

Defense prevails in spring game

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

The normally potent Bulldog offense was kept quiet Saturday as the Black team (second team offense and first team defense) defeated the White team (first team offense and second team defense) 20-10 in the annual spring game at Stokes Stadium.

The game was controlled by the Black defense, and the White offense never seemed to be able to get in sync. Junior Matt Ticich, quarterback of the White team, seemed under pressure all night and never was able to find the rhythm he possessed last season.

"I would like to have seen the first team offense play with more urgency and more up tempo, more of an optimistic approach," head coach Shannon Currier said. "[I'm] a little disappointed that we weren't hustling as well as we needed to. I think we gave up too much pressure on the quarterback. We didn't run the ball as well as we liked to. We basically didn't make very many plays on that side of the ball."

The Black team scored the game's first touchdown early in the second quarter on a 10-yard pass from freshman backup quarterback Phillip Davis to freshman running back Donald Harvey. The White team came

back with a one-yard touchdown by freshman Anton Bernard late in the second quarter to take a 10-7 halftime lead.

That was the last time White scored. Black rattled off 13 unanswered points in the second half, including Harvey's second touchdown of the game late in the fourth quarter.

Ticich finished 15 of 26 passing for 156 yards without a touchdown. He was under pressure most of the game from the Black defensive line.

Currier said it's hard to assess how well each side plays in a scrimmage because if one side of the ball seems to be playing well, it might be because the other side is not playing as well.

"I thought defensively we played really well," Currier said. "We didn't give up big plays. We definitely defended the run really well. At the same time, on offense I'd like to have seen us run the ball more effectively. ... I'd like to see us protect better."

The offensive stars of the game came from the Black team. Davis completed 21 of 34 passes for 161 yards and had two touchdown passes to Harvey.

"Overall I think the offensive line as well as the receiving core [and] running back core contributed a lot to the game," Davis said. "We started

off a little slow in the first half. We came back and had a couple good drives. I think it was a team contribution overall."

Currier said Davis seemed poised in the pocket and played well.

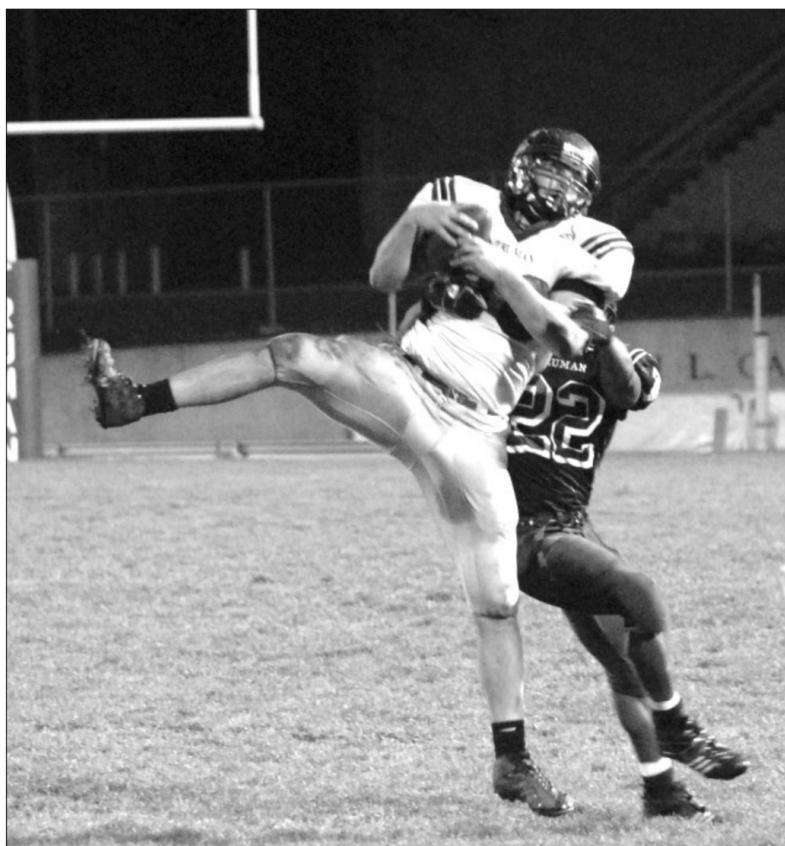
"Phil Davis has been very consistent," Currier said. "He has a very strong work ethic. He does all the little things right. He had a good spring game last year. We're really excited about his development, and we're looking forward for him to continue to really focus on accuracy of his throws and consistency of his throws."

Spring football gives coaches a chance to evaluate players. Harvey said he is trying to show the coaches that he can be a very versatile player.

"I just wanted to show that I could play more than one position," Harvey said. "I've been back and forth as a receiver and running back, so I wanted to let Coach know that I could play both positions."

Although the offense and defense were the main focus of the scrimmage, the kicking game seemed to be in good shape. Sophomore kicker Mickey Masucci, who kicked for both teams, finished a perfect 3-for-3 on field goals and 3-for-3 on extra points.

The Bulldogs also were able



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Junior tight end Ryan King corrals freshman cornerback Luther Eta in the annual spring football game last Saturday. Eta and the first-team defense won the game 20-10.

to get their first look at the new play clock rule installed by the NCAA. This season there will be a 40-second play clock that will begin as soon as the previous play is whistled dead. This is different from the old rule of a 25-second play clock that began

when the referee placed the ball in play. On change of possessions the play clock will be 25 seconds. This probably will shorten the lengths of games.

Currier said that between the two teams only 55 plays were completed. He said his staff will

continue to research the new rule to see if it will affect the style of the game.

