

HAYS | 'Dogs even record to 1-1

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 Hays' offensive plan included alternating quarterbacks throughout the game. Senior Blake McAhren threw for 82 yards going 11-for-19. He gave Hays a 21-20 lead entering halftime by throwing a touchdown pass to the Tiger's leading receiver junior Anthony Smith with 19 seconds remaining during the first half. While McAhren netted negative one rush yard, junior quarterback Anthony Shepard gained 45 yards and lost 11, leaving him with a net total of 34 yards. "[Seeing two quarterbacks] presented some problems and I thought it was halftime until we could adjust a little bit," Nesbitt said. "We hadn't seen two last week so it did [present a challenge] and he was so much more mobile. Maybe he didn't push the ball down the

field much with his arm and it did take some adjusting particularly with our rush lanes and our backside perimeter rush, if you will, where he'd lull you to sleep and out flank us. But we did a pretty good job the second half and didn't see him quite as much I don't think either. But we hit him a few times and slowed him down." Junior defensive back Richie Schumacher led the Bulldogs in tackles with 10, four of which were solo tackles. Junior defensive back Robert Gayden added to his team lead in solo tackles with seven against the Tigers. Gayden now has 17 solo tackles through two games. The games' leader in solo tackles was Ft. Hays senior line-backer Alex Whitehill. Whitehill tackles nine 'Dogs by himself and assisted 10 tackles. The Bulldogs will end a three-game homestand Saturday against Pittsburg State.

VOLLEYBALL | 'Dogs to open season versus No. 22 ranked team

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 in 2009, but the team is hoping for a different result during its 2011 campaign. "We are extremely disappointed with our play last weekend," junior outside hitter Katie Thomason said. "We surprised Fort Smith and stole that [first] game only to drop three sets in a row. It was a disheartening loss and we know we let one slip away." "We started off 8-0 last season and now we have had our wake-up call." —Emily Briseno middle blocker

to Fort Smith's .297 hitting average during the course of the deciding last three games. "This weekend we were embarrassed and learned what we aren't going to do anymore," junior middle blocker Emily Briseno said. "We aren't going to play around with teams and we aren't going to let teams off the hook. We want to kill teams. We want to be the team that embarrasses others." For the weekend, the team committed 74 attacking errors and 30 service errors. "We struggled in all areas of our game this past weekend," Briseno said. "We struggled with serving and receiving, passing,

missing serves, finishing points and blocking. We have a ton of talent, but it is just taking time to find our groove offensively." Conference play opens up Saturday against Emporia State. It is the Bulldogs' first home game. The last time the team came home bearing a 5-3 record, it got lost in its home opener against the then No. 13 ranked Hornets. "We started off 8-0 last season and now we have had our wake-up call," Briseno said. "Now we are ready to roll into conference play. We are really talented and now we just have to defend our home court." For the season, junior Megan Sharpe leads the Bulldogs with 2.86 kills per set, a .321 hitting percentage and 80 total kills. Freshman Abby Moser, winner of her second consecutive MIAA Specialist of the Week Award, leads the squad in digs with 5.89 per set and 165 total digs.

X-COUNTRY | Women finish second, men finish seventh in first meet of the year at Les Duke Invitational

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 still had time to make corrections before the critical conference and regional meets in October. "It was our first meet, so sometimes you do things that aren't what you want to do, and we did that," Cochran said. "In a way I'm satisfied, and in a way I'm not. We've got to fix things. We have to figure out where we should be going out in the race. We ended up with Anne Ratermann being way, way up [in the field] which is fine except Michelle and Karen should have probably been in front of her or at least with her. It's just some racing things that we'll need to take care of. We have to cor-

rect some things pretty quickly in the next two weeks." Cochran said that while the women do not have an especially deep depth chart, the top five runners, which are the positions that count toward scoring, all are talented, and he would like to see them all run close to one another in races. On the men's side, head coach Tim Schwegler saw his predominately young team finish seventh, but remained optimistic about future races. "I'm not happy with [seventh place], but it's okay," Schwegler said. "I think they all know they can all get better. I think we just made a

lot of mistakes and we'll learn from them and go from there." Schwegler said the most critical thing Truman will gain this year is experience for a team dominated by sophomores and freshmen. "For the two freshmen (David Stodden and Brad Hart, who finished second and third), that's the first time they've ever run an 8,000 meter race, so they didn't know what to expect. That usually happens the first time out, and then they get used to that," Schwegler said. Schwegler also said he hoped to have his two seniors, Joey Walls and Mike Dial, finish higher in subsequent meets.

Sheets, who led the way for the Bulldogs in the race with a time of 27:28 and a 17th place finish, is in many ways emblematic of Truman's team this year. Last year, on a senior-dominated team, he didn't run in the regional meet but found himself as Truman's lead runner Saturday. "It's definitely a different experience," Sheets said. "Before I've always been in the pack where you're with a lot of people, and pack running's different from being out in front. After the first mile, I just went out there. You still know people are right behind you, and you can hear your teammates, but it's definitely different."

OBSESSION | Sundays have become time for both NFL players and NFL fans to compete against each other

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 ego's Antonio Gates after the tight end had a particularly stunning performance, the mindset hits the hammer on the head with real leagues. For me, the obsession began in sixth grade. I finally received an invitation to my dad's live draft he had every year with his various lawyer buddies in Springfield, Mo. From then on, my whole NFL experience was changed. Sundays are holy days for most people, but for me, Sun-

days are game day. Besides the performance of Notre Dame and the Chiefs, my mood for the week widely is dictated by how my fantasy teams (named "The Dynasty" in one league and "Somewhere Over the Dwayne Bowe" in the other) do. Any football fan can see my first two options for a good mood are tarnished basically every other week, so one could say fantasy football is my only option for a happy week. My obsession starts in April

with the NFL draft. I closely follow the first three rounds, seeing what teams' depth charts will look like at the beginning of the season and what players have to perform to keep their starting spot. From then on, it's all research. I comb the Internet looking for insider information while simultaneously spouting trash talk to other owners in my various leagues. By the time the draft comes, I know more about most players than they probably know about themselves. I

find myself cheering for teams I usually hate just because my first-round pick leads them to victories week-after-week with exhilarating performances. This ridiculously futile obsession is because of fantasy football's increased accessibility. Every day, people can read experts' opinions about every player in the NFL. Within minutes of a season-ending injury I receive an email and a text message explaining it. I have an application that shows me live statistics and

fantasy scores. It truly has never been easier to be considered an "owner." Even with these on-the-go facilitations, I can't peel my eyes away from the television on game days. It is a habit that affects me mentally and emotionally. I find myself throwing various objects at players miles away from the chair in my living room. It is a sad existence, yet I must cope. For I have an addiction, and Michael Vick and his ridiculously athletic style of play is my enabler.

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