2003 Season Review

2003 represented one of the toughest schedule stretches for any Bulldog football team in recent memory.

The schedule yielded five teams ranked in the top-25 in the NCAA Division II poll and one team, Illinois State, ranked in the top 20 in NCAA Division I-AA.

The ‘Dogs began the campaign with a new quarterback, only three returning players with all-MIAA honors, and 18 freshman among the starting ranks. These added up to a disheartening 49-13 opening day defeat versus Winona State at Stokes Stadium.

Winona was fast out of the gate, scoring the first points of the game and amassing a 21-7 halftime advantage. Junior flanker J.D. McCluskey scored the first points for the Bulldogs, catching a 30-yd. TD pass from junior quarterback Jake Czeschin with 9:47 left in the second quarter.

Winona lengthened the advantage to 35-7, before Truman scored again in the fourth quarter.

The Bulldogs travelled to Normal, Ill. the next Saturday to face nationally-ranked NCAA Division I-AA foe Illinois State.

The Redbirds offense proved too much for the Bulldogs, amassing 544 yards in a 49-6 victory.

Week three brought the Bulldogs back to Stokes Stadium, but the outcome proved no different against run-heavy and nationally-ranked Pittsburgh State. Still, the change in scenery did not yield a different outcome, as the Bulldogs lost 48-8.

Truman notched their first win of the season the following Saturday, winning by a baseball-like score, 12-6. Kicker Mark Kamphoefner kicked a school-record four field goals and running back Jerard LeVerson also set a school record for carries with 48. The 48 carries were good for 204 yards, the most by any Bulldog since 1996.

The streak did not extend any further as Truman dropped their Family Day contest, 55-24, to Emporia State.

Still, the Bulldogs regained form on the road the next Saturday, with a 15-3 win over Missouri Southern.

Quarterback Czeschin was unavailable due to injury, but true freshman Jim DuPage stepped in and played admirably, passing for 71 yards and rushing for 25 more. He also led the Bulldogs on one touchdown drive.

LeVerson continued his strong season with 137 yards and one TD, and Kamphoefner even found the end zone with a 4-yard TD run off a fake field attempt.

The defensive line also had their first dominating game, posting three sacks and quadrupling their season total.

The next three contests all fell in the opponent’s favor. Truman dropped the three games by a combined score of 104-28. This included a 39-6 Homecoming loss to Missouri Western.

Still, the Bulldogs returned home to face winless Missouri-Rolla on Nov. 8th and notched their first home victory on Senior Day, 35-28. Truman fell behind 21-0, but Czeschin did his best John Elway impersonation, leading the Bulldogs to 28 unanswered points, while passing for 312 yards.

James Perry was Czeschin’s main target, catching 5 passes for 82 yards and one touchdown.

The Bulldogs delivered another win in the final contest of the season the following Saturday, defeating Southwest Baptist, 20-14.

Senior linebacker Tameem Yehyawi led the MIAA with 11.6 tackles a game and became just the sixth Bulldog to earn first-team academic all-American honors. He was a first-team all-MIAA and all-region choice. Yehyawi was also named Daktronic second-team all-American squad.

Kamphoefner was named first-team all-conference for his punting efforts. He was first in MIAA punting average with 40.3 yards.

Offensive tackle Eric Stewart was the lone Bulldog to receive second-team all-MIAA honors.

Sophomore running back Jerard LeVerson turned in a good season, leading the team with 278 rushes for 1,012 yards. LeVerson earned honorable mention recognition from the MIAA coaches, along with junior defensive tackle Ted Guisinger, senior defensive back Derek Kent, senior center Greg Klipsch, freshman receiver James Perry and sophomore defensive back Marcus Yokeley.
## 2003 Statistics

### Overall Record: 5-6 MIAA Record: 4-5 (t-6th)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM STATISTICS</th>
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### PUNT RETURNS

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### FUMBLES-LOST

| 23 | 7 |

### LEGEND: UT-Unassisted Tackles, AT-Assisted Tackles, TT-TotTackles, S-Sacks, TFL-Tackles for a Loss, S-Sacks, L-Interceptions, B-Block Punt Returns, Q-Quarterback Hurries, R-Ch-Field-Forced Fumbles, Bk-Kicked blocks.
Individual Game Highs
Rushes: 48, Jerad Leveron vs. Washburn
Rushing Yards: 204, Jerad Leveron vs. Washburn
Pass Attempts: 43, Jake Czeschin vs. Winona
Pass Completions: 23, Jake Czeschin vs. Northwest Missouri
Passing Yards: 67, Grant Nordland to James Perry vs. Missouri Western (touchdown)

Kickoff Return: 50 yards, Jason Douglas vs. Missouri-Rolla & Chandler Terry vs. Pittsburg State
Punt Return: 55 yards, Jason Douglas vs. Missouri Western

Interception Return: 34 yards, Jason Douglas vs. Missouri-Rolla

Field Goals: 4, Mark Kamphoefer vs. Washburn

Team Game Highs
First Downs: 25 vs. Washburn
Rushes: 62 vs. Washburn
Rushing Yards: 234 vs. Washburn
Pass Attempts: 48 vs. Winona & Northwest Missouri
Pass Completions: 25 vs. Northwest Missouri
Passing Yards: 312 vs. Missouri-Rolla
Touchdown Passes: 8 vs. Washburn & Missouri Southern
Touchdowns: 4, Winona