The Bulldogs will begin the regular season Aug. 28 at Stokes Stadium against Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Women place fourth at Invite, qualify for regional

BY COREY JAROS
for the Index

The golf team's toughest challenge this weekend could have been the weather.

The squad battled 25-degree weather and 35-mile-per-hour winds during the weekend to claim a fourth-place finish at the Okoboji Invitational in Okoboji, Iowa. Upper Iowa won the event with a 647, followed by Nebraska-Omaha (665), Minnesota State-Mankato (673) and Truman (675).

"The weather conditions were about as bad as it gets," head coach Sam Lesseig said.

Truman was led by freshman Kaytie Spangler, who dropped six shots off of her score Saturday to finish 10th with a total

score of 166. The team went into its last invitational of the season knowing that the opportunity to compete at the 2008 NCAA Div. II Women's Golf Championships was potentially on the line.

"We knew we had to keep playing well," Spangler said. "This is one of our tougher tournaments, and we just wanted to prove that we were good and hopefully lock in a position at regionals."

Sophomore Krystal Limsiaco was in fourth place heading into the final round but shot an 86 Sunday to tie for 13th. Junior Julie Williams put together rounds of 88 and 81 to finish 15th.

The team learned Tuesday that it had been invited to the regional competition at the 2008 Div. II Women's Golf Championships for the second consecu-

tive year. Lesseig said consistent play throughout the season was key in securing a top-six spot in the region.

"They have played pretty steadily all spring," Lesseig said. "The weather has not been the best, but we handled it very well."

Freshman Jen Lawson she said she felt pressure knowing that this was the last invitational before the NCAA Div. II Women's Golf Committee released the Div. II women's golf regional poll. Her total score of 172 was good for a tie for 19th place.

"I know I was a little bit nervous, especially on the second day because we were tied for third," Lawson said. "As long as I keep myself calm and relaxed, my game tends to fall into place."

The event was played on a differ-

ent course each day because of excessive rainfall.

"When you are dealing with winds like that, you have to play a lot smarter," Lawson said. "I tried to keep the ball as low as possible to try and keep myself around the fairway. It doesn't always work out like you would hope, but you have to pay more attention to getting into a good position for the next shot you are going to have to take."

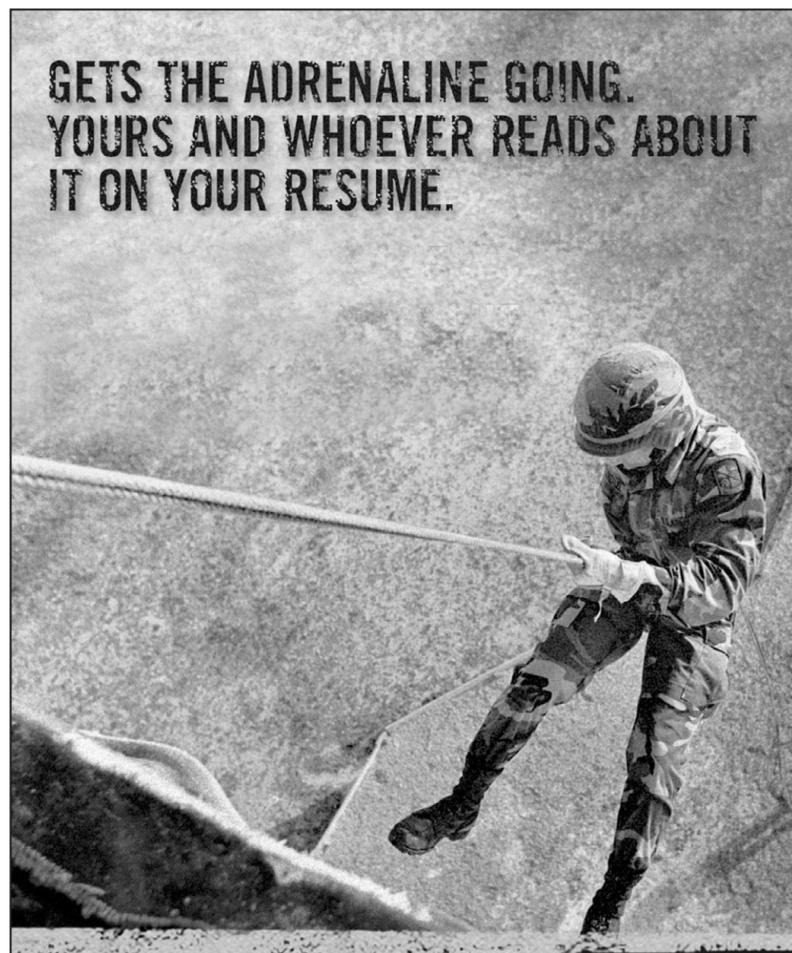
Lawson said managing time between golf and academics has been a challenge as well. With finals starting in less than a week, balancing practice and studying can be a challenge, she said.

"It has been crazy," Lawson said. "The fact that my teachers are being very reasonable makes it a lot less stressful, though."

Lesseig said he has not set any specific goals for the team's performance at the regional competition, which is set to take place at King's Walk Golf Course in Grand Forks, N.D., beginning May 5. The top two teams out of the six-team field, along with the two lowest-scoring individuals of non-advancing teams, will head to the NCAA Spring Sports Festival and the National Championship tournament May 13 to 16.

Last year the team advanced to the NCAA Div. II national competition in Pensacola, Fla., by placing second in the field of six teams at regionals. The team finished eighth at Nationals.

"We just want to go up there and play the best that we can," Lesseig said. "We want to enjoy it."



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