State University took advantage of them, destroying the Bulldogs 69-17.

Head coach Shannon Currier said Truman simply doesn't have the horses to match up with the likes of CMSU.

"It's tough to admit, but that team's better than we are," Currier said. "They've got more depth, more experience, more athletes. I mean, they got a lot of guys out there that can run around and make some plays, and right now, we're not there yet."

The Mules made more than their fair share of plays, but the 'Dogs did plenty to help them along the way.

Truman turned the ball over five times, with three of the miscues leading directly to CMSU touchdowns in the first half. Also, CMSU pass rushers sacked the Truman quarterbacks six times throughout the afternoon, also.

The special teams had a long day, too. The 'Dogs gave up back-to-back punt returns for touchdowns late in the third quarter. CMSU's Roshawn Marshall brought the first one back 67 yards, and the second one went for 57.

A number of poor punts by senior kicker Mark Kamphoefner gave CMSU the short field for much of the second half, too.

Currier said he knows his team cannot afford to play so sloppily.

"I think we can secure the ball better, and we can do a better job on our punt coverage, no doubt," Currier said. "It's when you fail to do some of those things against a great team, that's when it gets ugly and out of hand, and that's what happened Saturday."

The 'Dogs fell behind early in the contest as the Mules scored the game's first 13 points. Truman put together a nine-play 67-yard drive later in the first quarter to cut into the lead. Senior running back Jerard Levenson capped off the march with a 12-yard streak to the end zone.

The purple and white forced a turnover of their own on the ensuing kickoff. Junior defensive back Darnell Williams stripped CMSU return man Imani Butler of the football, and freshman wide receiver Jeff Sanders jumped on it.

Still, they failed to move the football once

they took possession, but Kamphoefner blasted a 49-yard field goal through the uprights to pull the 'Dogs to within three.

CMSU answered with a pair of its own touchdowns in the final minutes of the first quarter. A short kickoff gave the Mules the ball at their 45, and two plays later they found the end zone. After senior defensive back Jason Douglas fumbled the ensuing kickoff, the Mules needed four plays to travel 43 yards and make it a 27-10 game.

Sophomore quarterback Jonathan Duffy found Levenson in the end zone on a 14-yard touchdown pass to bring the 'Dogs to within 10 in the second quarter, but they would not draw any closer. CMSU ended the game on a 42-0 run to secure the blowout.

Freshman fullback Nick Nathan said the single blown assignment here and there is hurting the offense.

"We're just still working on little errors," Nathan said. "We usually play pretty well until someone makes an error, but we have the ability to be good."

Nathan said the 'Dogs couldn't match up with CMSU's defensive athleticism.

"They're a good team," Nathan said. "They're quick to the ball and really physical."

The Truman defense made stops when it needed to against Northwest Missouri State University the previous week but couldn't find the answer to the CMSU attack.

Currier said the defensive inconsistency is disappointing.

"We've been able to do some good things at times throughout the year," Currier said. "It's frustrating because you just don't expect anything like this to happen anymore. We think we're better than that now."

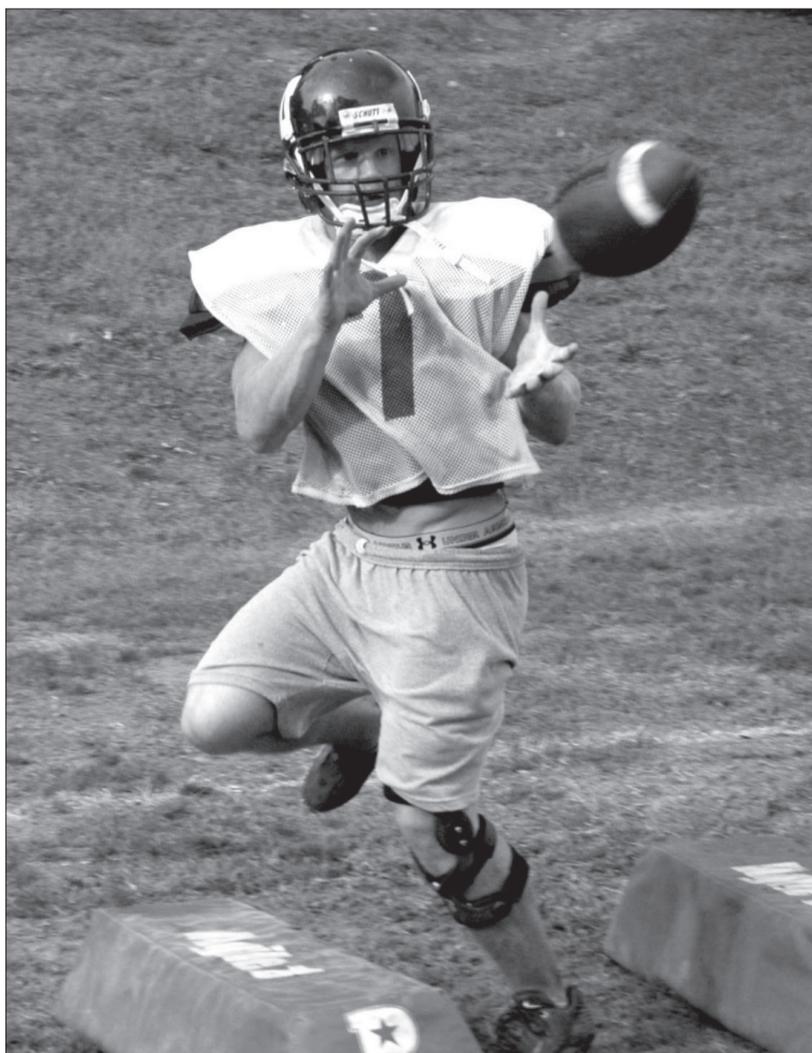
At one point in the game, eight of the defenders on the field for Truman were freshmen.