Individual Game Highs
Rushes: 49 yards, Jerad Leveron vs. Missouri Southern (touchdown)
Pass Reception: 67 yards, Grant Nordland to James Perry vs. Missouri Western (touchdown)

Kickoff Return: 50 yards, Jason Douglas vs. Missouri-Rolla & Chandler Terry vs. Pittsburg State
Punt Return: 55 yards, Jason Douglas vs. Missouri Western

Interception Return: 34 yards, Jason Douglas vs. Missouri-Rolla

Field Goal: 43 yards, Mark Kamphoefer vs. Missouri Southern

Team Game Lows
First Downs: 12 vs. Illinois State
Rush Attempts: 19 vs. Washburn
Pass Completions: 8 vs. Washburn & Missouri Southern
Passing Yards: 71 vs. Missouri Southern
Rushing Attempts: 19 vs. Missouri Southern

Individual Game Lows
Total Off. Yards: 75 vs. Missouri-Rolla
Rushing Yards: 0 vs. Missouri-Rolla
Interception Return: 0 yards, Washburn & Missouri Southern
Field Goals: 0 vs. Missouri-Rolla

Team Game Lows
First Downs: 28, Emporia
Rush Attempts: 45, Missouri Southern
Pass Attempts: 45, Missouri Southern

Individual Leaders
Total Off. Yards: 135 vs. Missouri-Rolla
Rushing Yards: 112 vs. Missouri-Rolla
Points: 3 vs. Missouri-Rolla

Penalties: 10 vs. Missouri-Rolla

Penalty Yards: 78 vs. Pittsburg State

2003 Highs & Lows

Game 1: Winona State 49, Truman 13

Sept. 6 - Stokes Stadium, Kirksville, Mo.

Winona State spoiled the Bulldogs’ season opener with a 49-13 win over Truman at Stokes Stadium in Kirksville.

Truman was still in the game until late in the third quarter. After a Bulldog punt, the Warriors scored on the first play of that drive within the 82-yard touchdown pass. That scoring strike gave Winona State a 21-point lead and put out any hopes the home fans had for a Bulldog comeback.

The Truman defense was on the field for most of the first-half and it caught up to them late in the game. Winona State’s offense was able to turn the contest into a rout after scoring touchdowns on four of its final five possessions.

Winona State put up 569 yards of total offense in the game, including 426 yards through the air. The duo quarterbacks of Brian Wrobel and Andy Nett combined for four touchdowns in the game.

Chris Samp was the leading receiver with seven catches for 281 yards. Brian Hynes had six catches for 85 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Truman’s offense ended the game with 372 yards of total offense. Jerad Leveron had 75 yards rushing and one touchdown. Jake Czeschin threw for 235 yards and one touchdown, but was picked off three times. James Walton was his favorite receiver, as Czeschin found Walton six times for 96 yards.

The Bulldogs had three good drives in the first-half, but put points up on the board just once. Truman recovered a fumble in the second quarter and on the first play, scored on a 30-yard touchdown pass to J.D. McCloskey. The other two Bulldog threats in the first-half ended once on downs and once at the end of the half.

In the second-half, Truman had three drives of eight plays or longer. Again, they punched it in the end zone just once, on a Levarion Byrd 8-yard run, while the other two drives ended on downs.

Defensively, Truman’s Dominic Scalise and Derek Kent each had a team-high 10 tackles. Marcus Yokeley and Ben Wilson had one interception apiece and Justin Smith and Jason Douglas each recovered a fumble.

Individual Longest Plays
Rush: 49 yards, Jerad Leveron vs. Missouri Southern (touchdown)
Pass Reception: 67 yards, Grant Nordland to James Perry vs. Missouri Western (touchdown)
Kickoff Return: 50 yards, Jason Douglas vs. Missouri-Rolla & Chandler Terry vs. Pittsburg State
Punt Return: 55 yards, Jason Douglas vs. Missouri Western

Interception Return: 34 yards, Jason Douglas vs. Missouri-Rolla

Field Goal: 43 yards, Mark Kamphoefer vs. Missouri Southern

Individual Longest Plays
Rush: 34, Tyler Paul, Emporia
Passing Yards: 311, Tyler Paul, Emporia
Touchdown Passes: 4, Kokain Mothershed, Missouri Southern

Kickoff Return: 47 yards, Mike Odupitan, Washburn

Field Goal: 36 yards, Brad Komen, Missouri Southern

Team Game Lows
First Downs: 10, Washburn
Rush Attempts: 33, Missouri-Rolla

Individual Leaders
Total Off. Yards: 135 vs. Missouri-Rolla
Rushing Yards: 112 vs. Missouri-Rolla

