

SPORTS

Thursday, March 25, 2010

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Losing momentum

Softball drops two before MIAA play

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Bulldog Breakdown

Index Online

Index Sports Show:

National champions Kate Aherne and Katrina Biermann sit down with sports editors

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On campus

Men's on campus:

Baseball: 1 p.m. Friday vs. Pittsburg St.

Tennis: 2 p.m. Friday vs. Rockhurst

Women's on campus:

Golf: Bulldog Classic on Saturday and Sunday at Kirksville Country Club

Softball: Noon Saturday vs. Washburn

Tennis: 2 p.m. Friday vs. Rockhurst

Baseball

	MIAA	OVR
1. UCM	15-1	20-2
2. UNO	11-1	15-5
3. ESU	12-4	18-6
4. WU	10-4	11-5
5. FHSU	8-4	15-5
6. PSU	7-11	8-11
7. MSSU	6-10	8-15
8. MWSU	4-10	9-10
9. NWMSU	2-8	4-19
10. SBU	2-14	3-20
11. Truman	1-11	4-16

Softball

	OVR
1. Emporia	18-7
2. Nebraska-Omaha	13-6
3. Fort Hays	9-7
4. Central Mo.	10-9
5. Northwest Mo.	10-9
6. Washburn	11-10
7. Pittsburg St.	11-10-1
8. Mo. Western	10-12
9. Southwest Baptist	10-12
10. Mo. Southern	9-17-1
11. Truman	7-13

Quotable

“It was a letdown mentally. It was really kind of a farce. But it is what it is.”

— Sam Lesseig, women's golf head coach, on the scarcity of teams at the tournament last weekend



Junior Mike Reese is one of the newcomers seeing significant playing time. Reese is hitting .313.

Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Reese, three freshmen make impact for baseball squad

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

Even though the baseball team has gotten off to a slow start, a transfer student and three freshmen continue to impress.

Junior second baseman Mike Reese transferred to Truman this season after playing for two years at Springfield College (Ill.). He finished his career at Springfield with a .326 batting average and 13 doubles. He also added 40 RBIs and 17 stolen bases during his junior college career.

“I really liked the academics [at Truman], and I liked what [head] coach [Dan] Davis was doing with the program,” Reese said. “I sent him a DVD, and

he contacted me after that. School here is obviously a little tougher, but baseball is always the same.”

Reese has played both outfield and second base for the Bulldogs this season. He earned the starting spot at second base when he beat out junior Luke Crader at the beginning of the season. Crader moved into the designated hitter role, and the two lead the team in at-bats.

“He's high-energy and will do anything that you ask,” Davis said. “He bunts, runs and hits for some power. He's a very good ball player. He's doing an awesome job.”

Reese is one of three players to start in every game this season. He leads the team in at-bats, hits and stolen bases. He

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No. 16 Mavs sweep Bulldogs

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

The Truman pitching staff struggled to keep No. 16 University of Nebraska-Omaha off the base paths as the Bulldogs were swept by the Mavericks on Sunday and Monday.

Truman (4-16, 1-11 MIAA) gave up 36 runs in four games to a UNO team that had lost four of its previous six games.

“UNO is a really good team,” head coach Dan Davis said. “They found a way to get it done when it mattered. We had chances, but couldn't get it done. We faced some really good pitchers as well.”

The Mavs started the weekend off quickly and scored five runs in the first inning in Game 1. The Bulldogs answered with five runs of their own in the second inning. The score was tied in the sixth when UNO scored twice on a walk and two doubles. Truman threatened in the seventh but couldn't put anything together and lost 8-6.

Sophomore Tyler Stefan took the loss for the Bulldogs. He pitched in relief of junior Kyle Veazey, who was roughed up by the Mavs. Veazey gave up five earned runs in 1.1 innings. Stefan threw 4.2 innings and gave up two runs and added seven strikeouts.

Freshman outfielder Brett Budd led the Bulldogs offensively. He collected three of Truman's six hits and had an RBI. Junior outfielder Kenny Swanson and second baseman Mike Reese each added a hit and an RBI.

“At the plate, we're working on being patient,” sophomore catcher Devon Myers said. “We have to start swinging at the right pitches. We need to be aggressive early in the count, and if we are we'll get good pitches to hit. We can't wait around expecting walks.”

