

Emporia upsets 'Dogs

BY JACK NICHOLL
Assistant Sports Editor

One football team showed up for the first 33 minutes. A completely different team showed up the last 27.

Inconsistent play led to a Bulldogs upset at Emporia State 35-24 last Saturday. It was only Emporia's third conference win during the last two years.

The 'Dogs (3-5, 2-5 MIAA) had more first downs, rushing yards and passing yards than their opponent. Emporia (4-5, 2-5 MIAA) averaged just 2.7 yards a carry and their quarterback was just 12 for 21 passing with two interceptions.

But the stats are misleading. Truman only showed up for a little more than the first half of the game and Emporia capitalized off of mistakes in all areas.

"We'll be able to beat teams if we can put all the aspects together," senior safety Matt Burel said. "But we're having trouble right now constantly clicking for an entire game."

The game started out well for the Bulldogs. Senior quarterback Matt Teich found junior receiver Albert Coker for a 73-yard touchdown on the third play from scrimmage.

Truman scored on three of its first five possessions. The 'Dogs

led by a touchdown after the first quarter and they stretched the lead to 24-14 by the end of the first half.

They kept the momentum going with an interception by junior linebacker Eric Sternberg on the second play of the third quarter, giving Truman the ball at the ESU 29 yard line. They drove down to the four, setting up a short field goal for senior kicker Mickey Masucci.

Then the wheels fell off. Masucci missed the chip shot off the left upright.

ESU then drove 80 yards on 18 plays for a touchdown, including going 4-for-4 on third down conversions and eating 9:35 of the clock.

"They didn't do anything special," head coach Shannon Currier said. "We just missed tackles, we had a personal foul, we had them on three or four third and long situations where we just failed to make tackles."

Truman then fumbled the ensuing kickoff, which was run in for another touchdown and an ESU lead. The Bulldogs never came close to scoring the rest of the game as their next three possessions ended in a punt, fumble and turnover on downs.

"That was a big point swing there, not just with the mo-

mentum, but we lost the lead there," Burel said. "... That's a big change of points there going from 10 up to even four down."

The Bulldogs forced two turnovers, but they gave up three. ESU had 21 points off turnovers, including returning two for touchdowns, and Truman had zero points off turnovers.

Even in the first half, there were mistakes. Truman had a two-yard punt into the wind, which gave the Hornets excellent field position, and an interception.

"Unfortunately we played a team we can beat and then all of a sudden the turnover woes go against us and we can't let that happen," Currier said. "We need to win the special teams game — we haven't done that in a while. We need to create big plays on special teams."

The Bulldogs once again excelled in the area of their running game. They had more yards in the first game rushing than in any full game this season with 138. They had 201 total rushing yards on 43 carries for 4.7 a carry. Teich was the leading rusher with 64 and four Bulldogs had at least 30 yards.

Teich said earlier in the year when the running game started to improve that people were

making less mistakes and the team was able to run to the outside more often.

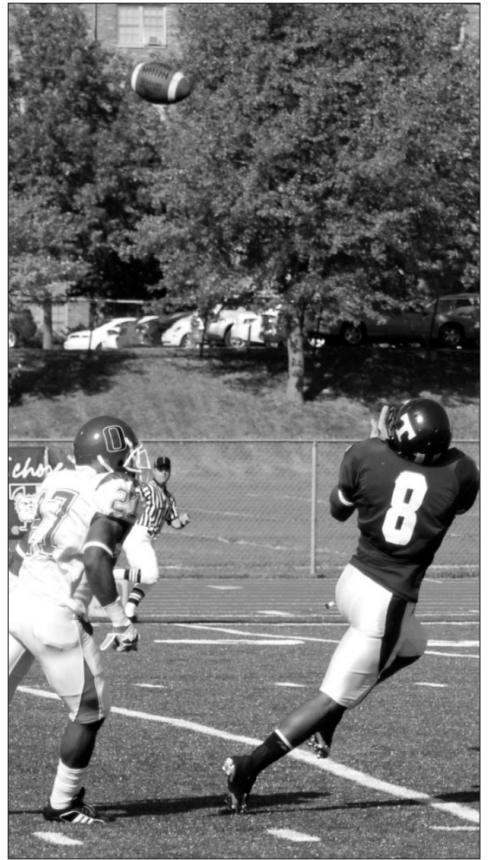
But even the running game was slowed down by the second half woes. The Bulldogs had to abandon what was working best for them when they fell behind by two scores.

"We had them in some of our formations that created some real problems for them structurally and that was probably the number one reason why we got them," Currier said. "Number two was our running backs. And three — they just weren't as good, defensive line and linebackers, as what we've been playing."