Points: 3, Missouri Southern

Penalties: 10 vs. Missouri-Rolla

Penalty Yards: 78 vs. Pittsburg State

2003 Game-by-Game

Score by Quarters: 1 2 3 4 Final
Truman 0 7 0 6 13

Winona State State 49 13

Scoring Summary:
1st Quarter
12:00 WSU - Hynes 16-yard pass from Nett (Opgenorth kick) 1-0

2nd Quarter
11:34 WSU - Curtis 7-yard run (Opgenorth kick) 8-0
9:47 Truman - McCloskey 30-yard pass from Czeschin (Kamphoefner kick) 8-7
5:21 WSU - Hynes 8-yard pass from Wrobel (Opgenorth kick) 15-7

3rd Quarter
1:08 WSU - Samp 82-yard pass from Wrobel (Opgenorth kick) 23-7
11:05 WSU - Cruz 44-yard pass from Wrobel (Opgenorth kick) 31-7
8:23 Truman - Leveron 8-yard run (Kamphoefer kick) fall
4:36 WSU - Cruz 9-yard run (Opgenorth kick) 38-7

4th Quarter
3:01 WSU - Kphanathanome 5-yard run (Opgenorth kick) 44-7

Team Statistics:
Winona State Truman

First Downs 28 23
RUSHING YDS (NET) 261 374
PASSING YDS (NET) 260 426

Third-Down Conversions 8 of 20 7 of 11
Fumbles-Lost 0 0

Punt Returns-Yards 2 7
Interception Returns-Yards 3 2

Punt Return: 40, Missouri Western
Offensive Plays: 54, Washburn
Total Off. Yards: 222, Washburn
Touchdowns: 0, Washburn & Missouri Southern

Points: 3, Missouri Southern

Penalties: 13, Illinois State

Penalty Yards: 122, Illinois State

Individual Leaders
Total Off. Yards: 235 vs. Winona
Rushing Yards: 234 vs. Winona

Pass Receptions: 9, Uros Stosic, Missouri Western

Passing Yards: 312 vs. Missouri-Rolla

Field Goals: 312 vs. Missouri-Rolla

Kickoff Return: 55 yards, Jamaical Rector, Northwest Missouri

Interception Return: 76 yards, Pierre Thomas, Missouri Western

Field Goal: 36 yards, Brad Komen, Missouri Southern

Team Game Lows
First Downs: 10, Washburn
Rush Attempts: 33, Missouri-Rolla

Rushing Yards: 85, Missouri Southern
Pass Attempts: 12, Missouri Western

Pass Completions: 5, Missouri Western
Passing Yards: 40, Missouri Western

Offensive Plays: 54, Washburn
Total Off. Yards: 222, Washburn

Touchdowns: 0, Washburn & Missouri Southern

Points: 3, Missouri Southern

Penalties: 13, Illinois State

Penalty Yards: 122, Illinois State

Individual Longest Plays
Rush: 79 yards, Germaine Race, Pittsburg State (TD)

Pass Reception: 82 yards, Brian Wrobel to Chris Samp, Winona (TD)

Kickoff Return: 47 yards, Mike Odupitan, Washburn

Punt Return: 55 yards, Jamaical Rector, Northwest Missouri

Interception Return: 76 yards, Pierre Thomas, Missouri Western (TD)

Punt: 63 yards, Troy Masek, Illinois St.

Field Goal: 36 yards, Brad Komen, Missouri Southern
Game 2: Illinois State 49, Truman 6  
Sept. 13 - Hancock Stadium, Normal, Ill.

The NCAA Division I-AA Redbirds ran through the Bulldogs as Truman struggled in its first road game of the season. Illinois State sacked up 544 yards in the contest, including 412 on the ground. The majority of those yards came in the first-half when the Redbirds opened up a 42-0 lead.

Running back Demetrius Johnson had a big game, rushing for 132 yards and scoring three touchdowns. His first one was a one-yard run that gave the Redbirds a 7-0 lead just three minutes into the game, after Illinois State had recovered a Bulldog fumble on Truman’s 21-yard line.

Johnson’s final touchdown came with one minute remaining in the first half. The score capped off a first-half in which Illinois State scored touchdowns on six of their seven possessions.

The second-half saw the Redbirds keep the ball on the ground so they could control the clock. Illinois State held the ball for over 18 of the final 30 minutes.

Truman did keep Illinois State out of the endzone for most of the final half. The Redbirds final score came about after a Bulldog interception gave them a short field.

Truman’s offense finally started moving the ball late in the game. The team had a 12-play drive that stalled around midfield early in the final quarter. The next time the Bulldogs touched the ball, they marched the ball 60-yards and ruined Illinois State’s shutout bid when A.J. Eads scored on an 11-yard run.

Game 3: Pittsburg State 48, Truman 8  
Sept. 20 - Stokes Stadium, Kirksville, Mo.

For the second straight game, the Bulldogs had trouble stopping the run as they dropped their MIAA opener by a 48-8 margin to Pittsburg State. The Gorillas rushed for over 200 yards in the first-half alone, as they opened up a 27-0 lead by the intermission.

