

**MEN** | The men's basketball team is riding a winning streak for the first time in a long time in their first year in the GLVC.

**Continued from Page 11**  
 "It was one of those games where shots weren't falling for us," Carlson said. "Even though our shots weren't falling, we were still able to be very solid on defense. It was a good turnaround to not let our offense affect our defense like it has in the past."

The Bulldogs' defense held the Saints to 43 percent shooting from the field and 1-7 from beyond the arc during the second half. Knowing their possessions would be limited, Woodley said the team had to take advantage of every Saints mistake to ensure the victory.

The win brought the Bulldogs to 12-3 for the season and gave the team sole ownership of the number two spot in the GLVC West behind Drury University.

After the team's road trip to Kansas City ends Saturday with a matchup against William Jewell College, Truman will return home to face three nationally ranked teams during the next four games.

The difficult stretch starts next Thursday as the 'Dogs face the Missouri S&T Miners before the next three games against reigning national champion No. 7 Drury, No. 10 Southern Indiana and No. 2 Bellarmine University.

Woodley said the key to the team's continued success is to take one game at a time, or the team could see a lot of adversity in its near future.

"You take one game at a time, and in this league anybody can beat anybody," Woodley said. "Each of our games coming up are going to be very difficult for us if we don't play well. You can't really look ahead. When you do that, bad things happen to you and I'd be really disappointed if our guys did that."

Despite the forewarning from Woodley, Carlson said it's difficult not to let the upcoming schedule enter his thoughts as the 'Dogs continue to pile up victories. He said it's going to present a challenge for the team, one he is ready to accept wholeheartedly.

"I think right now it's on everybody's mind — it's no secret we have three of the top-25 teams in four games," Carlson said. "I personally feel excited to bring the best teams in the conference and matchup against them because I think it's going to be a blast. I'm looking forward to it, and I think the guys will be fired up and ready to play when that time comes."

The Bulldogs will begin their road trip today to Kansas City, as they're slated to face the Rockhurst University Hawks.



Adam Antor/ Index  
 Junior guard Reed Mells dribbles during a game against University of Missouri-St. Louis. The men emerged victorious with a score of 83-66 Jan. 16.

**Sports Gone By:**  
**27 years ago**  
**Female mascot introduced**

When a new mascot costume was purchased during 1987, the cheerleading squad decided to keep the old costume and make it into a female mascot. Tryouts took place Jan. 19, 1987, and the squad chose Jenny Chickering and Chris Funke to be the new bulldog mascots. The bulldog mascot became an official member of the cheerleading squad during 1980.



**TOP DOG**  
**MIKE CARLSON**  
 Senior forward Mike Carlson gets the Top Dog this week after being named the first ever Truman State GLVC basketball player of the week. Carlson also notched his 1,000th career point this past week against the McKendree University Bearcats.

**CONCUSSION** | Concussions and concussion-type injuries are becoming more and more prevalent in football at all levels.

**Continued from Page 11**  
 Lamar has received some minor concussions since then, but said his ability to play football never has been limited. However, Lamar said receiving more than one concussion probably has made him more susceptible to head injuries.

"I make sure that my helmet is tight by increasing the air in my helmet as well as making sure my chinstrap is strapped up tight," Lamar said. "I also mold my mouth guard every time I get a new one, so that when I do take hits to the head my jaw is locked and stable, which I think helps prevent further head injuries."

With the pressure to prevent head injuries increasing and more rules being implemented, many colleges and universities have begun administering tests and policies for ensuring a player's safety during practices and games.

Nesbitt said the concussion protocol includes cognitive testing, as well as making all players go through a test known as the "concussion test" during the preseason. Nesbitt said players also can be tested during the regular season as well if a player starts showing symptoms of a head injury.

Multiple concussions can lead to a disease called chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE.

According to a CNN Library article updated on CNN's website Jan. 14, CTE is a "progressive degenerative disease of the brain found in many athletes with a history of repetitive brain trauma."

CTE has been found most notably in professional football players with multiple injuries to the head. The first NFL player to be diagnosed with CTE was former Pittsburgh Steelers and Kansas City Chiefs center and Hall of Famer Mike Webster.

Webster retired from the NFL during 1990 and had since experienced bouts of "amnesia, dementia, depression, and bone and muscle pain." It was not until after Webster's suicide during 2002 that he was diagnosed with CTE. Scientists are still only able to safely diagnose patients with CTE after death.

As concussions and concussion-type injuries become more and more prevalent in the world of football, it is extremely important for athletes to put their safety first. A few things to keep in mind to avoid injury are keeping your target zone low, tackling with your shoulders, and wearing your helmet at all times.

