

Offense defeats defense 12-9 in spring game

Harvey, Lopez score lone touchdowns of game in second half

BY JACK NICHOLL
Managing Editor

Defense ruled the day in the annual Purple and White spring football game Saturday at Stokes Stadium.

The first-team offense White defeated the first-team defense Purple 12-9 in a game that had only six first-half points and 413 total yards of offense. White led the way with 233 yards of offense — and a 4.4 per-play average — but 70 yards came from one play.

The regular season home opener for the Bulldogs is Aug. 28 at St. Joseph's College (Ind.), and the home opener is the following Saturday against Southwest Baptist University.

"They give so many different looks," sophomore wide receiver Donald Harvey said of the defense. "You don't know — sometimes they will be in three d-linemen and still bring eight people. Sometimes there will be four d-linemen and still bring eight. You never know what they're going to do."

Freshman kicker Derek Koon provided nearly half the scoring while playing for both teams. Koon was 3-for-4 on field goal attempts and perfect from inside 36 yards. He put White on top at the 5:54 mark in the first quarter, then tied it up for Purple three minutes later.

After no scoring for the rest of the half, Koon again gave White the lead with a 27-yarder with 9:15 left in the third quarter.

Koon is the likely successor to four-year standout senior Mickey Masucci, who exhausted his eligibility last fall. Head coach Gregg Nesbitt said Koon has been accurate from short- and mid-range field goals this spring but needs



Left: Freshman quarterback Conrad Schottel unleashes a pass over two defenders during the spring football game Saturday.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Right: A receiver cannot hold onto a pass during the game. The two defenses gave up a combined 413 yards and 21 points through 3 1/2 quarters.

to work on his leg strength for kickoffs.

"I think Derek Koon is going to be very hard to unseat on extra points and on normal distance field goals," Nesbitt said. "It's going to be his job to lose."

It was Koon who chipped away at the scoreboard in the first half, but Harvey provided the big play in the second half. Harvey caught a 70-yard strike from freshman quarterback Conrad Schottel to give White the win. It was

the only pass Schottel threw for White, but he was 7-for-14 for Purple.

The defense blitzed on the play, but Schottel stood in and hit Harvey in stride. Harvey had beaten the cornerback on single coverage.

"Harvey is blessed with some good speed, so once he gets out in open space, there's not going to be too many guys who can catch him," Nesbitt said.

The long touchdown was just one play after White took a 9-6

lead on a four-yard strike from freshman quarterback Taylor Breen to freshman tight end Sterling Lopez. Breen played for both teams and combined to go 6-for-12 for 22 yards.

Schottel and returning starting quarterback junior Phil Davis had eight completions apiece, but Davis led all quarterbacks with 37 rushing yards.

"We [are] working on just establishing the run," Davis said. "From that we are just going to

open it from the run, try to do roll-outs, play action."

But the run didn't work well Saturday against the new base 4-2-5 defense. Nine running backs combined for 2.3 yards per carry for the Purple and White teams. The passing game was not strong either — four quarterbacks combined for a 50 percent completion rate.

Harvey's touchdown was just one of five plays that went for more than 20 yards.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Sophomore catcher Devon Myers gets a hit earlier this season against Missouri S&T. He is batting .340 this year.

Myers' bat stays hot in homestand

Myers' streak pushes his team-leading average to .340

BY BRENT FOSTER
For the Index

Sophomore catcher Devon Myers faced one of the best pitching staffs in Div. II last weekend, but it didn't faze him. In fact, he thrived on it.

Myers finished the four-game-series 10-for-17 with five RBIs and five runs scored to help the Bulldogs achieve their best offensive performance — 20 runs — in a series against the University of Central Missouri in school history, a span of 44 years.

Myers' big offensive outburst also helped move him up Truman's statistical ladder. He leads the team in average (.340), hits (51), doubles (13), RBIs (33) and home runs (5).

"He's a really good hitter and has a great eye at the plate," head coach Dan Davis said.

The Mules, who have won 73 consecutive games against Truman, lead the MIAA and

are No. 11 in Div. II with a 3.46 ERA. The team's 40 wins rank in the top five in Div. II. They are five games ahead of Emporia State University in the MIAA standings. The Hornets were ranked No. 1 preseason in the conference.

UCM pitchers also rank first in the MIAA in wins, saves and fewest runs allowed. Despite this, Myers helped lead a Bulldog offense that broke out for 49 hits during the four-game series.

Myers hit .588 for the series to propel the rest of the offense. The Bulldogs hit .368 for the series against a UCM pitching staff that historically has dominated the Bulldogs.

"I just was finally seeing the ball," Myers said. "I had a couple tough weeks in a row. I saw a little better pitching, which I seem to hit better."

Davis said Myers had been rolling over the top of the ball previously this season, partly because of a wrist injury. But Davis said lately Myers has stayed inside the ball and drive it more up the middle of the field.

"When he does that,

he hits with some serious pop," Davis said. "When he doesn't, and starts getting around it and rolling over it, he's like any other hitter and hits a weak ground ball to the right side and doesn't hit it with authority."

Myers' offensive numbers are up from a year ago when he tied for the team lead with a .316 average. But his power numbers are way up. So far this season he has three more home runs and eight more doubles.

He already has three more hits than he did his freshman year.

Myers is on a 11-game hitting streak and has 18 hits during the stretch.

Davis said he is happy to see Myers hit the ball so well at the end of the season and hopes his hot finish at the plate carries into work during the offseason and ultimately next season.

Myers said he didn't change his approach against a better-than-normal UCM pitching staff.

"I just try and keep it simple and not think while hitting and going right at the ball," Myers said.

Athlete of the Week

Devon Myers
Sport: Baseball
Position: Catcher
Year: Sophomore
Hometown: Fenton, Mo.

Sophomore catcher Devon Myers was 10-for-17 this weekend against Central Missouri with two home runs. He is currently in the midst of an 11-game hitting streak. He leads the team in home runs and RBIs.

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