In the second game, the Bulldogs jumped out to an early 2-0 lead. However, the Mavs scored in four of the next five innings to win 10-3.

Junior Michael Staihr was tagged with the loss in his second start of the season. He gave up eight hits and five earned runs in three innings of work. The Bulldog bullpen had a solid outing, as three pitchers combined to give up one earned run in five innings.

Budd once again led the offensive attack.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

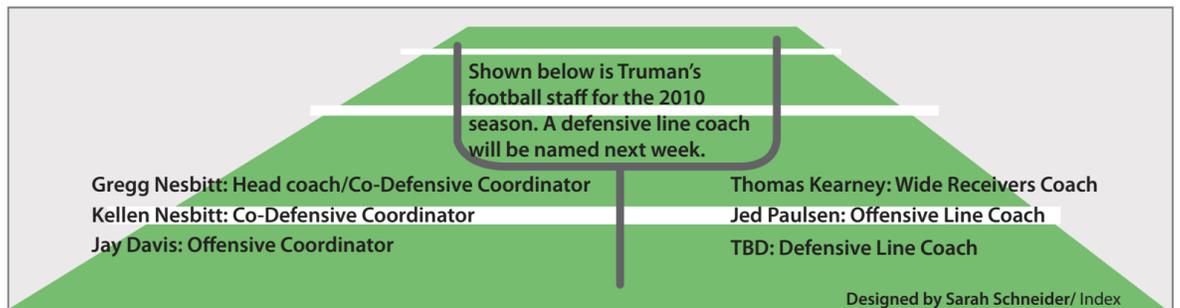
Pitching was a weak spot for the Bulldogs last weekend in three of the games. The team gave up 35 runs combined in three games to pair with a 1-0 pitchers' duel against Nebraska-Omaha.

He was 2-for-4 with a double. Freshman third baseman Jordan Howe was 2-for-3 with two RBIs. Four other Bulldogs added hits and the team had eight overall.

Sophomore Ryan Trimble took the ball in the third game of the series. Trimble faced one of the Mavs' best pitchers, sophomore Joe Holtmeyer. The game was a pitchers' duel, and the

teams combined for five total hits in the 1-0 UNO win. Trimble gave up four hits and one run and added five strikeouts in his second complete game of the season. Holtmeyer was on fire throughout the game and kept the Bulldog batters off-balance. He tallied 16 strikeouts in seven innings and surrendered just one hit to

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Designed by Sarah Schneider/Index

Football assistants finalized

Coaches in place in time for beginning of spring practice Monday

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

In January, Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said he hoped to have a football coaching staff in place by spring practice. That hope becomes a reality Monday when the Bulldogs hit the practice field for the first time.

The Bulldogs announced that former Grambling State University (La.) quarterbacks' coach Jay Davis will serve as offensive coordinator, and head coach Gregg

Nesbitt's son Kellen will be the co-defensive coordinator alongside his father.

Gregg Nesbitt said a defensive line coach will be added later this week or early next week that will complete the staff. Davis and Kellen Nesbitt join offensive line coach Jed Paulsen and Thomas Kearney on the staff. Kearney has been the defensive backs coach since 2007, and Paulsen was hired in January.

“Those 15 practices in the spring are pretty crucial to get to know everybody, so yeah, we're very excited,” Wollmering said.

There were between 60 and 70 applications for the jobs. Davis, who will coach ei-

ther quarterbacks or receivers, was the starting quarterback at North Carolina State University from 2004-05 where he took snaps from Paulsen. Gregg Nesbitt said he wanted an offensive coordinator who knew the quarterback position well. He said Davis was a good person to lead the offense because of his experience playing football at the Div. I level and coaching quarterbacks at Grambling, a member of the football bowl subdivision team.

“I don't think you can be a great coach at that position very often unless you've played it, unless you've felt it, unless you've experienced it,” Gregg Nesbitt

said. “That's one thing I was looking for was a guy that played that spot.”

Davis said one of his first duties as offensive coordinator is to make sure Truman runs the ball better than in past seasons. The Bulldogs ranked last in the MIAA with 133 yards per game and finished with a 2-9 record.

“It's really my job to put the best people out there and see what fits us best,” Davis said. “That's what this spring is going to be about.”

Kellen Nesbitt was a safety for the University of Central Missouri from 2003-06 and served the last three seasons as a

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