

# Football upsets Pitt 28-21 to end season

**Bulldogs end season at 2-9 overall, 1-8 in MIAA**

**BY BRENT FOSTER**  
Assistant Sports Editor

It took all season, but the football team picked up its first MIAA win Saturday.

The Bulldogs put a season of struggles and mistakes behind them, upsetting Pittsburg State University 28-21 in front of a Senior Day crowd at Stokes Stadium.

The Bulldogs end the season at 2-9 overall and 1-8 in the MIAA. It was their first win against Pitt State since 1989.

The 'Dogs marched the ball down the field on the opening possession, but junior running back Anton Bernard was stopped on a 4th-and-1 play from the Pitt 28-yard line.

The Gorillas took advantage of the defensive stand and quickly moved the ball to the Truman 23. But the Bulldog defense clamped down and stuffed back-to-back running plays, including a 4th-and-1 play, which gave the ball back to Truman.

"I felt like if you look back, that's going to be one

of the crucial points in the game that worked out for us," head coach Aaron Vlcko said.

After the 4th-down stop, the Bulldog offense came to life. Truman scored touchdowns on its next three possessions and raced out to a 21-0 lead behind a career day from junior quarterback Phil Davis. Davis, who was hampered by injuries most of the season, threw for a career-high 243 yards and three touchdowns on 16-of-19 passing.

Senior running back Phil Kenney hooked up with senior receiver Albert Coker on a trick play for a 15-yard first-quarter touchdown to put the Bulldogs on the board. After an 1-yard touchdown by sophomore running back Harnish Ayora, Davis found Coker on a 19-yard pass in the second quarter to put the Bulldogs up 21-0.

The Gorillas cut the lead to 28-21 with 7:40 left in the fourth quarter, but did not see the ball the rest of the game. The Bulldogs ran

12 running plays on the final drive to ice the game and help hand Pitt its first losing season since 1977.

"We knew we had to come out against Pitt. State and pretty much step on the gas from the get go [and] get up on top," junior running back Vanness Emokpae said. "We knew they were a very good football team, and if we didn't do that, they definitely had a chance to come back and win the game."

The game could be the last for Vlcko as head coach, as Truman opened up the head coaching position Monday.

The Bulldogs took advantage of breaks throughout the game. Facing a 3rd-and-10 early in the second quarter, Davis threw a pass down the middle that was deflected by a Pitt. State defender, but senior running back Phil Kenney somehow managed to re-adjust and catch the ball after the deflection. The circus catch kept the drive going, and five plays later Davis found Coker in the end zone for a touchdown.

**"He can certainly make a difference, and I think everybody saw that today."**

**Aaron Vlcko**  
Head coach, on  
quarterback Phil Davis



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
**Junior QB Phil Davis finished with a career-high 243 yards passing during Saturday's season-ending 28-21 win.**

the only team in the conference to allow fewer than 200 yards a game.

Senior safety Demetrius Lavant and sophomore safety Michael Elliot each broke the century mark in tackles Saturday. Lavant finished the season with 102 tackles, good for second in the MIAA. The duo

also combined for five of the teams' 13 interceptions. Davis said Saturday's win means a lot for the program heading into the offseason.

"We dealt with a lot of things at the beginning of the year, stuff we didn't expect to happen," Davis said. "So overall, this is a big step for our program."

# Wrestling puts seven in finals at Open

**Braidlow, Kurvoski, Bader earn fourth places at opening meet**

**BY CORY WEEKS**  
Staff Reporter

The Truman wrestling team opened its season with a bang at the Loras College Open last weekend in Dubuque, Iowa. The 'Dogs finished with three fourth-place finishers and seven overall in the finals.

In long tournaments, it is tough to stay healthy and energized because as the day wears out, so too do the wrestlers. Head coach Dave Schutter said that by taking three fourth-place finishes, the Dogs showed they have what it takes to be serious competitors at a high level.

Senior Loyde Braidlow, sophomore Chad Kurvoski and junior Andy Bader all took fourth place in what was, as Schutter put it, "a good start to a long season."

"The kids wrestled the first couple rounds really well," Schutter said. "Anytime you can get seven kids into the finals you've done OK. Unfortunately, the day got long and we got tired, but it was a good start and a solid team effort from top to bottom."

In the offseason, the 'Dogs worked to establish themselves from their feet, emphasizing the little things like wrist control and working from the top. It is these little things, however, that Schutter said the team can still improve upon.

"We have been getting better from our feet," Schutter said. "The team is working harder than they ever have before and it is paying off big time. We have to improve on conditioning, but it's a long season and we have to keep working hard in order to achieve our goals."

Braidlow is Truman's top returning wrestler. Coming into this season, Braidlow looked to pick up where he left off last year when he

suffered a four-overtime loss in the regional meet.

Braidlow won his first two matches before wearing out down losing 14-5 in the third-place match.

