

SPORTS

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Football adds 33

BY JACK NICHOLL
Assistant Sports Editor

It only took a few plays for Bulldog offensive coordinator Aaron Vlcko to become interested.

Vlcko was at a recruiting meeting with two players from a high school in Missouri City, Texas, when he happened to see game tape on an offensive lineman. Vlcko inquired about the lineman and had him called down to the office so they could meet.

This started the recruiting process

of Phil McKinnon, who had never heard of Truman before he met Vlcko.

"He didn't know how good I was, because he just saw a couple plays," McKinnon said. "But I sent him a highlight film and they ended up offering me and wanted me to come up and visit."

Vlcko made the high school visit in December, and McKinnon made an official visit to Truman in January before making his final decision to become a Bulldog last week.

McKinnon joined a record number

of signees in the head coach Shannon Currier Era in signing their letters of intent yesterday. As of late yesterday afternoon, two transfers and 31 high school seniors had signed, with a possibility of two more joining the group. Last year's high school signing class of 28 plus four transfers was the previous high.

McKinnon joins four other offensive linemen to sign for Truman, in what head coach Shannon Currier called "the best group of offensive

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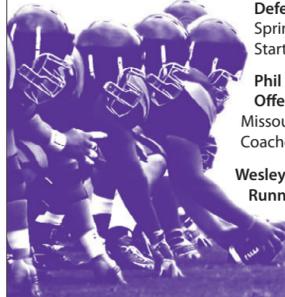
ROAD DEFEAT

Men lose 68-50 last night at Washburn

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New guys on the turf



Jeremy Mayweather
Defensive Back
Spring, Texas
Started four different positions in high school

Phil McKinnon
Offensive Lineman
Missouri City, Texas
Coached by NFL Hall of Famer Bruce Matthews

Wesley Allen
Running Back
St. Charles, Illinois
Rushed for 1,992 yds and 29 touchdowns in senior season
Design by Antionette Bedessie/Index

Addition of LU hurts conference

You screwed the pooch on this one, MIAA.

By adding Lincoln University to its ranks, the MIAA damaged the credibility of the conference.

I've covered Truman athletics for almost three years, and in doing so I've heard that the MIAA is one of the best conferences — and maybe even the best conference — in Div. II probably more than 100 times from players, coaches and administrators. For the most part, I've accepted this notion.

But beginning in 2010, when Lincoln starts competing in the MIAA, I will look upon that statement with more skepticism because I cannot think of a single way the Blue Tigers improve the MIAA's dynamic.

Throughout the conference, the argument has been that Lincoln will balance the men's and women's basketball schedule. The schedule became unbalanced when the MIAA added the University of Nebraska-Omaha, which started competing in the conference this season. (Note: The MIAA wouldn't have needed to add UNO and create an unbalanced basketball schedule had it not foolishly allowed Southwest Baptist University to become independent in football starting in the 2008 season.)

Although it's true that Lincoln will balance the basketball schedule and eliminate the two bye dates MIAA teams had in this season's conference schedule, the Blue Tigers will open up a new problem by unbalancing the football schedule. Beginning in 2010, the MIAA will have 11 football teams, which will call for a 10-game conference schedule with a rotating bye week. And if your bye week happens to fall any time after

the first couple weeks of the season, you can pretty much kiss goodbye any possibility of finding a non-conference opponent with an open date.

Thus, adding Lincoln essentially shortens football's regular season to 10 games — instead of the standard 11 — for MIAA teams. In doing so, MIAA teams no longer will play two non-conference games

to begin the season. Instead of enjoying the benefit of easing its way into the conference schedule with a couple of non-conference cupcake games, Truman potentially could begin a football season with Northwest Missouri State University in week one and Pittsburg State University in week two. That's a scary thought.

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COMMENTARY



Blake Toppmeyer



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Peter McCall (left) and Andrew McCall have both qualified for nationals this year via the 200 free relay.

Brothers learn to share swimming spotlight

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

Most siblings don't end up at the same college or spend 20 hours a week in a pool together — the McCall brothers do both.