On defense, senior linebacker Jason Thier led the team with 10 tackles and continues to be second in the MIAA in tackles per game.

The Bulldogs need to win their remaining three games to finish at 6-5 for the third consecutive year. Their contest against Missouri University of Science and Technology has been officially rescheduled for Nov. 15 at Stokes Stadium. The game originally was scheduled for Aug. 28 but was cancelled because of inclement weather.

The 'Dogs play Missouri Southern University for Senior Day this Saturday at 2 p.m.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Junior receiver Albert Coker (shown here against UNO) had a 73-yard TD reception on the first series versus ESU.



Mayank Dhungana/Index
Senior Will Holleman breaks a tackle during the 17-17 tie against UNL on Saturday.

Rugby ends fall season with tie

BY JOCELYN NEBEL
Staff Reporter

During the last few minutes of Saturday's game, the Bulls lost the lead they had held the entire game and tied the University of Nebraska-Lincoln 17-17.

Truman led the game 13-0 at the half. After a few penalties, the Huskers cut the Bulls' lead to 17-10, and a late try and conversion as time expired secured the tie.

Head coach Bill Sexton said the team treated the tie more like a loss.

With the tie, the Bulls finish the fall season with a 2-5-1 record.

Sexton said the two teams seemed evenly matched and the Bulls had entered the game feeling positive. The Bulls began the first half with the wind to their backs. This helped them take a 13-point lead at the half.

Senior Dylan Rohr said the first half was very similar to Truman's game against the St. Louis Ramblers last weekend when the Bulls

won 24-0. Nebraska had a similar scrum size, but the experience level of the players was lower than the Ramblers.

"We played really well together in the first half," Rohr said. "We were able to see the fruits of our practice."

The second half proved more difficult. Sexton said Nebraska pounded on the Bulls' goal line about 30 minutes into the half, but they initially withstood the pressure.

"We showed tremendous resolve and we tackled extremely well, played extremely well to prevent them from scoring," Sexton said.

The Bulls received penalties in the second half despite strong defense. Truman was called on feeding the ball and later for a ball kicked out of the back.

But the Bulls' defense eventually broke from the Huskers' constant pressure. Despite opportunities to prevent a try, a Nebraska player broke through the defense at Truman's 22 yard line for the score and

Nebraska kicked the conversion to tie the game. Sexton said the team started to block with their hands rather than their bodies.

"We got really lax," Rohr said. "[We were] playing more timid just sitting on a lead hoping to wait it out until the end of the game."

Senior Will Holleman said he was frustrated by the Bulls' performance.

"We didn't capitalize on the many opportunities we had and we had a lot of penalties," Holleman said. "We just didn't play fundamental rugby."

Sexton said the loss of senior Josh Harris might have contributed to the tie. Harris rolled his ankle against the Kansas City RFC on Oct. 18. The team had to change its back line defense. Holleman said the negative attitude of the team was a big factor in this fall's 2-5-1 performance.

"Normally a positive attitude [and confidence] will take care of a lot of things and a negative attitude will really drag us down," Holleman said.

Sexton said the team needs to

work on fitness and dedication for the spring and that players need to come to practice more consistently.

"We have a core group of people who are committed to working hard, doing whatever it takes," Sexton said. "Then there's a core of people who are playing, but we need to tell them into that same sort of zealous, workaholic, the people that see that goal."

Sexton also said recruitment of new players is essential to the program and that there are a lot of young quality players on the team. Since the 2007 fall season, five new players have moved to the starting lineup.

Rohr said one of the biggest problems during the season was the focus on individual performance and disputes between team members. Communication was one of the biggest problems this fall, but it improved in the last few games.

"We need a good strong group of players that can go out on the field and just be one, not just one group of individuals," Rohr said.

Review of the Previous 4 Years under Sheriff Leonard Clark:

- #5. "Sheriff Department Missing Money"
- Sept. 19, 2008 KTVO Web site
- #4. "Sheriff Department Employee involved in Hotel Stand-off"
- June 7, 2006 Kirksville Daily Express Newspaper
- #3. "Sheriff Department Deputy fired for Inappropriate Conduct"
- May 20, 2008 KTVO Web site
- #2. "Sheriff Department Lack of Attention to Inmate Resulted in Death and \$150,000 Lawsuit"
- May 6, 2008 KTVO Web site
- #1. "Sheriff Department Jail Administrator Fatally Shoots Boyfriend and Returns to Work"
- May 9, 2008 KTVO Web site

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