



Calli Lowry/Index

Junior Dallas Grier goes out for a pass during practice Sept. 25 at Stokes Stadium. Grier's career yardage is less than 200 yards shy of earning Grier 10th place on the Bulldog all-time list for receiving yards.

GRIER | Junior Dallas Grier's total career yardage gets closer to making the record books

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he finished the year with 47 catches for 599 yards and four touchdowns, finishing second for the team behind alumus wide receiver Anthony Brown.

This season Grier currently is averaging more than 82 yards per game, a significant increase from his 54 yards per game last season. Should he continue with the same average, Grier would finish the season with 987 yards and 63 receptions, which would put him at fourth on the career receiving yards list and fifth in career receptions with 143.

Schottel said this season has been the year Grier has grown into more of a leader not only on the statistic sheet, but also off the field and during practice.

"Ever since fall camp, I think he's re-

ally understood and learned over the past couple of years how to prepare, and even how to be a better leader," Schottel said. "He understands now that we have a lot of younger guys looking up to him as a man and he's just kind of embraced that role."

Nesbitt said Grier's leadership comes from his work ethic, and the example he sets on the field for his teammates is what makes him stand out.

"He's always been what I consider a good, solid practice player," Nesbitt said. "His play has kind of spoken for himself. I do think that by taking your practice habits from good ... to excellent, and just with added maturity, I think you just naturally evolve into a role of leadership."

Despite his high, consistent numbers, Nesbitt and Schottel said Tru-

man's football program hasn't quite seen Grier's full potential as he continues to grow and mature as a player.

"I think in terms of production, we've only hit the tip of the iceberg," Nesbitt said.

Grier finished with three catches and 16 yards during the Bulldogs' 17-38 loss to the University Central Missouri on Thursday — a season low for both categories, but Grier said of all the traits he's learned as a Bulldog, the most prominent is perseverance.

"We're going to put that game behind us and take that lesson and learn from it," Grier said. "We'll be ready to get out here on Saturday and show [Fort Hays State University] that we haven't missed a beat, it was just a temporary setback."

MEDIA | Instant updates can take away from the enjoyment of watching a game

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lofts the ball into the sky, you can physically feel the murmur of the crowd rising with it as everyone strains forward to see where the ball is headed. Sure, nine times out of ten it falls back to earth, but that hope is there with every single play that something amazing could be about to happen.

Two Saturdays ago, I volunteered to man the Twitter account for KTRM Sports during the home football game on Family Day against Northwestern Oklahoma State. My sole job description was to sit in the stands clutching my smartphone with freezing fingers and type away updates at the screen. At the end of the first quarter, I suddenly realized that despite tweeting every score seconds after it happened, and chronicling most changes of possession, I had almost no idea what was going on throughout the game.

I'd been too busy racing whoever was running the Truman Athletics Twitter account to see who could update fastest after a score. Between that and other updates, I'd spent the whole game looking down at my phone screen. I'd been watching a football game for more than 20 minutes and I couldn't have told you a thing about it to save my life.

But a funny thing happened during the second quarter. The scoreboard failed midway through. Suddenly everyone else in

Stokes was as lost as I was. How much time was left? What was the score? We were all in the dark as much as the defunct scoreboard.

Then I noticed I was running out of battery on my phone midway through the third quarter. In the interest of being able to report the final score, I switched it off and watched the game.

Sitting there in the dark, freezing under a thin blanket, my attention started drifting from the game itself. I found myself noticing not how many yards there were to go, but that the smoke from the ROTC cannon hung just under the lights in a perpetual fog. I noticed that Truman's dark purple uniforms shine under spotlights in a way that somehow only increases how dark they are.

I heard the grunt of the offensive and defensive line on each snap and the carrying calls of the cheerleaders. I saw the constant motion of the Showgirls on the track, the relentless pacing of the Truman players in front of the grandstand. Beneath it all was the buzz of the crowd as, in a kind of timeless, scoreboard-less limbo, the game marched on.

And when I turned my phone back on at the end of the game I was disappointed, not that Truman Athletics had beaten me with the update on Twitter, but that the football game was over.