The big difference in the first-half, however, came from the Pittsburg State bend-but-don’t-break defense. Four times, the Bulldogs drove the ball inside the Pittsburg State 30-yard line. Truman got no points out of all of that as two interceptions, a missed field goal and a turnover on downs ended the drives. The second pick was returned by Pittsburg State’s Terek Wilson for a 72-yard interception return, which gave the Gorillas a three-touchdown lead and they were never threatened again.

Pittsburg State would score touchdown on six of its first eight possessions of the game as it built a 41-point lead.

Truman continued to move the ball well in the second-half but could only manage one scoring drive. Late in the third, an interception by Marcus Yokeley gave the Bulldogs the ball at midfield. Nine plays later, Jake Czeschin found Vance Schuring for a 14-yard touchdown pass.

Truman’s Czeschin threw for 200 yards and one touchdown for the game, but was picked off twice. Jerard Levereson rushed for 73 yards and James Walton was the leading receiver with six catches for 62 yards.

Pittsburg State’s Neal Philpot attempted just 16 passes, but three went for touchdowns. Germaine Race led the Gorillas’ rushing game as he recorded 172 yard and two touchdowns on just 11 carries.

Jermaine Carpenter caught four passes for the Gorillas for 101 yards and two scoring catches.

Individual Leaders

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Score by Quarters: 1 2 3 4 Final

Truman 21 0 0 7 0 49
Illinois State 12 7 21 21

Scoring Summary:

1st Quarter
12:00 PSU - Johnson 1-yard run (Carroll kick) 20-0
5:00 PSU - Robinson 22-yard pass from Souza (Carroll kick) 20-6
5:00 PSU - Johnson 49-yard run (Carroll kick) 20-12

2nd Quarter
12:26 PSU - Edwards 5-yard run (Carroll kick) 20-18
6:11 PSU - Davis 1-yard run (Carroll kick) 20-24
1:00 PSU - Johnson 3-yard run (Carroll kick) 20-31

3rd Quarter
2:39 PSU - Newby 10-yard run (Carroll kick) 20-37

4th Quarter
5:25 Truman - Eads 11-yard run (Kampheofner kick blocked)

Team Statistics:

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Score by Quarters: 1 2 3 4 Final

Pittsburg State 7 20 14 7 48
Truman 0 0 8 0 8

Score Summary:

1st Quarter
8:43 PSU - Carpenter 31-yard pass from Philpot (Alleman kick) 14-0
1:19 Truman - Schuring 14-yard pass from Czeschin (Yokeley rush) 7-14

2nd Quarter
14:36 PSU - Race 2-yard run (Alleman kick) 21-14
14:29 PSU - Wilson 72-yard interception return (Majers rush failed) 21-14
6:19 PSU - Race 77-yard run (Alleman kick) 21-21

3rd Quarter
12:28 PSU - Carpenter 31-yard pass from Philpot (Alleman kick) 28-21
9:41 PSU - Noble 6-yard pass from Philpot (Alleman kick) 28-28
2:59 Truman - Shurin 14-yard pass from Czeschin (Yokeley rush) 21-28

4th Quarter
6:27 PSU - Bean 2-yard run (Alleman kick) 28-28

Team Statistics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Truman</th>
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Score by Quarters: 1 2 3 4 Final

Pittsburg State 7 20 14 7 48
Truman 0 0 8 0 8

Scoring Summary:

1st Quarter
6:27 PSU - Carpenter 31-yard pass from Philpot (Alleman kick) 7-0
2:59 Truman - Shurin 14-yard pass from Czeschin (Yokeley rush) 7-7

2nd Quarter
14:36 PSU - Race 2-yard run (Alleman kick) 14-7
14:29 PSU - Wilson 72-yard interception return (Majers rush failed) 14-14
6:19 PSU - Race 77-yard run (Alleman kick) 21-14

3rd Quarter
12:28 PSU - Carpenter 31-yard pass from Philpot (Alleman kick) 28-21
9:41 PSU - Noble 6-yard pass from Philpot (Alleman kick) 28-28
2:59 Truman - Shurin 14-yard pass from Czeschin (Yokeley rush) 21-28

4th Quarter
6:27 PSU - Bean 2-yard run (Alleman kick) 28-28
2003 Game-by-Game

Game 4: Truman 12, Washburn 6
Sept. 27 - Yager Stadium, Topeka, Kan.

Jerard Leerson, Mark Kamphoefner and the Bulldogs defense carried the team to their first win of the season. The Bulldogs went on the road and defeated Washburn by a 12-6 score.

The Bulldogs controlled the clock in the second-half, holding onto the ball for over 21 minutes.

Because of the absence of any touchdowns in the game, the two teams were close throughout. Washburn got on the board first with a field goal in the first-quarter, but Truman answered with a pair in the second to hold a 6-3 halftime advantage.

After neither team scored in the third quarter, Truman added another field goal into a rout.

The Ichabods would not touch the ball again though. Leerson rushed the ball eight straight times as Truman ran the clock out for a win.

