

ASSISTANTS | Head coach Gregg Nesbitt completes hiring of football staff in time for spring football

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graduate assistant and positions coach at UCM. Gregg Nesbitt said his son showed so much leadership during his time at UCM that former head coach Willie Fritz allowed Kellen Nesbitt to run some of the defensive team meetings.

The younger Nesbitt will be faced with the task of shoring up a defense that allowed 228 yards per game on the ground and ranked seventh in the MIAA in total defense with 417 yards per game.

Gregg Nesbitt noted how young the staff is as Paulsen, Kellen Nesbitt and Davis are all fewer than six years removed from college. But he is not concerned about hiring young coaches and is excited for the challenges it presents. He noted the success that Duke University basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski has had with hiring young assistant coaches.

Nesbitt said hiring young coaches was the direction he hoped to go during the hiring process because of the amount of energy young coaches bring the team and their ability to connect to college athletes.

"I like having some guys who've actually played for me," Gregg Nesbitt said. "I'm so old they'll remind me of some things or stories that have taken place throughout the years that I may actually be able to use again. The other thing is I enjoy coaching coaches at this stage of the career as much as I do the players themselves."

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Gregg Nesbitt
Football Head Coach

The original plan was that any new coaches hired would not be under contract until the former coaches' contracts run out July 1 because the University could not afford to pay for two coaching staffs. But former defensive coordinator Ryan Nourse resigned in February, creating an opportunity to begin contracts now.

Paulsen's contract began when he was hired in February. Wollmering said Kellen's contract begins the first day of spring football. Davis' contract does not begin until July 1, but he will be here working during spring ball.

Wollmering said there is a possibility that Davis will get a temporary contract for his work during spring ball, but no details have been worked out. He said that money would come out of the athletic department budget.

INCOMERS | Reese, Budd, Howe and Eiskina are among the new players making an impact for baseball this season

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is second on the team in RBIs, doubles and total bases. His .313 batting average and 10 runs scored rank him third in each category.

Three freshmen also have had an early impact on the Bulldogs.

Outfielder Brett Budd leads the team in runs scored. He also has the second highest batting average on the team and is one of five players with a triple. Davis said Budd has done a great job hitting against tough competition.

"When that guy's on, he is really on," Davis said. "He's going to eventually hit for some power. He can really run, throw, and obviously he can hit."

Third baseman Jordan Howe also has filled a void for the Bulldogs. When junior Drew Garwood moved across the diamond to first base, third base was open for the taking. Howe played sec-

ond base in high school but was up to the task of playing third. Howe is another player who has started in every game this season.

"He's another tough kid who doesn't care where he plays," Davis said. "He just wants to play and give our team a chance to win. Early on, he struggled [at third base]. He's a guy that will stick around and work extra. That kid is a workhorse."

Howe's offense hasn't come around yet, but he does lead the team in runs scored and sacrifices. He said the college pitching he faces every weekend is the best he's ever seen, and the transition from high school to college has been pretty tough.