"The first half of the day we wrestled really well," Braidlow said. "But we just weren't quite there mentally, which is to be expected at a season opener."

Because the heavy-weight division is so often decided by ride time, Braidlow said his game from the top will be crucial this year.

"I've really been focusing on leaning on my body," Braidlow said. "I've also spent a lot of time focusing on my top game. Last year, I lost by a couple seconds of riding time, and that cost me a trip to nationals."

Freshman Colton Schmitz, a Kirksville native, looks to make an immediate impact on his new team. Schmitz, a former state champion in high school, said he is working hard

**"We have to improve on conditioning, but it's a long season and we have to keep working hard in order to achieve our goal."**

**Dave Schutter**  
Head coach

on the little things to ready himself for this weekend in which Truman will compete at the 141 weight class in a Knox Open that does not have a freshman division.

"In my first couple matches last week I was a little too cautious," Schmitz said. "But as the day went on, I opened up and started wrestling at a level I knew I could. And in order to compete with older guys, I will have to be more aggressive this week."

Schmitz said he credits the team's success last weekend to hard work

and listening to the coach.

"We all know it's early in the season but we are happy with our first performance, and we are definitely a group that fights hard and never quits," Schmitz said.

As for the goals, Schutter said the 'Dogs are keeping it simple.

"We want three All-Americans and a championship this year," Schutter said. "It's something this school has never done before and there has to be a first time for everything."

"In my first couple matches last week I was a little too cautious," Schmitz said. "But as the day went on, I opened up and started wrestling at a level I knew I could. And in order to compete with older guys, I will have to be more aggressive this week."

Schmitz said he credits the team's success last weekend to hard work



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
**Sophomore Anne Ratermann advanced to the national cross country meet after her eighth-place finish Saturday.**

# Ratermann earns trip to nationals

**BY BRENDAN O'BRIEN**  
Staff Reporter

With nationals in her near future, it seems that Anne Ratermann, sophomore cross country runner, has found her stride.

Ratermann's time of 22:00.37 in the South Central Regional on Saturday gave her an eighth-place finish and earned her a trip to Evansville, Ind., for the national meet Nov. 21.

Head coach John Cochrane said her finish did not come as a shock.

"She's actually been running pretty well the last three meets, so I thought she could place where she did," Cochrane said. "We had a really, really, really legitimate chance to make the meet as a team so I was thinking more about the fact that we could make it that way, but I knew she would run well."

Cochrane had a conversation with each of the runners who would be competing at regionals, but said he did this every week and there was nothing remarkable about it. Ratermann, however, gained a lot from the pep talk.

"It was either Thursday or Friday before the race, [Coach Cochrane] said that if I could deliver in the race

how I delivered in practice, it's 'pretty scary' was what he said," Ratermann said. "So he thought that I could perform a lot better than I had been in races, so that kind of gave me a lot of motivation in that he had confidence in me."

In addition to this motivation, Ratermann developed what turned out to be a winning strategy to keep pace with the runners from Missouri Southern State University.

"During the season, I had been running pretty much with their No. 6 runner, so my goal was to get up in there with their three, four and five," Ratermann said.

Sophomore Dani Dell'Orco was a mere seven seconds and two spots ahead of Ratermann. Dell'Orco and Ratermann have been the one-two punch for the Bulldogs in each of the last four meets, but the seven-second differential is the closest by far. This can partly be attributed to the fact that Dell'Orco had not been feeling well prior to race.

Cochrane has taken note of how far Ratermann has come, but said she still has room to improve.

"She matured physically and matured mentally," Cochrane said. "She has, still

has, a vast potential running both track-wise and cross country-wise. But she just got better. See, that's what you have to hope, that those people can take another step up."

Ratermann aimed for the top 10 at regionals and said she was surprised when she earned a trip to nationals. Runners can individually qualify either by a top-five finish overall or by finishing in the top two runners that are not on national qualifying teams.

Nationals will be a new experience for both Ratermann and Dell'Orco.

"I'm so excited," Ratermann said. "I wish we could just go now."

Ratermann said she remembered last year when then-senior Danna Kelly was preparing to go to nationals. Kelly finished 24th at the meet to earn All-American status.

"It's weird to be in the experience now I guess, because last year [I was] looking at Danna, but it's just weird to think that that's me now," Ratermann said. "I just feel like everything I've been working for all summer, all summer training, all fall is now finally paying off. So it's really exciting to know that all my hard work is getting me somewhere."

## Athlete of the Week

**Anne Ratermann**  
Sport: Women's Cross Country  
Year: Sophomore  
Hometown: Florissant, Mo.

Sophomore Anne Ratermann finished eighth at last weekend's cross country regional meet in Abilene, Texas, with a time of 22:00:37. She will compete at the national meet Nov. 21 with teammate Dani Dell'Orco. sophomore teammate Dani Dell'Orco.