While concussions may not be an issue among Truman's football team, head injuries should never be taken lightly.

**NFL punter comes out in favor of gay rights**

**BY BLAKE BIXLER**  
 Staff Reporter



**COMMENTARY**  
**Blake Bixler**

As an avid World of Warcraft player and author of a book called "Beautifully Unique Sparkleponies", it's hard to think Chris Kluwe, former Punter of the Minnesota Vikings and most recently the Oakland Raiders, would be a professional athlete. Kluwe is considered a folk hero to the younger tech-savvy generation of football fans who share his interests. Considered brash and outspoken, Kluwe often has provided his commentary about issues on and off the football field, especially about the topic of same-sex marriage.

While a majority of our society has begun to accept gay marriage and homosexuality, professional sports still bear the stigma of discrimination. The very nature of professional athletics fosters an environment of hyper-masculinity that forces athletes to treat their job much like military combat. The main objective is to win at all costs, meaning there can be no distractions or burdens. To this day homosexuality is perceived as a burden in professional sports,

much like it was during the era of the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy. A burden ultimately hurts the main objective of winning at all costs, which makes these people expendable. The latest alleged victim of this discrimination is Kluwe.

In an article on Deadspin.com, Kluwe claimed he was released from the Vikings because of his outspoken support for gay marriage. According to the article, "I Was an NFL Player Before I Was Fired by Two Cowards and a Bigot," three men were responsible for Kluwe's unwarranted termination. Kluwe said on several occasions, Vikings Special Teams Coordinator Mike Priefer would use slanderous remarks about gay people on a whim and did not get along with Kluwe during his stay. The most profound quote from Priefer was "We should round up all the gays, send them to an island, and nuke it until it glows." Additionally, Vikings Head Coach Leslie Frasier and General Manager Rick Spielman looked the other way concerning Priefer's statements and thought the best possible solution would be simply to release Kluwe and give no repercussion to Priefer. Pretty crazy, right?

As a major Kluwe fan, I find these allegations hard to believe. At the time of his release, Kluwe was considered to be an average to below-average punter. He was released last May, yet waited until this January to spring these allegations on the organization. He wrote his article during the time Frasier was fired and Priefer was receiving interest in becoming an NFL head coach. Also during that time, Kluwe signed with the Oakland Raiders during the offsea-

son, but eventually was cut in favor of second year player Marquette King. More recently Kluwe had a workout with the Cincinnati Bengals before again being cut in favor of another punter. It's sad to say, but punters are relatively easy to replace in the NFL. I think Kluwe was just another casualty of the business rather than a patsy taking the fall for his beliefs. The truth of this situation will be decided in court, as the Minnesota Vikings have asked for a formal investigation into the allegations.

This issue brings up an interesting question — will there ever be an openly gay player in professional sports? Other than Kluwe, there are other athletes who openly have supported gay marriage — including Baltimore Ravens linebacker Brendon Ayanbadejo and NBA player Kenneth Faried as well as Jason Collins, the former NBA player who recently came out after his retirement.

Unfortunately, there are no openly gay players in any major sport and it doesn't seem like it's going to change anytime soon. But stories like these are a great way to get conversation started about homosexuality and whether or not professional athletes are allowed to share controversial opinions.

For now, we wait to see what will become of the Vikings situation. Chris Kluwe still is entitled to his beliefs, but it has not yet been proven that they are true under law. Meanwhile, he can at least take solace that his friends on World of Warcraft are far more accepting of him.

**BUCK BROS.**  
**SUNNY SLOPE AUTO, LLC**  
 NAPA Service Center

**660 - 665 - 8464**  
 710 W. Potter Avenue  
 at the Corner of Osteopathy & Potter Ave  
*serving the area for over 30 years*

**Complete Automotive Services**  
**oil change, tire rotations, tune ups, check engine light, jump starts, & unlock locked car**

Let the guys at **BUCK BROS. SUNNYSLOPE AUTO** make sure you're in class on time! Call now to set up an appointment.

Tell us you saw our ad in the Index and get **10% off on labor**

[www.buckbrothersauto.com](http://www.buckbrothersauto.com)

**WWW.TRUMANRENTALS.COM**

**Providing affordable student housing for more than 25 years**

Boardwalk • Waterworks • Park Place  
 States Avenue • St. James Place • New York Avenue

Four Horizons Realty  
 703 N. Marion St.  
 Kirksville, MO 63501  
**660-665-RENT**  
**www.4horizonsrealty.com**