Junior Andrew McCall is a year younger than his brother and fellow Bulldog swimmer Peter McCall. The two-time All-Americans have been swimming alongside each other since Andrew's freshman year of high school. At both the high school and collegiate levels, the brothers participated in the same events, motivating each to try to outdo the other one.

In high school, that motivation wasn't always good. Both brothers admitted the desire to beat the other at all costs. They agreed that there was stress at times because they were too aggressive. Peter said swimming with his brother in high school was sometimes tough, but a great experience nonetheless.

"It was a blessing in disguise," Peter McCall said. "It was very much a love/hate relationship during that time. In high school we were really competitive, without the camaraderie that would make it OK — there would be legitimate tension in our relationship because of swimming."

The brothers said they never got into any huge arguments, but swimming the same events led to some tension. They said some car rides home from meets consisted of dead silence. Andrew said both brothers would swim faster times if they were next to each other during a race, but that practicing next to each other wasn't always a good thing.

"I do remember one incident [Peter's] senior year where we actually ended up wrestling in the pool," Andrew said. "The coach was so stunned he didn't know what to do. He just stared as we fought it out."

The brothers said that since they came to Truman, too much competitiveness hasn't been as much of a problem. They have learned to encourage each other to do better, instead of arguing about who is better.

Head coach Mark Gole said he has coached several sets of brothers before, and these two do a great job pushing each other to swim the fastest times possible.

"I think they have a little brotherly rivalry going on," Gole said. "They both know how to get each

other going. I think that's a very good thing to have."

The duo picked up a nickname two years ago from their fellow Truman teammates. They're referred to as the "swim unit" because of a comment Andrew gave during an interview two years ago. He said that even when one of them wins, the other can take credit for it because they are a unit. One of their teammates never let Andrew live down the comment, and the nickname stuck.

Peter didn't join the Bulldog swimming team until his sophomore year. He was a pitcher on the baseball team during his first year, but arm trouble sidelined him for most of the season. After a bad shoulder injury, he decided to give up the sport altogether. His next decision was whether he should end his collegiate sports career altogether.

But Andrew, who was going to be swimming at Truman, said he thought

Peter should go ahead and try to make the team. Peter talked to Gole about joining the team, and

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"The coach was so stunned he didn't know what to do. He just stared as we fought it out."

Andrew McCall
Junior

+



Lincoln sports facts

- Was unanimously voted in by conference presidents to join MIAA
- Will start competing in conference 2010-11
- Currently has 11 sports, with a plan to add volleyball and men's and women's soccer
- Won women's outdoor track and field championships from 2003-07

Design by Antionette Bedessie/Index

Lincoln joins MIAA

Blue Tigers will begin competing in the conference in 2010-11

BY JACK NICHOLL
Assistant Sports Editor

In a unanimous vote of the conference's 11 university presidents, Lincoln University has rejoined the MIAA.

The vote was submitted last Friday and the MIAA issued a press release on its Web site Monday. Lincoln will start competing in the MIAA during the 2010-11 season.

This will be Lincoln's second stint in the conference. It was a member from 1970 to 1999, but had to forfeit its membership when its funds did not allow Lincoln to have a football team, which it has since added.

Lincoln will not have an official vote on conference issues until July 1, 2010, even though it will be able to attend conference meetings before then.

"Emporia State was very supportive of the inclusion of Lincoln," ESU athletics director Kent Weiser said. "I think it's

very positive. I think it's very positive for our league, and for Lincoln University, and we're looking forward to it."

The Institutional Representatives Council, which is composed of the athletics director, senior women's advisor and faculty representative from each MIAA school, voted 32-to-1 in favor of adding Lincoln. The votes of the IRC do not officially count, but they serve to advise the votes of the university presidents.

Truman's Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said the one vote not in favor of Lincoln's admission came from Missouri Western State University's Athletics Director Dave Williams.

"He wasn't opposed to Lincoln because it's Lincoln," Wollmering said. "He was more opposed to, 'Hey, before we continue to add schools, we need to lay out a plan of where we want to be in the future.'"

The possibility of Lincoln rejoining the conference was brought up in the past few years at the time of the Fort Hays State University and University of Nebraska-Omaha admissions, but

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