

UNO blanks Bulldogs 38-0

Football falls behind early, can't come back in MIAA opener

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

Before the crowd of 3,846 settled into their seats at Caniglia Field on Saturday night in Omaha, the Bulldogs found themselves down 14-0.

The University of Nebraska-Omaha scored 14 points in the first 1:04. Truman (1-2, 0-1 MIAA) never recovered and lost 38-0.

Things went awry for the Bulldogs from the opening kickoff. The Mavericks ran the kick back to the Truman 30-yard line. On the next play, UNO running back Bryce Hawthorne went untouched into the end zone to give the Mavericks a 7-0 lead.

On Truman's first play from scrimmage, junior quarterback Phil Davis threw an interception. Two plays later, Hawthorne scampered seven yards for his second touchdown in less than 70 seconds.

"I took a good look in their eyes and felt like they were pretty disappointed," head coach Aaron Vlcko said. "So what I tried to do was get them all to take a

little deep breath and get re-focused. ... Unfortunately we went out and things didn't really improve much from there."

Hawthorne's first two carries were a precursor to the rest of the evening. He finished with 180 yards on 23 carries, with an average of nearly eight yards per carry.

"He's a talented running back, and they have a very good offensive line," Vlcko said. "They hadn't ran the ball as well going into this game. But I guess we were pretty confident they were going to come out and get that running game going."

"So part of it is them doing a good job, the other part of it is we didn't get off blocks."

Truman appeared to be making headway midway through the first quarter. After forcing a UNO fumble, the 'Dogs put together their longest drive of the game. They started at their own 10 yard line and went 71 yards in seven plays, but the drive ended when senior running back Phil Kenney fumbled at the UNO 20-yard line. It was the closest the Bulldogs came to points all game.

Truman never got the ball inside the UNO red zone. The 'Dogs had 14 of

fensive possessions that included a string of six consecutive punts in the second and third quarters.

"They came out and jumped on us there pretty quick," Kenney said. "We knew we had to relax to get back in the game and try [to] get something going, and we just never really did."

UNO led 31-0 at halftime. The Mavericks added one more touchdown late in the third quarter.

Field position played a part in the 'Dogs' troubles offensively and defensively. Truman's average starting field position was its own 21-yard line. UNO averaged starting at its own 42.

Vlcko said falling behind early forced the team into a mode where it forgot to do the fundamentals.

"When things weren't going well, they reverted back to more of a survival mode of fundamentally not doing things that they were taught," Vlcko said. "So that's really what we've got to get our kids to do, when things aren't going well, you've got to go back to your fundamental techniques you're taught by your coaches."

Davis finished 18-for-42 with two interceptions. He was the Bulldogs' leading



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Junior quarterback Phil Davis and senior running back Phil Kenney, shown in a game earlier this season, could not muster much offense against UNO last Saturday.

rusher with 47 yards on 15 carries.

Vlcko said the speed of the game was faster this week, and that Davis had trouble adjusting at first but got better as the game wore on.

"If there was a difference between this game and

the previous game for Phil, I really felt like it was the speed," Vlcko said. "Even as a coach, sometimes it's hard for us to recognize it until it happens. ... Things were happening a lot faster Saturday night than really the first week and certainly the

second week."

UNO out gained Truman 415-224 and had 10 more first downs than the Bulldogs.

Truman was just 3-for-14 on third down conversions. They entered the game converting 61 percent on third downs but were hampered with numerous third-and-longs.

The game featured 21 penalties. Truman was penalized 11 times for 110 yards, and UNO finished with 10 penalties for 123 yards.

Freshman punter Eric Phillips play was a bright spot for the Bulldogs. After struggling to find consistency in the Week 1 loss and not having to punt during last week's 54-7 victory, Phillips finished with two punts longer than 50 yards, with a long of 62. He averaged 44.1 yards on eight punts.

"Honestly, no there wasn't any difference (from Week 1)," Phillips said. "I just did what I should have done Week 1 honestly."

The Bulldogs continue conference play on Family Day this Saturday at home against Fort Hays State University. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. at Stokes Stadium. The Tigers lost 58-31 against Missouri Western State University on Saturday.

Bulls rugby returns 16 from 5-10-1 campaign

BY CORY WEEKES
Staff reporter

With the season's first game fast approaching, the Bulls rugby team is excited and confident about the upcoming year.

The Bulls open up their season Saturday against Colorado State in Manhattan, Kan.

Led by head coach Bill Sexton and junior team captain Aaron Loida, the Bulls, who are coming off of a 5-10-1 season, are looking to establish themselves as a contender in a tough division consisting of the University of Oklahoma, University of Nebraska, Oklahoma State University, Kansas University and Kansas State University.

Sexton said he is excited about the young group of guys he has coming in.

"I'll tell you this," Sexton said. "I have 16 guys coming back, which means we have a young team. We are looking to rebuild with a great group of talented and exciting younger guys, some of whom I am looking at to have an immediate impact on the team."

"We have several guys [who] played ball in high school and are coming to us as seasoned, skillful players. It's not every day you get a 6-foot-5, 300-pound, ex-offensive lineman or an ex-high school sprinter/wrestling star or a freshman rugby player from South Africa to come in and play for you."

