

# UCM uses balanced attack in win

BY BRENT FOSTER  
Assistant Sports Editor

The University of Central Missouri used a 17-point second quarter to blow open a close football game and knocked off the Bulldogs 38-3 Saturday afternoon in Warrensburg.

The Bulldogs (1-5, 0-4 MIAA) have lost four straight games.

Truman had a chance to score touchdowns on two drives in the first quarter but couldn't cash in on the opportunities. Midway through the quarter, redshirt freshman quarterback Taylor Breen completed a season-long 53-yard pass to junior wide receiver Vanness Emokpae to move the ball to the UCM 9-yard line. But three plays later, Breen threw an interception in the end zone.

The Bulldogs got the ball back three plays later, however, when sophomore cornerback Terrence Byrd intercepted UCM's quarterback Eri Czerniewski.

Truman took the ball inside the Central 10-yard line for the second straight possession, but settled for a 27-yard field goal from senior kicker Mickey Masucci to take a 3-0 lead.

"We needed to get 14 points in that situation for us to beat a team in this conference — very disappointing," head coach Aaron Vlcko said.

From that point, Central's offense exploded. Following Masucci's field goal, UCM marched down the field in just three plays to take a 7-3 lead. The Bulldogs fumbled the ball on a botched handoff on their ensuing possession, which led to a Mules field goal and a 10-3 lead.

The Bulldog offense continued to show signs of life on their next possession when they moved the ball inside the UCM 30, but a fumble by senior receiver Steve D'Antonio gave the ball back to the Mules.

From there, the Mules continued to strike quickly. They added another touchdown to take a 17-3 lead, with the big blow coming on a 48-yard screen pass on 2nd-and-long to move the Mules inside the Bulldog 10-yard line. Central scored once more before the half to open up a 24-3 lead. Those 24 points came during little more than a 15-minute stretch starting at the end of the first quarter.

Redshirt freshman third-string quarterback Caleb Roberts entered the game in the second quarter when Breen was injured after getting hit on a screen pass. Breen did not return to the game. Vlcko said he expects Roberts to get his first career start against No. 12 Missouri Western State University on Saturday. Breen continues to recover, along with first-string quarterback junior Phil Davis, who suffered a thumb injury earlier this season.

Roberts finished the game 9-for-12 with 110 yards and an interception and said he had no trouble adjusting to the game during the first significant playing time of his career.

"I was pretty comfortable,

and our teammates really came around me," Roberts said. "The line did really well and everything, and all the receivers had faith in me, so it was pretty easy."

Vlcko said he thought Roberts settled down nicely after a botched handoff on his first play from scrimmage. He said Roberts adjusted well to the game after having very few reps in practice this season.

The Bulldogs were out-gained 439-273. It was the fourth straight game the Bulldog defense surrendered at least 400 yards of total offense.

Senior safety Demetrius Lavant led the 'Dogs with nine tackles. He has a team-high 54 tackles this season.

This was the third game this season the Bulldogs have not scored a touchdown, which is the most for Truman since 1989.

Coming off the 70-0 loss to rival Northwest Missouri State University on Sept. 26, Vlcko said there were some things on the defensive side of the ball he thought the team improved on, but that some of the mistakes still being made are leading to big plays.

"We have been emphasizing our tackling on defense and we felt like that has certainly improved," Vlcko said. "We did still have about five to 10 missed tackles. A couple of those cost us big plays, which we've got to eliminate,

"The line did really well and everything, and all the receivers had faith in me, so it was pretty easy."

**Caleb Roberts**  
Freshman quarterback, after playing the last three quarters Saturday



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Sophomore running back Donald Harvey looks for a hole earlier this season. Harvey caught five passes in Saturday's 38-3 loss against the University of Central Missouri.

	Season Stats	Status
Philip Davis	60-for-116, 676 yds	Injured indefinite, may return in 2 weeks
Taylor Breen	13-for-42, 186 yds	Injured day-to-day evaluation for return
Caleb Roberts	9-for-13, 110 yds	Healthy slated to start Saturday
Conrad Schottel (redshirt)	none	Healthy could backup Roberts on Saturday

Index Online: "Quarterback situation temporarily solved" at [trumanindex.com](http://trumanindex.com)

Design by Kelly Kiesel/Index

but our tackling certainly has improved on the defensive side."

The schedule does not get easier this week for the 'Dogs. They play their fourth-straight ranked team, No. 12 Missouri Western State University, at 2 p.m. Saturday at Stokes Stadium.

The game serves as Truman's Homecoming.

Truman won the homecoming game last season with a 26-20 upset victory against then No. 20 University of Nebraska-Omaha. Junior offensive lineman Shea Carr said that even though every game is important,

there is a little extra incentive to win Homecoming with the alumni in town.

"We want to perform for them, but I think even more we want to prove that we are better than what we've shown before, like get out there and compete and get a win for Truman," Carr said.

# Men finish 11th at Fort Hays Invite

Women finish in third place at UNO Classic

BY SONDRA LANGLEY  
Staff Reporter

With the temperature in the 40s and the wind gusting at speeds up to 25 miles per hour, the men's golf team faced some rough conditions heading into the Fort Hays State Invitational on Monday and Tuesday.

The Fort Hays State Invitational factored into the Bulldogs' MIAA scores, as it was the final MIAA event this fall. The Bulldogs had been preparing for Fort Hays since the Bulldog Classic earlier this fall. However, the weather and University of Central Missouri had other plans for the 'Dogs.

"Not everyone has practiced in this kind of weather, so some weren't ready," sophomore Nik Bentzinger said.

Despite better performances in bad weather earlier this fall, Truman finished 11th out of 12 teams. Central Missouri finished first with

a total of 595 strokes. The Bulldogs finished with 642 strokes.

"After Day 1, we realized we were nowhere near where we wanted to be coming into this event," Bentzinger said.

Bentzinger led the Bulldogs, finishing in a tie for 14th with Robert Neumann of Missouri Western State University at 11 strokes over par. Junior Chris Kovach finished in a five-way tie for 42nd at plus 18. Behind him was junior Andy Herington, in another five-way tie for 47th at 19 strokes over par. Jake Hanrahan tied for 66th with a 172 and teammate Vincent Kurth finished in 68th with 177 strokes.

"I was fairly happy with the way I played," Bentzinger said. "There were some shots I could have made but everyone has that issue."

The next tournament for Truman will be in Eureka,

Mo. at the Maryville Fall Invite, the last invitational for the fall season.

"We have to remember going into the next conference events is we need to stay within our own game," Bentzinger said.

The women's team finished third after a strong beginning, being only eight shots from first at the end of the first day at the University of Nebraska-Omaha Fall Classic on Sunday. The team slipped into third after finishing with 335 strokes and fell behind Upper Iowa after the second round on Monday.

Head coach Sam Lesseig said they were not in their target zone for overall strokes but still finished well. The 'Dogs were 11 strokes ahead of conference opponent, Missouri Western State University, and

"After day 1, we realized we were nowhere near where we wanted to be coming into this event."

**Nik Bentzinger**  
Sophomore



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Sophomore Nik Bentzinger led the men with a tie for 14th place at the Fort Hays State Invitational this week.

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