Score by Quarters: 1 2 3 4 Final
Truman 0 6 0 6 12
Illinois State 3 0 0 3 6

Scoring Summary:
1st Quarter:
4:44 WU - Banion 26-yard field goal

2nd Quarter:
1:13 Truman - Kamphoefner 23-yard field goal
3:47 Truman - Kamphoefner 24-yard field goal

3rd Quarter:
None

4th Quarter:
1:13 Truman - Kamphoefner 20-yard field goal
6:25 Truman - Kamphoefner 36-yard field
3:34 WU - Banion 31-yard field goal

Team Statistics:
Truman Washburn
FIRST DOWNS 25 10
RUSHES-YARDS (NET) 62-234 34-115
PASSING YDS (NET) 222 158
Passes Att-Comp-Int. 19-8-1 20-6-2
TOTAL OFFENSE 542 542
Punt Returns-Yards 0-0 1-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards 2-29 3-81
Intereception Returns-Yards 2-6 1-6
Punts (Number-Avg) 3-370 5-324
Fumbles-Lost 4-1 2-0
Penalities-Yards 4-30 5-43
Possession Time 35:09 24:51
Third-Down Conv. 6 of 15 4 of 14
Fourth-Down Conv. 1 of 1 0 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances 4-4 2-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards 0-0 1-7

Individual Leaders
Rushing Leeson (48-204) Johnson (15-132)
Passing Czeschin (9-23-1-164) Hatfield (7-15-1-158)
Receiving Walton (3-90) Richard (4-118)
Tackles Yehyawi, Reddick (9) Gould (15)

Game 5: Emporia State 55, Truman 24
Oct. 4 - Stokes Stadium, Kirksville, Mo.

Emporia State's Mike Servis had a quiet afternoon at Stokes Stadium. The Hornets punter never saw the field as Truman couldn't not contain Emporia State's running game in a 55-24 loss.

The Bulldogs were able to keep the game close for a half, thanks to four Emporia State turnovers.

Following the first turnover, Truman took advantage of the short field and Jerard Leerson gave the Bulldogs a 6-3 lead on a two-yard touchdown run.

The Hornets scored the next two touchdowns. However, it was the Bulldogs that had momentum going into the break. Mark Kamphoefner nailed a 32-yard field goal with one second remaining to make the score 17-9 and he then recovered a fumble on the kickoff.

The Truman momentum didn't last long in the second-half. Emporia State scored touchdowns the first five times it touched the ball in the final half, turning the game into a rout.

The only highlights for the Bulldogs in the final half was another touchdown run by Leerson in the third quarter and a 36-yard touchdown reception by James Perry late in the game.

Truman's run defense hurt the team once again as they allowed 455 yards rushing and four rushing touchdowns. Tyler Paul did most of the damage, gaining 311 yards on 34 carries.

Leerson had the two rushing touchdowns for the Bulldogs but was contained to 59 yards on 23 carries.

James Walton caught three passes for 90 yards, including a 60-yard catch which set up Kamphoefner's field goal right before the end of the first-half.

Defensively, Derek Kent recovered two of the Hornets turnovers in the first-half.

Score by Quarters: 1 2 3 4 Final
Emporia State 10 7 21 17 55
Truman 6 3 7 8 24

Scoring Summary:
1st Quarter:
7:09 ESU - Gray 25-yard field goal
4:50 Truman - Leerson 2-yard run (Kamphoefner kick blocked)
1:52 ESU - Paul 1-yard run (Gray kick)

2nd Quarter:
8:58 ESU - Day 14-yard pass from Hatfield (Gray kick)
0:01 Truman - Kamphoefner 32-yard field goal

3rd Quarter:
11:28 ESU - Paul 7-yard run (Gray kick)
8:29 ESU - Sanders 17-yard run (Gray kick)
4:34 Truman - Leerson 2-yard run (Kamphoefner kick)
1:48 ESU - Richard 18-yard pass from Hatfield (Gray kick)

4th Quarter:
11:28 ESU - Prie 2-yard run (Gray kick)
8:32 ESU - Williams 12-yard blocked punt return (Gray kick)
6:01 ESU - Gray 35-yard field goal
0:07 Truman - Perry 36-yard pass from DuPage (Mowen pass)

Team Statistics:
Emporia State Truman
FIRST DOWNS 15 28
RUSHES-YARDS (NET) 32-107 60-455
PASSING YDS (NET) 222 158
Passes Att-Comp-Int. 32-13-2 17-7-1
TOTAL OFFENSE 77-613 77-613
Punt Returns-Yards 8-35.8 0-0.0
Kickoff Returns-Yards 9-197 3-46
Intereception Returns-Yards 3-0 2-2
Punts (Number-Avg) 8-35.8 0-0.0
Fumbles-Lost 3-0 4-3
Penalities-Yards 6-55 9-68
Possession Time 25:30 34:30
Third-Down Conv. 5 of 14 9 of 13
Fourth-Down Conv. 0 of 0 0 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances 3-4 8-9
Sacks By: Number-Yards 1-8 0-0

Individual Leaders
Rushing Leeson (23-59) Paul (34-311)
Passing Czeschin (9-23-1-164) Hatfield (7-15-1-158)
Receiving Walton (3-90) Richard (4-118)
Tackles Yehyawi (12) Gast (7)
Game 6: Truman 15, Missouri Southern 3
Oct. 11 - Hughes Stadium, Joplin, Mo.