In a conference consisting of

all Big 12 teams, Sexton says he is setting the bar high. He not only plans to have a winning record, but also is looking at the post-season as a possibility.

"In our conference, of course Oklahoma is going to be tough," Sexton said. "But other than them, I think we can handle just about everyone else. I am looking for us to go 4-1 and make it to the next level of competition, that being the playoffs."

Junior captain Aaron Loida has similar high expectations for the team this year.

"Our goal is to get a good rhythm going early against this Colorado State team, who has played more games and looks very fit," Loida said.

"We want to be competitive, and I know if we play to our full potential, only one or two teams will give us serious problems."

A major point of emphasis this year is the big improvements made off the field.

"In the offseason there was just an overwhelming positive vibe," Loida said. "This is the best team I've ever played on, especially since we have become so much more mentally prepared since last spring."

A big part of these positive improvements comes in the form of incoming young talent.

"David McDunah is one of the more experienced players," Loida said. "Even though he is a freshman, he has played a lot in high school and should make a big impact on the

team early on."

Loida said that, this year, the team's strengths far outweigh its weaknesses.

"Our quickness and speed is by far our biggest strength," Loida said. "We have a lot of speed all over the field."

Loida said that if there is a weakness for the Bulls this year, it is the team's lack of experience playing together.

"That lack of play time, if we aren't careful, could play a part in the outcomes of our games," Loida said.

Although the young talent has been a pleasant surprise thus far, there are also some returning impact players, such as senior Paul Ederly.

"I would say the leadership of the older guys has been a big strength," Ederly said. "Loida does a great job keeping the practices organized. One of the biggest improvements this year has been our overall seriousness at practice, and I think that the young guys really feed off of that energy."

With their first game only a few days away, Sexton said he is confident the Bulls' work in practice has prepared the team well.

"In the offseason we like to go back to the basics," Sexton said. "Not only does that help the young guys get a feel for the game, but it also helps the older guys shake the rust off. It takes a while to develop skills, but I have seen great improvements in not only the young guys, but in the older guys too."

Loida, for one, is setting his expectations high for this year.

"4-1 would be a good way to start it off, and maybe I'm shooting for the stars, but 5-0 sounds about right," Loida said.

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Men's soccer: Rematch with Incarnate Word looms

The Friday men's soccer matchup against No. 9 University of Incarnate Word (Texas) has become much more than just a game for the Bulldogs. The matchup will be a huge test for the 4-1 Bulldogs, but junior forward Nick Schlichtman said he is confident in the team's preparation.

"I think our team's up for the task," Schlichtman said. "We're all mentally prepared, and we're determined to win every game we can."

There is a score to be settled from last year, when Incarnate Word came to Kirksville and beat the Bulldogs. That was the beginning of a stretch in which Truman lost eight out of nine. The Bulldogs are hungry for a different story this year.

"We were 19th in the country last year, and Incarnate came here and beat us 1-nil," Cochran said. "Think my guys remember that? It's going to be an absolute battle. We expect nothing less than a war."

The match also will mark the first time the team has played on turf this season. Junior midfielder Bobby Larkin said he thinks that will play into the team's quick style of play.

Men's cross country: Chapman back to full health

Senior Zach Chapman has returned to practicing with the cross country team after missing the first part of the season.

Chapman did not run at the season-opening meet Sept. 5 because of sickness, and he was held out of the Les Duke Invitational last Saturday because of a calf injury.

Head coach Tim Schwegler said Chapman is at full speed and is scheduled to run in the next meet, the Brissman-Lundeen Invitational on Sept. 25.

"If he can be a five or six guy for us, that's going to help us out — just give us a little more depth," Schwegler said.

Chapman has been one of the top runners on the team since his freshman year. He finished second on the team at the MIAA Championships and fourth at the regional meet in 2008.

Women's soccer: Mahn misses matches with injury

The injury bug continues to follow the women's soccer team. Senior forward Riley Mahn missed both of Truman's matches last week.

Head coach Mike Cannon said her injury isn't serious, but it could worsen if not handled correctly. He said Mahn was rested mainly as a precaution so she could be 100 percent down the road. Cannon said she could return to action today or Saturday, the 'Dogs next two matches.

Mahn led the team last year in goals scored with 10 and was named to the All-MIAA honorable mention team. Mahn has one goal this season.

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Off-Campus: \$5 per ad

For Rent

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For Rent: Awesome 3-BR 2-BA house right next to campus! Pottery Barn look. Interior completely new. All new appliances including DW and W/D. New central air and electric heat for green utilities. Available now. 319-530-7393.

Miscellaneous

Misc: Huge garage sale! Hickory Ridge Trail (first right turn off 157/Lake Road). Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Noon til 7 p.m. Great stuff, you come!

Miscellaneous

Misc: Ice House Auto Plaza is Kirksville's One Stop Auto Shop, Q-Lube, Car Wash, Window Tinting, Detailing, Stereos. Collision Center & Glass, 2609 N. Baltimore, 660.665.3900.

Misc: Student bible study. Ryle Hall, room 362. Mondays at 8 p.m.. For more info call Ryan 573-424-2887. ryanmskinner@gmail.com. "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

Misc: B&H Graphics, Print & Sign is your one Stop Print Shop. We do it ALL. T-shirts, Posters, Banners. Great Prices. Great Designs. Call us at 660.665.8303.

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