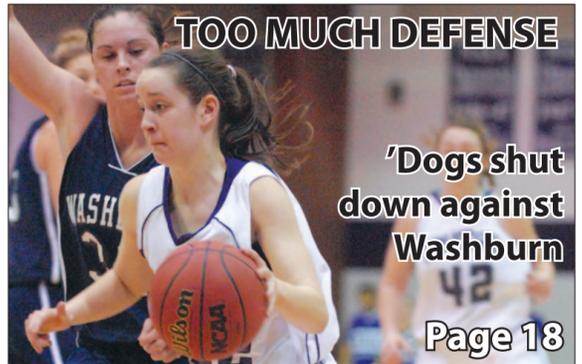


SPORTS

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Bulldog Breakdown

Index Online

Men's and women's basketball slideshow:

Photos from Wednesday's basketball games against Washburn

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Sports editors discuss football signing day

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On campus

Men's on campus:

Wrestling: 7 p.m. Friday vs. Newman

M. Basketball

	MIAA	OVR
1. UCM	13-1	20-1
2. FHSU	11-2	17-3
3. SBU	9-4	18-5
4. MWSU	9-5	14-7
5. UNO	7-6	14-6
6. MSSU	6-7	12-8
7. WU	6-8	12-9
8. NWMSU	6-8	11-10
9. ESU	5-9	9-12
10. Truman	2-12	4-17
11. PSU	1-13	7-14

W. Basketball

	MIAA	OVR
1. ESU	12-1	19-2
2. WU	11-3	17-3
3. FHSU	8-5	15-5
4. UCM	8-6	12-9
5. PSU	8-6	10-11
6. NWMSU	7-7	11-10
7. UNO	6-7	11-9
8. MSSU	5-8	11-9
9. MWSU	5-9	7-14
10. SBU	3-10	5-15
11. Truman	2-12	7-14

Quotable

“He's getting better every time he goes out there, and that's what we want to see this time of year. He's had some lulls in his career here, and it looks like he's putting it together this season. So I'm pretty happy how he's progressing so far.”

—Track distance coach Tim Schwegler, on senior Zach Chapman



Design by Cameron Ballentine/Index

LUCKY 13

Nic Abbate (Defensive End) 6-3, 220 lbs, Carol Stream, Ill.
 Jason Baker (Offensive Line) 6-4, 304 lbs, Bridgeton, Mo.
 Matthew Bell (Running Back/Linebacker) 6-2, Marceline, Mo.
 Dallas Grier (Wide Receiver/Corner Back) 6-3, 190 lbs, Frisco, Texas
 Taylor Heislen (Kicker/Punter) 6-3, 190 lbs, Jefferson City, Mo.
 Matt Jacobs (Running Back) 5-9, 180 lbs, Marshall, Mo.
 Kurt Loyd (Athlete) 5-10, 190 lbs, Mexico, Mo.
 Connor Nagel (Linebacker) 5-11, 210 lbs, Lemont, Ill.
 Adam Nelson (Defensive Back) 6-1, 200 lbs, Walford, Iowa
 Brady Nowak (Quarterback/Punter) 6-1, 170 lbs, Belleville, Ill.
 Brian Rosser (Place Kicker) 6-1, 175 lbs, Des Peres, Mo.
 Brady Schroeder (Wide Receiver/Defensive Back) 6-1, 168 lbs, Minier, Ill.
 Paul Taylor (Wide Receiver/Defensive Back) 5-9, 185 lbs, St. Louis, Mo.

Football inks 13 on signing day

Nesbitt recruits balanced class, but numbers drop from 33 in 2009

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

The foundation for the next four years of Truman football has been laid. Thirteen high school seniors signed letters of intent to play football at Truman on Wednesday.

This season's class is much smaller than those from former head coach Shannon Currier. Last season the Bulldogs signed a re-

cord 33 players. In 2008, the 'Dogs signed 28 players.

"We really want to focus on quality and not quantity," head coach Gregg Nesbitt said.

Nesbitt became head coach in December, the middle of the recruiting period, but said that did not affect recruiting. He praised the coaching staff for its hard work with recruiting.

"No excuses, I don't think the timing made a lick of difference in terms of this recruiting class," Nesbitt said. "We hit the ground running."

Nesbitt said Truman did not tar-

get specific positions, but wanted a balanced class. The class includes two punters/kickers, three players listed on offense, three players on defense, four listed as playing both way and one listed as an athlete.

