



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Sophomore wide receiver Kendrick Blue catches a pass for a touchdown in the fourth-quarter of Saturday's game. Blue caught two passes for 40 yards.

SEASON IN REVIEW

Final Record: 4-7 **MIAA Record: 3-6**

OFFENSIVE LEADERS

Rushing: Matt Ticich — 426 yards
 Receiving: Ryan King — 505 yards
 Scoring: Mickey Masucci — 66 points
 Total Offense: Matt Ticich — 2,773 yards

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Tackles: Jason Thier — 97
 Sacks: Les Hammers — 6.5
 Interceptions: (Tie) Jason Thier and Derek Rodriguez — 4
 Fumble Recoveries: Demetrius Lavant — 3

FACTS

- Most losses for the Bulldogs since the 2005 season
- Ten All-MIAA selections, most since 13 in 2006

Design by Joe Barker/Index

Football falls in double overtime

Team finishes season at 4-7 after loss to Missouri S&T

BY JACK NICHOLL
Assistant Sports Editor

Missouri University of Science and Technology took a chance on the last play of its football season against the Bulldogs on Saturday.

It paid off. The Miners ran it in from one yard out on a two-point conversion in double overtime to defeat Truman 39-38 at Stokes Stadium.

The Bulldogs blitzed up the middle on the play, but S&T running back David Shields bounced to the outside for the score and the win.

"We had them stopped," junior linebacker Eric Sternberg said. "We had the play snuffed out and he just bounced off and bounced out, and we ran out of guys on the outside. We had it read, just didn't come up with the play."

A facemask against Truman on the previous play set up the short-yardage conversion.

It was the first time since 1983 — a span of 23 games — that Truman (4-7, 3-6 MIAA) lost to S&T.

Truman won the toss in the first overtime period and a defensive stop led to an S&T missed 37-yard field goal, but the 'Dogs were unable to capitalize on the stand. Four plays later, junior kicker Mickey Masucci missed a field goal wide left from the same distance.

On the first play of the second overtime, senior quarterback Matt Ticich threw his fourth touchdown of the game, a 25-yard strike to junior wide receiver Albert Coker. But S&T used a seven-play drive for the win, helped out by a pass interference call in the end zone against Truman.

A soft zone defensive scheme by Truman helped to contain the Miners (7-4, 3-1 GLVC), who had scored more than 60 points each of their

previous two games.

"We know these guys come out and pass a lot and we know they don't run that much," Sternberg said. "And we were planning on stopping the run when they did run it."

The Bulldogs had 406 of total offense, compared to 478 for the Miners. Truman outrushed S&T 135 to 95 and each team averaged 3.1 yards per carry.

S&T quarterback Brad Guidry was 35-for-54 with 383 yards passing and three touchdowns. Many of his passes were of the 10- to 20-yard variety, but only two went for more than 20 yards.

"Obviously you don't want to give up big plays in pass defense," head coach Shannon Currier said. "You want to try to keep it in front of you, and we for the most part did that."

Three early Bulldog mistakes helped S&T to a 28-7 lead, even though Truman eventually won the turnover battle 3 to 2. A bad punt snap and a fumble inside the red zone twice gave the Miners a short field to work with.

But the 'Dogs stepped up in the second half, outscoring S&T 17-3.

"We just played way better," Sternberg said of the second half. "We played our assignments, made tackles and came out firing. And first half, two games in a row, defense just cannot come out and make the big plays when we need to make them."

Down by four points with 5:52 left in the game, Ticich engineered a nine-play, 56-yard drive to give Truman its first lead of the game.

Coker had a key reception on a 4th-and-3 and Ticich capped off the drive with a 14-yard touchdown run to the left side on a play in which Truman had all its receivers lined up to the right.

"We had been running that five receiver right thing and they were overloading it," Ticich said. "So just take a chance and go left."

S&T responded with a 46-yard drive that culminated in a 29-yard field goal to send the game into overtime. The Bulldogs twice almost made a stop, but the Miners converted on a 4th-and-1 and they recovered their own fumble late in the drive.

Sophomore running back Anton Bernard led all rushers with 75 yards on 15 carries, and freshman defensive back Terrence Byrd contributed five tackles, a forced fumble and an interception.

The loss ended the season for many seniors on the Truman sideline in a season in which the 'Dogs were 2-5 in games decided by 14 points or fewer, including

two straight one-point deficits to end the season.

"That's as tough as it gets," Currier said. "First of all it's tough being a senior playing your last game. And then with the season we've had — a lot of ups and downs — more downs than ups. Losing a tough game like this against a team you expect to beat, it's really difficult to deal with."

