



Three Bulldogs, including sophomore defensive back Tremaine Millender (40), dive for a fumbled ball after junior linebacker Adam Reynolds (33) forced the fumble.

Blaise Hart-Schmidt/Index

FOOTBALL | Bulldogs score season-high 61 points, finish 4-7 overall

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offensive perspective," head coach Gregg Nesbitt said. "[Senior quarterback] Phil Davis, our entire offense — you don't want to single guys out — but what a warrior in reading the option, distributing the football and then also throwing the ball."

After losing the lead for the first time in the second half with 30 seconds left in the game, it almost seemed like Truman would engineer another drive. The Bulldogs advanced to their own 49 yardline, but a final heave at the end of regulation fell incomplete.

Minutes before, the Mavericks took only a minute to score after taking over with 1:30 on the clock and zero timeouts. UNO (5-6, 5-4 MIAA) was nearly stopped inside the redzone for the first time all game, but Truman was flagged for pass interference on 4th-and-10. The Mavericks scored on the next play.

The 'Dogs had another chance to ice it before that. On 4th-and-3 from the UNO 35 yardline, Truman went for it instead of punting, but junior wide receiver Anthony Brown could not reel in a pass in the endzone.

"We hadn't stopped anybody all day, and they were probably thinking the same thing," Nesbitt said on the decision to punt.

While the last four minutes belonged to the UNO offense, it was in the third quarter that Truman took the first two-score lead of the game. Sophomore defensive back Tremaine Millender ran back the opening kickoff of the half, and after a turnover, junior running back Donald Harvey scored on a 7-yard run. Truman scored 28 points in the quarter.

With nine touchdowns and zero field goals for both teams, the one-point difference in the final score came down to extra points. The Bulldogs' first extra point of the game was blocked. After their next three touchdowns, the 'Dogs were one-for-three on two-point conversions before they resorted to kicking the extra point for the rest of the game.

The Mavericks missed only one point after the entire game — off the left crossbar with 2:18 left in the third quarter. Nesbitt said he was playing by the book with the con-

versions in the first half but that in the second half he went with his gut to keep the differential at six points. That way, UNO would at least have to make an extra point to take the lead ahead.

"It's amazing what one point can do, isn't it?" he said.

Truman had career-best performances on offense all across the board. Davis ended his two-year career as starting quarterback with 218 yards passing, 151 yards rushing and five touchdowns.

Davis effectively ran the option with Harvey and sophomore running back Will Mosquera — especially on a 66-yard run in the third quarter. Davis' rushing yards and touchdowns were

both career-best, while his passing yards were a season high.

"I'd take the win more than anything," Davis said after the game. "[The] stats don't mean nothing to me." Harvey took the main rushing du-

"What a way to go out, from an offensive perspective. Phil Davis, our entire offense — you don't want to single guys out — but what a warrior reading the option, distributing the football and then also throwing the ball."

Gregg Nesbitt
head coach

A new era

Difference under Nesbitt

	2009	2010
Record	2-9 (1-8)	4-7 (2-7)
Point differential /game	-16.4	-9.9
Rushing offense	133	175.7
Passing offense	145	148.5
Rushing defense	228.3	145.6
Passing defense	189	242

ties for the first time all season and had 147 yards on 17 carries and three scores. Mosquera, the usual feature back, averaged 3.9 yards on 12 carries. Freshman tight end Dallas Grier also had a career-high two touchdowns.

"It's something we could have been doing all season," Harvey said. "We started to click. We wanted to get the win

for the team, we gave it all we had. ... It makes it easy when everybody is doing their part."

Truman ends the season with two close losses — including 17-14 at Pittsburg State University on Nov. 6 — but still doubled its win total from a year ago. The 'Dogs lose three all-conference seniors after Nesbitt's first year as head coach.

PREVIEW | Bulldogs to face Abilene Christian in first round of playoffs

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Despite beating the Wildcats this season, sophomore right-side hitter Allyson Stellmach said the Bulldogs are not taking the match for granted.

"Well, every game is different," Stellmach said. "It's nice that we have already played them, so we know what to expect a little bit better. And we'll watch film on them. But every game is different, so we still have to come ready to play."

No. 1 seed University of Central Missouri will host the South Central Region tournament, although it was thought No. 2 seed Washburn

University would be the host team. Washburn and Central finished the season tied with 18-2 MIAA records. However, Washburn had a better overall record and beat Central twice this season. Briney said he did not know why Central was given the nod over Washburn.

"We all expected it to go to Washburn, but it went to Central," Briney said. "I don't know. I don't concern myself with the inner-workings of the regional committee."

Briney said the decision did not make much difference to him or the team, it just surprised them. He said it might

give Truman a slight advantage in the first-round matchup because Abilene has not played in the UCM multipurpose Building.

If the Bulldogs were to advance in the tournament, they would play the winner of the No. 2 Washburn and No. 7 Northwest Missouri State University match, Friday at 5 p.m. Northwest and Truman were the only teams to beat Washburn this season. Briney said he is not looking ahead and does not want to guess who Truman would play in the second round.

"You just never know once it gets to the nation-

al tournament," Briney said. "Whoever shows up and plays great for three days is going to win it."

Last season, the roles were reversed for the Bulldogs. Truman was the No. 6 seed facing No. 3 seed West Texas A&M University. In that match, the Bulldogs were swept 3-0 and knocked out of the tournament.

Petak said she and the other seniors are ready for their final national tournament, but that it is bringing a mixed set of emotions.

"It's a little emotional, a little sad," Petak said. "But I'm going to leave it all on the court."

MOJO | 'Dogs gain confidence after two sweeps

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12 kills. Senior outside hitter Allison Barker had 10 kills and a team-leading 13 digs.

In the Missouri Western match Saturday, Truman played much the same. The Bulldogs fell behind early in the first set, trailing the Griffons 6-1. But Truman battled back to tie the score at 10. The Bulldogs scored 12 of the next 18 points to take a 22-16 lead. Truman went on to win the set 25-21.

The Bulldogs hit .345 in the set while holding Missouri Western to a .098 hitting percentage.

Truman opened the second set by scoring the first five points, three of which came off of Griffon attack errors. Missouri Western battled back and took a late 21-20 lead. Back-to-back

kills from Sharpe gave the Bulldogs the lead at 22-21. Truman scored the final three points to win 25-21.

The third set might have been the best set Truman has played this season. The Bulldogs took the first point and never trailed in the set. Truman had a four-point, five-point and six-point rally in the set and eventually won 25-15. It was Truman's 13th sweep of the season.

The Bulldogs had a .257 hitting percentage and held Missouri Western to .099. Barker led Truman with 13 kills. Junior setter Kylie Eason had 15 assists and said the team was having fun again.

"We started playing like we were at the beginning of the year," Eason said. "It was a lot of fun. We just really had fun on the court."

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