Of the 13 recruits, seven are from Missouri, four are from Illinois, one is from Iowa and one is from Texas. Nesbitt said one of his goals is to establish a recruiting base in areas north of Interstate 70 and especially around the St. Louis area.

Truman finished 2-9 last season and was last in the MIAA in total defense, but could get some help from

Please see RECRUITS, Page 19

Washburn pulls away in final minute

Bulldogs lose seventh straight contest at home, fall to 2-13 in conference play

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

The Bulldogs battled last night with Washburn University but couldn't put anything together in the last few minutes and lost 62-53.

The Ichabods (12-9, 6-8 MIAA) used an effective full-court press and forced the Bulldogs into 10 turnovers. Washburn mixed it up defensively and played both zone and man-to-man. Junior guard Alex Henderson said the Bulldogs did a good job with the press.

"They slowed us down a little bit, which is what they want to do," Henderson said. "They're not really looking to get steals. We took our time with [the press] and took care of the ball."

The Bulldogs (4-17, 2-12 MIAA) came out cold in the second half and fell behind by as many as nine. However, Truman battled back with several 3-point shots and tough defense. Truman hit eight 3-pointers on the night.

A free throw by junior guard Stefan Garrison tied the game at 52 with less than three minutes to go. However, the Bulldogs only scored one more point the rest of the way. Head coach Jack Schrader said the team played hard the entire game.

"I wanted to play with a lot of emotion,"

Please see BASKETBALL, Page 19



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Junior forward Ethan Freeman had a near double-double with 11 points and nine rebounds in a 62-53 loss to Washburn last night.

Mirror man: twin helps Simek succeed

Freshman Bulldog has dropped times in first season, has four B cuts

Coaches often tell athletes to visualize themselves succeeding in an upcoming competition to ease their nerves. With twin brother Andrew as a teammate from grade school through high school, the competition was already there for freshman swimmer Jerod Simek.

Jerod has four B cuts, is on the cusp of qualifying for nationals and said one of his ultimate goals before he graduates is to be an All-American.

When Jerod first took to the water, he had no goals in mind. He was 8 years old and joined a summer league to hang out with his friends. After that, though, his life was never the same.

It did not take long before Andrew, now a freshman at Missouri University of Science & Technology,

wanted to join too. The next summer both were swimming on the same club team. For a while, the Simek brothers competed in many of the same events, but Jerod recalled how that changed on their club coach's whim.

"I don't remember when it was — I think it was maybe 12 or 13 [years old] — my coach decided, 'Oh, it'd be fun to put him in the mile,'" Jerod said. "So he put me in the mile, and I was close to a sectional cut at the time so he was like, 'Oh, I guess he's going to be a distance swimmer.'"

From that point on, Jerod stuck mostly to distance and Andrew stayed with sprints, but that did not diminish their bond. Both fed off the company and support of the other, and this was evident in workouts.

"If it's a tough set and I don't think I can do it, he's right there and he's motivating me saying, 'You can do it,'" Jerod said. "Don't

Please see SIMEK, Page 19



Photo Illustration by Mayank Dhungana/Index

Freshman Jerod Simek has fed off his brother his whole life. Jerod attends Truman while his twin decided to attend Missouri S&T.

Commentary



JACK NICHOLL

Class ends year-long process

Thomas Kearney, defensive backs and recruiting coach, started sifting through about 5,000 names of potential Truman football players the day after Signing Day last year.

After looking at grades, injury reports and overall talent, that list was reduced to about 500. After individual coach evaluations, the list went down to 100.

The final list was released yesterday: 13 new recruits for the Truman football team.

The list includes seven players from Missouri, four from Illinois, one from Texas and one from Iowa. From the original number of thousands of athletes, Kearney had one recruit of his own — wide receiver/cornerback Dallas Grier.

Grier is the one recruit from Texas, the area Kearney targeted when the list was reduced to 500. Other coaches targeted areas in Iowa, Kansas, Illinois and Missouri.

"Those are the main states that we target, with Missouri being the emphasis," Kearney said.

Grier's journey to Truman goes through just as many steps. First, his name is sent to Truman through collegiate sports data, a program Kearney said every college uses. The data includes a grade given by his high school coach — he could have a star next to his name or information about what division he should end up in.

Then, Truman sent Grier a questionnaire that included questions about his GPA. After passing that, Kearney evaluated Grier during a trip to Texas. Nearly every recruit will make an official visit to Truman and receive a home visit.

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