One of them was linebacker Jason Thier, who said the squad's youth is partly to blame.

"We're younger than most teams," Thier said. "We're all trying to get used to playing in college. We usually play better in the second half because we've gotten some experience by then."

Currier said he knows all phases of Truman's game need to step up a level when Missouri Western State College comes calling on Saturday.

"Our defense suffers from poor offensive play, our offense will suffer from poor defensive play, and both suffer from poor special teams play," Currier said. "They are all dependent on one another, and we need to get them functioning at the same time."



Chris Waller/Index
Junior Jeff Amundson looks the ball into his grasp during practice. Amundson had no catches during Truman's 69-17 loss. The Bulldogs will try to rebound this Saturday when they host Missouri Western State College at noon at Stokes Stadium.

Rain nags women's golf as team takes eighth in Iowa

Sara Lloyd, Marta Samojluk finish in top 20 to lead the Bulldogs at Concordia Invite

Sara Miller
for the Index

Junior Sara Lloyd fired the best round of her collegiate career Sunday, shooting a one-over-par 74 at the Concordia Invitational women's golf meet in Lake Okoboji, Iowa.

"I haven't been able to wipe the smile off of my face since I came home," Lloyd said. "It gave me my confidence back that I know I can play this game."

Lloyd had been struggling this season, averaging a round score of 88.5

prior to this weekend.

Rain and lightning forced the Bulldogs to modify their game for this tournament.

"The greens were wet, so we knew we'd have to putt a little harder," Lloyd said.

Still the women's golf team finished eighth out of 11 teams, its worst finish since fall 2004 when it finished ninth in an Illinois Wesleyan University tournament.

"We probably should've finished about fifth or sixth," head coach Sam Lesseig said. "Overall we played fairly average, nothing really great, nothing really terrible but not what they're capable of doing."

Lloyd finished the three-round tournament with a score of 243, tying for 18th place. This score is a great improvement from the tournament last

weekend where she finished in 33rd.

Another 'Dog finished in the top 20 this weekend. Sophomore Marta Samojluk tied for 15th with a score of 241.

Sophomore Laura Westensee finished 35th with a score of 250, sophomore Amanda Senn shot a 256 for 42nd place, freshman Julie Williams' 260 put her in 47th and freshman Lindsay Dodge wound up in 56th with a 281.

Overall, the team shot a three-round score of 1,007. The University of Nebraska-Omaha's 935 gave them the team title.

Lesseig said the weather probably factored into some team members' performances.

"It was a long weekend overall. I'm proud everyone held it together."

Sara Lloyd
Junior golfer

The women were supposed to play two 18-hole rounds Saturday, but twice rain and lightning stopped the tournament, Lesseig said. The golfers were not able to finish their 36 holes Saturday and had to make up the missed holes plus an additional 18 holes Sunday, Lesseig said.

"It was a long weekend overall," Lloyd said. "I'm proud everyone held it together." Westensee said it's important to con-

sider that the tournament included all the good teams in the region.

"We know that we were up against good competition," she said. "But I think we also could've put together a better group of scores as a whole, and we could've placed better."

Westensee said a lot of individuals on the team have done well, but the team needs to score consistently low to improve its ranking.

"Everybody has had their moments of having good rounds," Westensee said. "We just have to put them all together, and once we do that, I think we'll place really well."

Next week the 'Dogs will travel to Marshall, Minn., to play in the Mustang Invitational.

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Announcement: DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE. "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" Mark 8:36. College Bible Study, 803 S. Fifth Street. 5:30 p.m. Sundays. Call 660-665-7609 for more information.

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