SOCKS | Freshman Kim Barmettler smiley socks bring her luck on the greens

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decided to compete in golf at the collegiate level. From there, Barmettler launched her Truman career with a 12th place finish during her first tournament at the Mount Mercy Fall Invitational that helped her team slide past William Penn University by a single stroke and win the first tournament of the year. Barmettler said she enjoyed the opportunity to be a productive member of the team and said she has worked hard to assure her teammates she is fully committed to contributing everything she has to the program.

Barmettler is the only freshman to travel with the team to each tournament, and she led the Bulldogs in scoring during the Drury Fall Invitational, where she shot a season low 161 — 17 over par.

On the course, Barmettler is described by her colleagues as cool, calm and collected. Senior Jessica Tomash, the team's captain, said Barmettler's calm demeanor and positive attitude is one reason for the freshman's success this season. Tomash said Barmettler constantly is working to improve her game by asking questions and practicing each day at the team's practice facility.

"What makes Kim special is that she is a great teammate," Tomash said. "She is always looking to contribute to the team and her positive attitude really picks the rest of us up."

With one more tournament left during the fall season, Tomash said Barmettler has the potential and talent to be an impact player now, during the spring and for years to come as long as she continues to improve. Tomash said freshmen often have difficulty adjusting their game to the increased distances of holes. Tomash thinks Barmettler will be a more consistent contributor once she fully adapts to the longer courses, and said Barmettler could be her successor as the team's top finisher next year.

"There's no doubt in my mind that Kim has what it takes to lead this team in the future," Tomash said. "I don't know exactly when she will become that leader, but she is the perfect person on and off the golf course to lead this group of girls in the future."

Since the fateful day of the worst tournament of her career, Barmettler hasn't worn bright green or frown-faced socks since.

The team is happy she is back in her comfort zone before the Bulldog's home tournament finale, the Truman Bulldog Fall Classic October 14 and 15, where Barmettler said she is looking to knock the competition's socks off.

SETTER | Sophomore Meghan Zimmerman displays leadership on and off the court

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9.37 assists per set average is a 48-percent improvement to her last season mark of 4.53 assists per set. While she acknowledged her improvement, Zimmerman accredits much of her success to her teammates.

"I love how close we are as a team," Zimmerman said. "It makes us play better and allows for us to play hard for each other. I just try to stay really disciplined for them and hopefully every ball I touch will be put in the right spot to help my team win. We have worked really hard and I just try and improve each day."

Although Zimmerman has experienced success during her 2012 volleyball season, Allie Brak said Zimmerman's qualities as a setter are an even greater reflection of her character off the court.

"She's the type of person who goes the extra mile in every part of her life," Brak said. "She is generous, she likes helping others, and that helps her be the reliable setter she is."

Brak said while every player on a volleyball team is important, Zimmerman's role has been crucial to the team's cohesiveness. As the setter, the entire offense revolves around Zimmerman and she has worked really hard during the off season to get better at the little things, Brak said.

For Briney, getting better each day is the cornerstone of every athlete's practice philosophy, and Briney said Zimmerman has taken the words and given them a whole new meaning.

"She has done an incredible job," Briney said. "She has worked so hard to get to where she's at and is improving every match. I told her after the fact that Saturday's match



Scott Skarvan/Index

Sophomore Meghan Zimmerman prepares to serve during the game against Quincy University Sept. 25 in Pershing Arena. The 'Dogs swept QU.

against Central Missouri State was her best she's played so far for us. She continues to impress every day."

Zimmerman said all of her focus is on the team's next game against Quincy University. To secure a national ranking, Briney said the importance of Zimmerman is only going to be amplified over the next few competitions.

"She has been so reliable out there," Briney said. "With her continued improvement, she will play a key role and it's a role that she relishes."

Quincy posed an interesting matchup for the 'Dogs as they rep-

resent a future conference opponent awaiting Truman's arrival into the GLVC next year. Zimmerman said, however, it is just another chance to improve.

"It's always exciting to play a team under these circumstances," Zimmerman said. "We are all looking forward to seeing how they compete as a team. It's important for us to send a message in this one, at home. I think people should expect big things from us."

The Bulldogs square off against Missouri Western State University tomorrow at 7 p.m. in Pershing Arena.

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