The most notable senior is Ticich, who accounted for every one of Truman's touchdowns Saturday. He was 23-for-38 passing for 251 yards and four touchdowns and he had another 66 yards rushing in the game. Ticich ends his career second on the all-time Truman list in passing yards, total offense and touchdown passes. The 25-yard touchdown pass to Coker was the last play of his career.

Other seniors include defensive end Les Hammers, who led the team in sacks, linebacker and leading tackler Jason Thier and leading receiver Ryan King.

Injuries slow wrestling team at UCM Open

Braidlow claims second straight top-six finish, compiles 2-3 record

BY ARRON HUSTEAD
Staff Reporter

A few bumps and bruises can't keep a good team down.

At least that's what Truman wrestlers are hoping this week after the team suffered a few injuries at the University of Central Missouri Open. The team forfeited four matches because of medical reasons at the tournament.

Head coach David Schutter said the injuries the Bulldogs suffered this weekend are to be expected from time to time and are nothing that they can't come back from.

"You don't go wrestle anywhere and not come out banged up and sore," Schutter said.

Junior Andy Bader wrestled unattached at the open because of his redshirt status this season. In the 165-pound bracket, Bader won his first match by pin in the first round, but then twisted his knee during warm-ups for his second match. He

went on to win the second match 13-7 against Fort Hays State University's Kyle Hudgins, but Bader was unable to continue after that and forfeited his last two matches for medical reasons.

"I guess my foot got caught in the ground, and I fell with a drag overhead and couldn't continue," Bader said.

In addition to Bader's forfeits, junior Bryan Isbell and freshman Tyler Bise each forfeited a match for medical reasons at the open.

Isbell started off the tournament with a 16-3 technical fall against the Central Oklahoma's Conner Robinson in the 165-pound bracket. He then suffered a 5-1 loss to University of Central Missouri's Andrew Hicklin before forfeiting his final match of the tournament.

Bise lost in the first round to UCM's Scott Neumann on a last-second takedown in overtime and forfeited his second and final match of the day.

"[Bise] busted his lip up early in the match and really was battling that," head coach Dave Schutter said. "He had an early lead in the match and did something and busted a couple of ribs up in the match."

The team faced-off against competition from some larger schools at the open this weekend.

"A couple of Div. I schools brought all their starters and through and through [it was] just a real tough tournament, a meat grinder," junior Loyde Braidlow said.

Braidlow placed sixth in the 285-pound division at the open. He defeated Central Oklahoma's Cameron Giadd 6-2 and Missouri Valley College's Travis Ewart 4-3 in overtime to advance to the semifinals.

"For the most part, I just wrestled solid and just wrestled smart and got a couple of early victories," Braidlow said.

This marks the second straight competition in which Braidlow has placed.

"I've had All-Americans that haven't done that this early in the year," Schutter said. "That speaks volumes of where he's at."

Braidlow was pinned in the semifinal round by the eventual winner in that bracket, Jerrod Rosholt of Oklahoma State University. Rosholt recorded four victories by pin at the open. He currently is the top ranked Div. I wrestler in the nation at 285 pounds.

Braidlow went on to lose his final two matches of the tournament as well, both by a 3-1 margin.

In both tournaments this season, Braidlow has won early to reach the semifinals and then has lost three consecutive matches.

"When he has that first loss, he has a hard time getting it back together," Schutter said. "One of these tournaments down the road, when he has that first loss in a tournament, he's got to come back. That's definitely something he's got to work on."

Schutter said it's hard for wrestlers to maintain their focus at big tournaments like this because they can have a long wait for their first match to take place, and then have a match every 30 minutes after that.

Eight freshmen competed Sunday

in the open, which for many of them was only the first or second tournament of their college careers.

Freshman Jeremy Minter went 1-2 in the tournament, wrestling at 125 pounds. Schutter said Minter has made significant improvements this season.

"When he redshirted last year, he couldn't hold anybody down," Schutter said. "He couldn't turn anybody."

Freshman James Crone was 3-2 at the open in the 124-pound division. He was defeated by technical fall, 18-5, against University of Oklahoma's Justin Forest in the first round of competition, but rebounded with three straight victories before falling to eventual fourth-place finisher Dustin Dooley of Fort Hayes State.

Crone said a key for him at the open was getting riding time over his opponents because he picked up points from ride time in each of the matches he won.

"I just went out and was aggressive like the coaches told me to," Crone said. "I didn't let them get in my head, wrestled my own match."

The Bulldogs next compete Sunday at the University of Missouri-Columbia Open.

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