

# Injury ends season for Bernard

Senior Bernard has his career cut short after injuring knee

BY JACK NICHOLL  
Managing Editor

Senior Anton Bernard caught the onside kick in stride — effectively winning the game for Truman — and had only one man to beat when suddenly his football career ended.

Bernard, one of the main running backs and kick returner for the Bulldogs, is out for the season after he tore his anterior cruciate ligament and medial collateral ligament in his left knee. The injury occurred at the end of the Oct. 16 game against Missouri Southern State University at Stokes Stadium.

Southern had just cut Truman's lead to 10 with 3:50 left in the contest. The ensuing onside kick bounced straight to Bernard, who went untouched for 13 yards before he was tackled.

"Fortunately for me, I was on the run when I received the kick," Bernard said. "I had one dude to beat and I had stiff-armed him down toward my leg, and unfortunately he had got a good hold on my leg when another guy hit me from the other side, and my leg got folded under."

Bernard stayed on the field for a few minutes before being helped off and spent the rest of the game on a bench, in visible pain. Truman scored minutes later en route to its first conference win of the season.

"I knew something wasn't good, because I had heard the knee pop and all that good stuff," he said. "Initially, I was pretty up-



Senior running back Anton Bernard catches an onside kick against Missouri Southern State University on Oct. 16. He tore two ligaments in his left knee on the play and will miss the remainder of the season.

Jack Nicholl/Index

set. I wanted to be able to help the team as much as I could, and no lie, I was pretty upset. I understand this is a team game, but

I feel like I could have helped the team whatever situation we could have been in."

Football players are not al-

lowed to take a medical redshirt if they play in more than two games in a season.

On kick returns this season,

Bernard averaged 20 yards per turn for six returns, the third most on the team. He ends the season with 51 rushes for 215 yards and two touchdowns. He is the fourth-leading rusher on the team this season and ends his career with 886 yards.

"Anton was the best all around in terms [of] assignment confidence — functional intelligence, I guess would be the word — a good, tough, physical runner and good, solid blocker," head coach Gregg Nesbitt said. "He didn't have any real weaknesses."

With Bernard out, Nesbitt said sophomore running back Will Mosquera will see about twice as many snaps as the No. 2 back, junior Harnish Ayora, who started Saturday's game at Emporia State University. Mosquera, Ayora and senior quarterback Phil Davis are the three leading rushers for the 'Dogs.

However, the injury could also mean more snaps for running backs junior Tracy Milo and junior Donald Harvey. Milo played Saturday for the first time this season after Ayora left the game with cramps.

Harvey, who Nesbitt said will switch between wide receiver and running back, had three carries for 22 yards and a touchdown last week against Emporia. Harvey has split time at the two positions in years past.

"He's a different type of back, a good change-up, and did a very nice job," Nesbitt said. "He's evolved into a playmaker."

As for Bernard — he will still attend practice but will have to contribute from the sideline on game days.

"Like I told him, 'Everybody's career ends, sometimes not on your terms,'" Nesbitt said. "He had a great play to end it on."

## Athlete of the Week

Phil Davis

Sport: Football

Year: Senior

Position: Quarterback

Hometown:

Florissant, Mo.

Davis ran for 96 yards and passed for 165 yards and two touchdowns Saturday to lead Truman to a conference win against Emporia State. He leads the team in rushing, averaging 73.9 yards per game this season. Davis has also thrown for more than 1,000 yards this year, including four touchdowns.

# Davis leads 'Dogs to comeback win on road

Davis posts season high with two touchdown passes

BY BRETT MCMILLAN  
Staff Reporter

Senior quarterback Phil Davis completed 56.6 percent of the passes he attempted Saturday during a tight 37-34 come-from-behind victory at Emporia State University.

Davis threw for 165 yards on the day, including two touchdown passes in the final five minutes of the fourth quarter. He also racked up 96 rushing yards.

A defensive fumble recovery led to Davis' final touchdown pass of the game to sophomore running back Will Mosquera, resulting in a permanent lead with just two minutes left in regulation.

"After the defense got that tremendous fumble recovery, we wanted to make sure that we didn't do anything stupid, turn the ball over, anything like that," Davis said. "We just drove it down to I think the one [yard line] the first two plays [of the series], so it was third down and goal at the one yard line. We did a sim-

ple goal-line package that we had. [Emporia State] called a time out. The line protected well. Will [Mosquera] ran a great flat route."

The Truman senior helped start the game-winning comeback the previous series by completing a pass to junior wide receiver Donald Harvey in the middle of the field. After Harvey ran the ball down to the Hornet's 26-yard line, Davis then rushed for a combined 19 yards on the next two plays before capping off the drive by hitting sophomore tight end Caleb Roberts in the end zone.

Davis played most of the game with an injured left hand after being roughed up on two separate plays during the first half. Head coach Gregg Nesbitt said there was concern on the sideline Saturday as to whether Davis could take snaps with a bad hand.

"It's very impressive," Nesbitt said. "There's a lot of kids that they have to have everything feel just right. A lot of times, particularly at this time of the season, almost all of our guys that are playing have

something that is bothering them."

Davis' two touchdowns and two interceptions were both season highs.

Davis said he knew he needed to remain focused for his team to have a chance at playing spoiler during Emporia's homecoming weekend.

"Emporia fans, they were on us the whole time, talking to us," Davis said. "When it was all said and done, we got the victory. You get the last laugh out of everything. We were just happy about it. The crowd was dead silent when we scored that touchdown."

Davis rushed for a combined 229 yards during seven games last season. During eight games in 2010, he has amassed 591 yards on the ground for an average of 73.9 rush yards per game, 41.2 more yards than he did a season ago. Nesbitt said Davis has also improved as a passer and that Nesbitt was pleased with his effort Saturday.

"Phil is a good leader from the standpoint of he leads by example," Nesbitt said. "He does his job, and I think to be a big time leader, you've got to be a player. Obviously, he has been a threat all year, but to do it bringing a team from behind I think was really big for the rest of our offense to see that he has the ability to do that."

"Phil is a good leader from the standpoint of he leads by example."

Gregg Nesbitt  
football head coach



Senior quarterback Phil Davis carries the ball against Missouri Southern. He ran for 96 yards last week.

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