Truman survived a wild finish as it defeated Missouri Southern by a 15-3 margin.

The Griffons took the lead with 33 seconds left in the game. Missouri Southern appeared to keep the game alive, however, when the Lions blocked the kick, but they were flagged for illegal batting going after the loose ball.

The penalty gave the Bulldogs a second chance to seal the win. On the next play, Truman called a successful fake field goal, as Kamphoefner ran the ball in from four-yards out.

Missouri Southern outgained the Bulldogs 345-281 in the game, but the Lions turned the ball over four times, all in the final half. The first-half mostly saw the two teams trade punts back and forth. Both teams connected on field goal attempts late in the second quarter and the teams were tied at three all.

The biggest play of the game came in the third quarter. On a second-and-four play from the Lions’ 49-yard line, Jerard Levereson broke loose for a touchdown run that was the main difference in the game.

Levereson had another 100-yard rushing game, ending with 137 yards on 20 carries. Jimmy DuPage, a true freshman, started his first game and completed eight passes for 71 yards. His top receiver was James Perry who caught four balls for 26 yards.

The Bulldogs defense limited Missouri Southern to just 2.1 yards per rush, as the Lions ended the game with just 85 rushing yards. Missouri Southern’s Kokayi Motsheshe threw for 260 yards, but he had three interceptions.

Truman’s defense was anchored by Derek Kent who had 13 tackles and one interception. Shaun Lowery and Matt Marble each had a pick as well and Ben Wilson recovered a fumble.

Truman’s lone score came in the fourth, when Grant Norland found James Perry for a 67-yard touchdown pass. Truman’s Norland came off the bench to plug in for an injured quarterback.

Missouri Southern’s Kokain Mothershed threw for 260 yards, but he had three interceptions.

Individual Leaders

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<th>Truman</th>
<th>Missouri Southern</th>
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<tr>
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<td>DuPage (8-25-1-71)</td>
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<td>Perry (4-26)</td>
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<td>Tackles</td>
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<td>Missouri Southern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent (13)</td>
<td>Burpo (12)</td>
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</table>

Game 7: Missouri Western 39, Truman 6
Oct. 18 - Stokes Stadium, Kirksville, Mo.

Missouri Western’s defense picked off four passes and outscored the Bulldogs’ entire team as Truman lost its homecoming game by a 39-6 margin.

The Griffons scored on a safety and a 76-yard interception return in the second-half, helping the team pull away in the final two quarters.

Offensively, Missouri Western kept the ball on the ground almost the entire game, rushing 46 times compared to 12 passes.

The Griffons ended up pulling away in less than a three minute span in the third quarter. They took advantage of a Truman turnover and scored a touchdown on their first possession of the half.

Eleven seconds later, Missouri Western forced a safety and then, two minutes later, kicked a field goal that gave them a convincing 25-0 lead.

The Bulldogs, meanwhile, struggled moving the ball in the game. When they did get something moving, mistakes cost them. Twice in the first-half, Truman got the ball in the red zone but an interception and a missed field goal kept them off the scoreboard in the first-half.

Truman’s lone score came in the fourth, when Grant Norland found James Perry for a 67-yard touchdown pass. Truman’s Norland came off the bench to plug in for an injured quarterback.

Missouri Western’s defense had the ball in the air for 104 yards on 22 attempts.
**Game 8: Central Missouri 28, Truman 22**

**Oct. 25 - Walton Stadium, Warrensburg, Mo.**

Truman outgained Central Missouri by over 100 yards, but two big second-half plays by the Mules helped them survive by a 22-20 score.

Central Missouri scored touchdowns the first two times it touched the ball in the game, but Truman’s defense allowed almost nothing after that.

The Bulldogs also scored twice in the first-half, but trailed 14-13 at the break after missing an extra point and a long field goal attempt right before the end of the half.

The first big play by the Mules came on Truman’s first possession of the second-half. Dan Stookey intercepted a Bulldog pass and returned it 22 yards for a touchdown.

Truman kicked a field goal to pull within 21-16 and it appeared to have the momentum after forcing the Mules to go three-and-out in three straight possessions.

The second big play, however, came with 5:55 left in the game when Kegan Coleman broke a 56-yard touchdown run, giving the Mules a two-possession lead.

Truman wasn’t done yet with a big-play score of its own. Jake Czeschin found James Walton for a 63-yard touchdown reception and the Bulldogs were within six after another extra point try failed.

The Mules recovered the onside kick, though, which essentially ended the ballgame.

The Bulldog defense allowed just 245 yards in the game, including 100 in the final half. One hundred and thirty of those yards came during the Mules’ first two drives.

Tameem Yehyawi had a team-high 15 tackles and Derek Kent had 11 stops, including four for losses.

Offensively, Jerard Leverage went over the 100-yard mark, gaining 154 yards and scoring one touchdown. Jake Czeschin threw for 189 yards and two touchdowns. James Perry caught eight of the passes for 53 yards.

Central Missouri’s Colonel recorded 146 rushing yards in the game, including two rushes that ended in six points. The Mules passed the ball just 17 times in the game, compared to 44 runs.

