



Caroline Stamp/Index

Senior quarterback Phil Davis looks for a receiver Saturday against Central. Davis was 15-for-25 with a touchdown.

## 'Dogs lose Family Day game

BY JACK NICHOLL  
Managing Editor

The contrasting reactions of Gregg Nesbitt and DeMarco Cosby said it all.

Nesbitt, Truman's football head coach, sat slouched in a chair in the Kennels as he answered reporters' questions last Saturday night at Stokes Stadium.

Meanwhile, Cosby, the No. 16 University of Central Missouri's preseason All-American tight end, was all smiles as he crossed the endzone and walked off the field.

Minutes earlier the Bulldogs (2-3, 0-3 MIAA) lost 38-14 to ruin Nesbitt's, and three other Truman coaches, first game against their former team.

"Tonight, we wanted to get after them," said Nesbitt, the former co-defensive coordinator at UCM. "I'm very disappointed. We're getting better — the score is not indicating it." Cosby, who had 56 yards receiving and two touchdowns, exuded a different response.

"Obviously, being the relationship we had, [it] was kind of hard seeing him lose," Cosby said. "What else can you say? I feel like we played pretty well and we just put on the gloves.

In a way I feel happy for me, but sad for him."

The loss marked the Bulldog's fourth straight Family Day-game defeat, in front of a crowd of more than 4,000.

Truman held Central (5-1, 4-0 MIAA) to less than its season average in total yards and points. Also, Central quarterback Eric Czerniewski ended about 50 yards short of setting the all-time MIAA record, which was 267 on the night.

"We got to their quarterback — that's always important," senior defensive tackle Ryan Ploesser said. "We kind of forced them early on to do what we wanted to force them to do."

But it still wasn't enough for the Bulldogs, who lost their third straight game and will head to No. 19 Missouri Western State University next Saturday for another test against a ranked opponent.

"No consolation at all," sophomore defensive back Robert Gayden said of slowing the UCM attack. "We went into the game thinking a win."

The Bulldogs took an early 7-0 lead after the opening kickoff, a methodical 11-play, six-minute drive in which Nesbitt said every play had been scripted be-

fore the game.

Truman then forced a three-and-out on the Mules' first possession. But the Bulldogs were forced to punt it back after they declined a 5-yard running into the kicker call on 4th-and-6.

Central had an identical situation on the ensuing possession — 4th-and-6 — and an ensuing running into the kicker call on the part of Truman. But this time, it was a personal foul, and Central scored four plays later to tie the score at 7-7.

"It's difficult that theirs is a five-yard running into the kicker and ours is a personal foul," Nesbitt said. "We'll have to see it on the videotape. And that was a big call."

Central then tacked on a second-quarter touchdown as Czerniewski hooked up with Cosby. Truman went into halftime down only 14-7.

"We were riding high at halftime," Ploesser said. "We were ready to come back out and get going. I think maybe we played a little better, but things happen. Ball bounces one way. Scoreboard doesn't really reflect it."

From the first play on, the second half was all UCM. The Mules ran back the opening

kickoff for a touchdown and later returned a Truman on-side kick for another score.

Truman's offense stalled as well, going 10 drives without putting up any points. The Bulldogs twice turned the ball over in the redzone and relied mostly on the running game of senior quarterback Phil Davis. Davis accounted for 143 yards on the ground and 88 percent of Truman's total offense.

The majority of Davis' runs were scrambles, including one in the third quarter, when he went for 50 yards.

"When he took off scrambling, that was all Phil Davis — just his athletic ability and his competitiveness," Nesbitt said. "He did a nice job with that."

Defensively, the Bulldogs had their second interception of the season and consistently pressured Czerniewski, although they never brought him down for a loss.

The Bulldogs face off Saturday against their fourth stellar conference quarterback in a row — Western's Drew Newhart.

"Another ranked opponent I guess — it doesn't get any easier, does it?" Ploesser said.

## TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

### Women's Soccer: 'Dogs struggle against UCM

The women's soccer team lost 0-1 to the No. 3 University of Central Missouri on the road Saturday. The Jennies scored on a penalty kick in the 42nd minute. Truman was outshot, 20-3, in the match. Central also had five more shots on goal than the Bulldogs.

Last year, the 'Dogs finished 1-1 against the Jennies. Alumnae Katie Hinrichs scored a goal in the 85th minute to give the Bulldogs a 2-1 win. Then sophomore Megan Buri had two assists in the win. Truman is 3-6-2 against Central since 2005.

The next matchup between the two teams will be Nov. 4 at the Truman soccer pitch.

### Men's Golf: Bulldogs face tough course conditions

For yet another week, the men's golf team was hindered by course conditions. The Fairview Golf Club in St. Joseph, Mo., had two holes that caused serious issues for the entire field of players.

Hole two is a par four where black algae had overtaken the green, making putting difficult. Head coach Tyler Madsen said the green was like concrete.

The fifth hole is listed at 320 yards, but everyone was made to play from the closest tee to the greens. The fairway had been burned by the summer sun and resodded recently. Course officials encouraged players to hit the green with their tee shot in order to give the fairways a break.

Although such conditions aren't favorable, Madsen said all 60 golfers dealt with the same surroundings, making such unconventional obstacles a nonissue.

### Volleyball: Best start since 2006

The No. 10 Truman volleyball team boasts its best starting season since 2006. The Bulldogs are 16-3 overall and 5-2 in MIAA play.

Truman has been perfect in fifth sets, going 6-0 on the season. The Bulldogs also have seven sweeps for wins.

Truman will return to play four consecutive home matches. The Bulldogs will host the University of Nebraska-Omaha at 4 p.m. Saturday.

### Football: Team last in MIAA in turnovers

The turnover battle continued to hurt the football team last Saturday against the University of Central Missouri.

The Bulldogs turned the ball over twice, both times via a fumble in their 38-14 loss on Family Day at Stokes Stadium. The first fumble was one play after the Bulldogs intercepted a pass for the second time all season.

After five games, the Bulldogs (2-3, 0-3 MIAA) are last in the conference with a minus-eight turnover margin. Truman has turned the ball over seven times via fumbles and five via an interception. Only against Southwest Baptist University in the second game of the season has Truman won the turnover battle.

Both of Truman's turnovers against the Mules came inside the redzone, and both were in the first three plays of the Bulldogs' drive.

"You can't make these mistakes against anybody — and everybody we play is pretty good — and expect to win," head coach Gregg Nesbitt said after the Central game. "We can't turn the ball over — can't do it. And we have to be opportunistic when we do get a turnover."

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#### Miscellaneous

Bible Study, 8 p.m. Monday, Ryle Hall Cafeteria. For more info. call or e-mail: Colin at 573-673-3633/[colins573@yahoo.com](mailto:colins573@yahoo.com) Rebekah at 660-349-0509/[rgg7546@truman.edu](mailto:rgg7546@truman.edu). Jesus said, "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free." - John 8:32

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