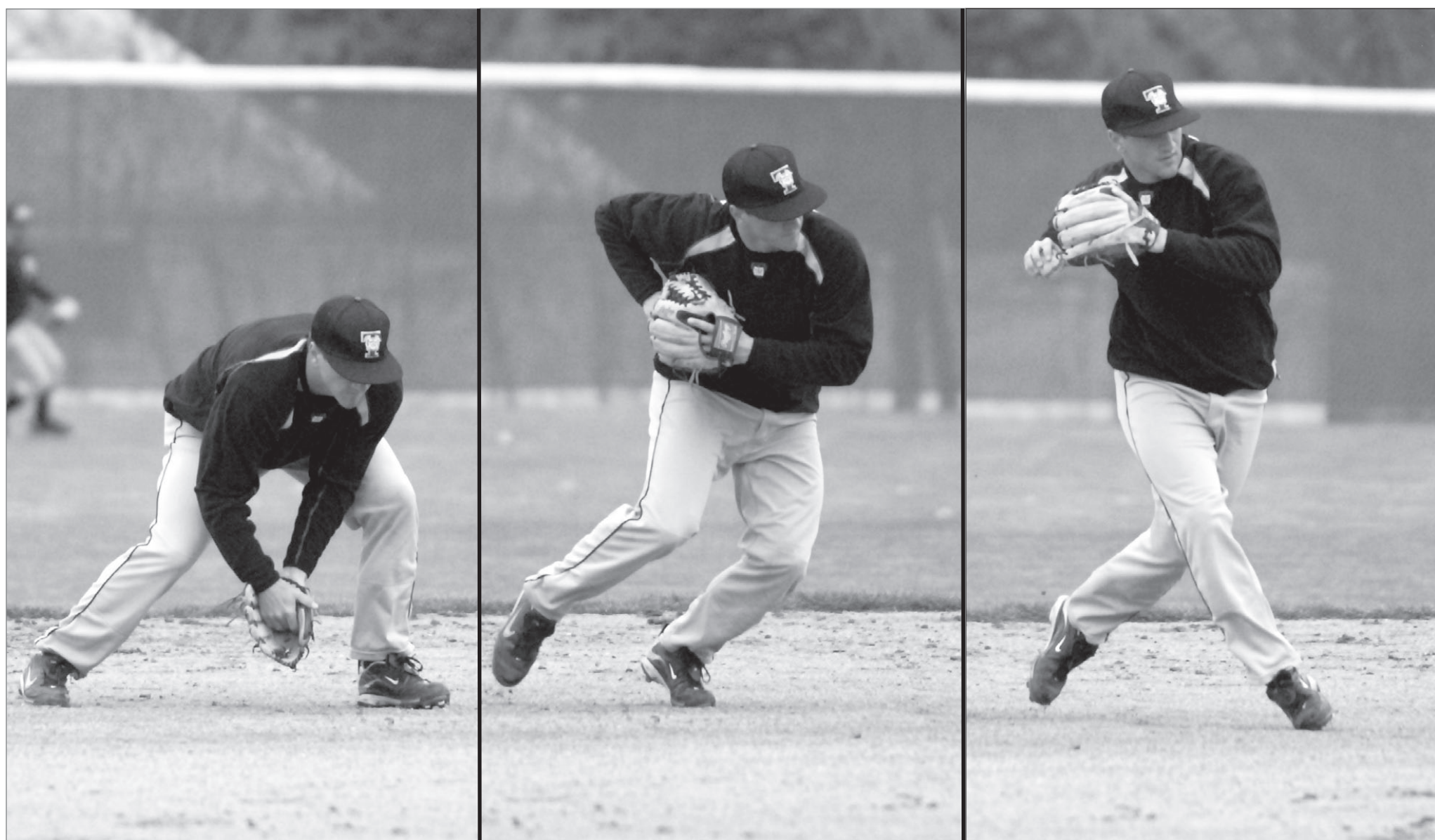
"I feel like the biggest transition has been offensively," Howe said. "I'm still getting adjusted to collegiate pitching. I'm trying to get as many swings in as I can to help prepare myself."

Pitcher Jarrett Eiskina has also begun his collegiate career on a high note. Although he lost his first two starts of the season, he leads the team with 29 strikeouts in 17.2 innings. In his first start of the season, he pitched six innings, gave up four hits and one earned run. He added 10 strikeouts and only walked one batter.

In Eiskina's first outing as a college pitcher, he pitched two innings of relief. In those innings, he gave up two earned runs, but he also struck out the side in both innings.

Davis said Eiskina has shown that he can be lights out in certain situations.

"As he develops more, I can see us using him a lot more," Davis said. "When you get a guy who strikes out a lot of guys, it brings the defense up. A staff with a high strike out rate makes your defense better."



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Above: Sophomore shortstop Steven Rose fields a ground ball during practice Wednesday. Rose had three hits, an RBI and a run scored against Nebraska-Omaha last weekend. Below: A Truman infielder practices ground balls during practice. The Bulldogs had eight errors in a span of four games last weekend.

BASEBALL | Trimble's one-run outing out-dued by 16-strikeout performance by Nebraska-Omaha pitcher

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sophomore shortstop Steven Rose, in his second complete game of the season. Howe said Trimble has set a good example for the team to follow.

"He's been awesome," Howe said. "As well as he's done on the mound, he's been just as good of a leader. It seems like whenever he's on the mound, we have a sense of confidence. We know he's going to get his job done."

In the final game of the series, Truman once again had an early lead. The Bulldogs put up three runs in the first inning on a three-run homer by Myers. Truman continued to score runs but UNO fought back and scored at least one run in each of the final five innings. The Mavs won 17-7, the most runs UNO has scored all season.

Freshman Jarrett Eiskina started his second game for the Bulldogs and took the loss. He gave up five earned runs in

four innings. He added five strikeouts and leads all Truman pitchers with 29 strikeouts. The 'Dogs' bullpen couldn't keep things close and gave up eight earned runs in 3.1 innings. Davis said the bullpen has to throw strikes in late-game situations.

"UNO got Eiskina early so we went to the bullpen," Davis said. "However, we didn't throw strikes. We gave up a lot of free base runners. If teams hit us, that's the game. When you're not throwing strikes, not getting ahead or walking guys, there's no defense to that."

Myers added another home run in the game and finished 2-for-3 with four RBIs. Budd was 2-for-4 and scored a run.

The Bulldogs are slated to play their first home series of the season this weekend against Washburn, with the first game of the series starting at 1 p.m. Saturday.

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