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**Individual Leaders**

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**Score by Quarters:**

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**Scoring Summary:**

1st Quarter
- 6:55 CMSU - Stookey 22-yard interception (Starks kick)

2nd Quarter
- 10:00 CMSU - Coleman 6-yard run (Starks kick)
- 3:43 Truman - Leverage 1-yard run (Kamphoefner kick failed)

3rd Quarter
- 10:33 CMSU - Stookey 22-yard interception (Starks kick)
- 1:00 Truman - Kamphoefner 23-yard field goal

4th Quarter
- 5:55 CMSU - Coleman 56-yard run (Starks kick)
- 1:43 Truman - Walton 63-yard pass from Czeschin (Kamphoefner kick blocked)

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**Team Statistics:**

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**Game 9: Northwest Missouri 37, Truman 0**

**Nov. 1 - Rickenbrode Stadium, Maryville, Mo.**

For the first time in 31 years, the Bulldogs were shutout in the Old Hickory Stick game. Northwest Missouri won the annual trophy by a 37-0 score.

Truman’s best opportunities to get on the board came right before and after halftime.

Down 16-0 late in the second quarter, the Bulldogs looked to gain some momentum heading into the break. They drove 70 yards in 16 plays to the Bears’ nine-yard line, but their 26-yard field goal attempt was blocked.

To open the second-half, Truman forced an interception on the second play, giving its offense the ball in Northwest territory. Once again, they drove down to the nine-yard line. The Bulldogs couldn’t punch the ball into the endzone though, after an one-yard run and three straight incomplete passes.

The Bearcats seized control of the game after that, scoring touchdowns on three of their next four possessions. Truman only entered the Bearcats’ side of the field once more in the game. Truman lost despite having a -3 margin in the turnover category. Northwest Missouri outgained the Bulldogs 450-243 in total offense. Over 300 of the Bearcats’ yards came during the turnover.

Truman’s Jake Czeschin threw for 184 yards in the game. Jerard Leverage rushed for a team-high 52 yards and J.D. McCloskey caught five balls for 50 yards.

Northwest Missouri scored in a variety of ways, getting touchdowns from its offense, defense and special teams.

Jamaica Rector returned a punt a punt in the first-half for a touchdown and then caught a 43-yard pass for a score in the second-half. His brother, Andre, also had a touchdown reception.

Combined, the two caught nine balls for 164 yards.

---

**Individual Leaders**

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**Score by Quarters:**

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<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>57</td>
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**Scoring Summary:**

1st Quarter
- 6:38 NWMSU - Damienn 27-yard field goal

2nd Quarter
- 5:10 NWMSU - J. Rector 55-yard punt return (Damienn kick) (cancelled)

3rd Quarter
- 12:40 NWMSU - Mandl 5-yard run (Damienn kick)
- 8:16 NWMSU - J. Rector 43-yard pass from Mandl (Damienn kick)

4th Quarter
- 13:05 NWMSU - A. Rector 25-yard pass from Herring (Damienn kick)
- 12:53 NWMSU - Tysdahl 15-yard interception return (Damienn kick)

---

**Team Statistics:**

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<td>Sacks By-Number-Yards</td>
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Game 10: Truman 35, Missouri-Rolla 28
Nov. 15 - Plaster Stadium, Bolivar, Mo.

The home folks were unable to witness a Bulldog win until Truman came-from-behind to defeat Missouri-Rolla in the final home game of the season. Truman knocked off the Miners by a 35-28 score.

The Miners ambushed Truman early, opening up a 21-0 lead in the second quarter. The Bulldogs got one touchdown back and then had a big third quarter to gain the lead.

The tone was set early. On the second play of the half, Truman intercepted a Missouri-Rolla pass, setting up the offense on the Miners' 12-yard line. It took just three plays for the Bulldogs to punch it in from there.

Truman also scored the next two times it touched the ball while the Miners could not get anything going in the quarter.

The Bulldogs weren't out of the woods yet. Missouri-Rolla tied the game early in the fourth before Truman put together one of its most impressive drives of the season.

The Bulldogs ran 19 plays and took 7:47 off the clock. The 81-yard drive finally ended when Cole Voigt caught a six-yard pass from Jake Czeschin for the game-winning score with 3:04 left in the game.

Missouri-Rolla went three and out and Marc Heinecke rushed for two straight first downs, allowing Truman to run out the clock. Truman rolled up 434 yards of total offense in the game, most coming thanks to a big game from Czeschin. He threw for a career-high 312 yards and three touchdowns. He completed 22-of-29 passes and was not picked off in the game.

Heinecke rushed for 80 yards and a touchdown and James Perry was the leading receiver with 82 yards and a score.

Jason Douglas had a big game for Truman's defense, recording 10 tackles, two interceptions and a sack.

The Miners' Evan Gray also threw for three touchdowns but had three interceptions. Running back Keenan Miller rushed for 180, gaining 9.0 yards per rush.

