



End of an era



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For the past 64 years the Truman State football schedule has included arch rival Northwest Missouri State University.

The 2011-'12 season will open for the Bulldogs at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Stokes Stadium against the Bearcats. It will be the first Thursday home game in school history, as well as the last game the two teams will play in the streak of 65.

Because of a revamped football schedule caused by conference expansion, Truman and Northwest will not meet every year beginning in the 2012 season.

Truman and Northwest have been playing each other since 1908 and have played for the Old Hickory Stick since 1931, making it the NCAA Div. II's oldest traveling trophy.

Although Truman has the upper hand in the series with an all-time record of 54-32-4, Northwest has won the last nine meetings. The Bearcats enter today ranked No. three in the in the American Football Coaches Association preseason poll. Their season ended last year with a loss in the national semi-final game.

"They're one of the top programs in the country, so to beat them would show we're right there," Athletic Director Jerry Wollmering said.

Northwest currently is riding a 46-game con
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