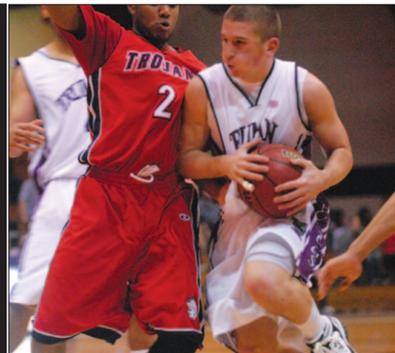


SPORTS

DRIVING TO VICTORY

Men win two straight

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Thursday, December 10, 2009

www.trumanindex.com

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Bulldog Breakdown

Index Online

Index Sports Show:

Sports editors discuss the signing of head coach Gregg Nesbitt.

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On campus

Men's on campus:

Wrestling: 7:00 p.m. today vs. Hannibal-LaGrange

M. Basketball

	MIAA	OVR
1. UCM	2-0	6-0
2. FHSU	2-0	7-1
3. MWSU	2-0	6-1
4. UNO	1-1	6-1
5. SBU	1-1	10-2
6. ESU	1-1	4-4
7. TSU	1-1	3-4
8. MSSU	1-2	6-2
9. NWMSU	1-2	5-2
10. WU	0-2	5-2
11. PSU	0-2	5-3

W. Basketball

	MIAA	OVR
1. WU	2-0	6-0
2. UCM	2-0	5-2
3. FHS	1-1	7-1
4. ESU	1-1	6-1
5. MSSU	1-1	6-2
6. TSU	1-1	5-3
7. UNO	1-1	4-3
8. PSU	1-1	3-5
9. NWMSU	1-2	5-4
10. SBU	0-1	1-6
11. MWSU	0-2	1-5

Quotable

“For 20 some years I've told coaches or teachers to not bring problems without solutions. We tried to talk about solutions this morning and we'll just do the best we can with the solution and work through it.”

-- Head football coach Gregg Nesbitt, on unique assistant coach situation

Nesbitt in as head coach

Truman alumnus was co-defensive coordinator at UCM

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

Gregg Nesbitt has returned to the place it all began more than 30 years ago.

The former Truman running back and defensive coordinator was introduced this week as the new head football coach. The hiring ends a month-long search for a permanent coach.

“This is certainly coming home for me,” Nesbitt said. “Some of the best years of my life were spent here.”

Nesbitt officially began his head coaching duties Monday morning when he met with Truman coaches. He finished

Monday with a recruiting trip to St. Louis and met with the team Tuesday evening.

Nesbitt was selected out of 105 applicants. Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said he and the advisory committee pegged the former University of Central Missouri co-defensive coordinator as a leading candidate early in the process, and he was the only person the committee interviewed.

“Having somebody with almost 30 years of coaching experience, and all that experience being in the state of Missouri was a big factor,” Wollmering said. “Really the unique background he brings to the table kind of set him apart from everyone else.”

History professor Jeff Gall, a member of the search committee, said after interviewing Nesbitt he too was

“The unique background he brings to the table kind of set him apart from everyone else.”

Jerry Wollmering
Director of Athletics



Krista Goodman/Index
New head football coach Gregg Nesbitt talks to media and attendees at his introductory press conference Monday.

Questions remain for current staff

All assistants under contract through July

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

The search for a permanent football coach ended Friday when Truman announced the hiring of Gregg Nesbitt. But the dust is nowhere near settled as a plethora of questions regarding the current coaching staff remain to be answered during the next several weeks.

Nesbitt met with the current staff Monday morning, but he said he has no definitive timetable or plan for who will be on his future coaching staff.

“What we talked about is we've got some problems,” Nesbitt said. “For 20 some years I've told coaches or teachers to not bring problems without solutions. We tried to talk about solutions this morning and we'll just do the best we can with the solution and work through it.”

Former interim head coach Aaron Vlcko applied for the job but did not receive an interview. Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said he notified Vlcko last week in a phone call that the University would hire Nesbitt.

“He becomes an assistant, like he was,” Wollmering said. “Coach

Gregg Nesbitt

Running back
Truman State 1976-79
Head coach
Hannibal High School 1984-89
Defensive coordinator
Truman State 1990-92
Head coach
Hickman High School 1993-2005
Defensive coordinator
Central Methodist University 2006
Co-defensive coordinator
University of Central Missouri 2007-09

Won 2004 Class 6 State Championship at Hickman.

Led Hannibal to three straight playoff appearances.

Nesbitt will meet with them and share his vision and philosophy and see where it goes from there. There was no intention of hiring coach Nesbitt and saying ‘OK, everyone else is done.’ The neat thing about coach Nesbitt is

that he's been in this business long enough and knows that it doesn't have to be that way.

“With his experience he could have a whole new staff here within a week if we let him.”
Please see STAFF, Page 19

Coaching change was needed

I don't know everything about football. I can tell you what an upback is and I know Truman runs a variation of a 3-4 defense, but I've never played organized football and I couldn't tell you the proper technique for a pass block.

But it doesn't take an expert to see that the Bulldogs had a dismal 2009 football season.

It wasn't just the 2-9 record — it was how the team lost. The ‘Dogs were defeated by an average of 32 points against teams with a winning record. Tackling was non-existent most games. Offense, defense, special teams — you name it — they were bad. And it doesn't help that the team is losing junior leading rushing and receiver Verness Emokpae and senior Eric Sternberg (10.5 sacks) this offseason.

Interim head coach Aaron Vlcko is out as head coach after one season.
Please see HIRE, Page 19



Commentary
JACK NICHOLL

Track returns 4 from nationals

BY SONDR LANGLEY
Staff Reporter

The H1N1 virus and the seasonal flu have been raging across campus this fall, affecting both students and student athletes. The ailments have not been lost on the track teams, and head track and field coach John Cochrane said he is falling short in his expectations and planning this fall.

“It has not been a great fall of practice,” Cochrane said. “Some of them got whacked really hard by this stuff. We are not really certain where we are. We usually have a better idea fitness-wise, but we don't know.”

Cochrane said the ‘Dogs currently do not know where they are at with the make up of the team as they open the indoor track season with a meet Friday at Iowa State University.

Last year, the women's distance team suffered from exhaustion, injuries and illness. But this year, coming off a nationally-ranked

cross country season, Cochrane said the team has been fortunate with few injuries and illnesses to bring them down.

Distance events range from middle distances such as the 800-meter run, to the 5K run. This year however, the national meet has taken away the 3K run.

“They took away the 3K, which is the in-between distance, so I am going to focus on my 5K time,” sophomore Dani Dell'Orco said. “Some meets still have the 3K, but it is no longer competed at the national level.”

Sophomore Anne Ratterman and Dell'Orco are returning from a national cross country appearance and are moving into indoor track after only one week off.

“We are trying to develop their speed,” Cochrane said. “Your turn over isn't as quick in cross country than needed for track. A lot of the things are faster and shorter in practice.”

The women's team returns All-Americans
Please see TRACK, Page 19

Junior Derek Atwood: 13th place shot put
Junior Alex Van Delft: 16th place shot put
Senior Katrina Biermann: 6th place pole vault
Senior Shaina Dochterman: 4th place 400m hurdles

Design by Cameron Ballentine/Index