### Individual Leaders

**Truman**
- Rushing: Heinecke (23-80)
- Passing: Czeschin (22-29-0-312)
- Receiving: Voigt (4-39)
- Tackles: Yehyawi (12)

**Missouri-Rolla**
- Rushing: Millor (20-180)
- Passing: Gray (19-32-3-191)
- Receiving: Green (6-65)
- Tackles: Yehyawi (12), Cleveland (13)

---

Game 11: Truman 20, Southwest Baptist 14
Nov. 15 - Plaster Stadium, Bolivar, Mo.

Tameem Yehyawi ended his all-American career in a big way, recording 17 tackles. He anchored the Bulldogs' defense which led the team to a 20-14 win over Southwest Baptist.

Touchdown runs by Jerard Leverson and Marc Heinecke and a touchdown reception by James Perry gave Truman a 20-7 lead late in the third quarter.

That ended up being just enough. Southwest Baptist scored with 1:40 left to pull within six. Truman recovered the onsides kick, but four rushes only netted nine yards, giving the Bearcats the ball back with 0:15 seconds.

Robert Clardy, the Southwest Baptist quarterback, rushed for 11 yards to their 42-yard line, but Yehyawi and Keith Brignman brought him down. Two straight incomplete passes ran out the clock on Truman's win.

Truman's defense allowed 308 yards and forced two turnovers and seven Southwest Baptist punts. Besides Yehyawi, Chandler Terry had 13 tackles and Jason Douglas recorded nine tackles, two for a loss, and one fumble recovery.

Offensively, Leverson ended the year with a 100-yard game, collected 117 yards and one touchdown. His 46-yard run helped set up Truman's final touchdown score. Jake Czeschin threw for 191 yards, spreading the ball through nine different receivers. Cole Voigt led the way with four catches for 39 yards.

Clardy threw for 171 yards for the Bearcats and had both an interception and touchdown toss.

Southwest Baptist's Marco Kirven and Deon Boykin combined for 103 yards on the ground and Marc Green was the top receiver with six receptions for 65 yards.

### Individual Leaders

**Truman**
- Rushing: Leverson (29-117)
- Passing: Czeschin (17-30-0-191)
- Receiving: Voigt (4-39)
- Tackles: Yehyawi (17)

**Southwest Baptist**
- Rushing: Kirven (17-52)
- Passing: Clardy (20-29-1-171)
- Receiving: Green (6-65)
- Tackles: Maiwelmal, Acree (9)

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Score by Quarters:

**Truman**
- 1st Quarter: 14
- 2nd Quarter: 7
- 3rd Quarter: 7
- Final: 28

**Missouri-Rolla**
- 1st Quarter: 0
- 2nd Quarter: 0
- 3rd Quarter: 7
- Final: 28

Scoring Summary:

**1st Quarter**
- 4:59 UMR - Drussa 4-yard pass from Gray (Armbruster kick)
- 0:07 UMR - Gray 5-yard run (Armbruster kick)

**2nd Quarter**
- 10:35 UMR - Moss 31-yard pass from Gray (Armbruster kick)
- 6:23 Truman - Heinecke 8-yard run (Kamphoefner kick)

**3rd Quarter**
- 13:32 Truman - Leverson 3-yard run (Kamphoefner kick)
- 9:19 Truman - Shaw 20-yard pass from Czeschin (Kamphoefner kick)
- 6:51 Truman - Perry 37-yard pass from Czeschin (Kamphoefner kick)

**4th Quarter**
- 10:56 UMR - Stosis 16-yard pass from Gray (Armbruster kick)
- 3:04 Truman - Voigt 6-yard pass from Czeschin (Kamphoefner kick)

**Team Statistics:**

**Truman**
- FIRST DOWNS: 19
- RUSHED-YARDS (NET): 512
- PASSING YDS (NET): 312
- PASSES ATTEMPTED: 29-22-0
- TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS/YARDS: 80-434
- FUMBLE RETURNS/YARDS: 0-0
- KICKOFF RETURNS/YARDS: 3-61
- INTERCEPTION RETURNS/YARDS: 0-0
- PUNTS (NUMBER, AVG): 34-3.5
- FUMBLE LOST: 2
- PENALTIES-YARDS: 10-69
- THIRD-DOWN CONVERSIONS: 11-2-8
- FOURTH-DOWN CONVERSIONS: 0-0
- RED-ZONE SCARES: 0
- SACKS BY: NUMBER-YARDS: 10-16

**Southwest Baptist**
- FIRST DOWNS: 18
- RUSHED-YARDS (NET): 291
- PASSING YDS (NET): 191
- PASSES ATTEMPTED: 29-20-1
- TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS/YARDS: 72-342
- FUMBLE RETURNS/YARDS: 0-0
- KICKOFF RETURNS/YARDS: 5-100
- INTERCEPTION RETURNS/YARDS: 0-0
- PUNTS (NUMBER, AVG): 36-2-67-100
- FUMBLE LOST: 2
- PENALTIES-YARDS: 4-46
- THIRD-DOWN CONVERSIONS: 11-1-10
- FOURTH-DOWN CONVERSIONS: 0-0
- RED-ZONE SCARES: 0
- SACKS BY: NUMBER-YARDS: 6-16