2005 TRUMAN FOOTBALL

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2005 SCHEDULE
Aug. 27 Winona State (Minn.) ..................................12:00 p.m.
Sept. 3 at South Dakota ..............................................2:00 p.m.
Sept. 10 at Northwest Missouri* .................................1:00 p.m.
Sept. 17 at Central Missouri* .....................................1:30 p.m.
Sept. 24 Missouri Western* ......................................12:00 p.m.
Oct. 1 at Missouri Southern* ......................................2:00 p.m.
Oct. 8 Emporia State (Kan.)* ....................................2:00 p.m.
Oct. 15 at Washburn (Kan.)* .....................................1:00 p.m.
Oct. 22 Pittsburg State (Kan.)* ..................................2:00 p.m.
Oct. 29 at Southwest Baptist (Mo.)* .........................1:30 p.m.
Nov. 5 at Oklahoma Panhandle State .....................12:00 p.m.

Bold - Home Games
* MIAA Games

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Bold - Home Games
* MIAA Games

2005 HOME EVENTS
Aug. 27 Welcome Student Day
Sept. 24 Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day
Oct. 8 Family Weekend
Oct. 22 Homecoming/Hall of Fame/Senior Day

References:
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Truman State University
Location: Kirksville, Mo.
Founded: 1867
Enrollment: 6,000
Nickname: Bulldogs
Colors: Purple & White
Stadium: Stokes Stadium
Capacity/Surface: 4,000/Natural Grass
Conference: Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (NCIAA Div. II)
President: Dr. Barbara Dixon
Director of Athletics: Jerry Wollmering
Athletics Phone: (660) 785-4235
Ticket Information: (660) 785-4276

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Website: gobulldogs.truman.edu

2005 TRUMAN FOOTBALL MEDIA GUIDE - PAGE 1
BULLDOG RADIO

KRES 104.7 FM, the Superstation, enters its 11th season as the official ‘Voice of the Bulldogs’. KRES broadcasts Truman football as well as the men’s and women’s basketball games.

Ken Kujawa, Brad Boyer and Hank Janssen bring the thrill and excitement of Truman football to fans.

Kujawa, a 27-year veteran, handles the play-by-play for football, while commentary is provided by Boyer, KRES’s sports director for the last 17 years. Hank Janssen reports from the football sidelines.

Football broadcasts begin 40 minutes before each game. A talk with the head coach highlights the pregame telecast, along with interviews with players and opponent coaches.

Halftime brings a recap of the first-half and a look at other Bulldog sports. After each contest, Boyer conducts a brief live interview with the coach and selects the Truman Player of the Game.

The KRES sports department has earned several awards from the Missouri Broadcasters Association, including a certificate of merit for its play-by-play of the 1997 Central Missouri double overtime football game. It was the second award for Truman football broadcasts for KRES.

The station has also earned three awards for its Bulldog basketball broadcasts, including a first-place finish for Boyer for his play-by-play of a triple overtime elite eight game in 1999.

INTERNET BROADCAST

If you are out of the listening area, KRES also provides free live webcasts of Bulldog games on the internet. Go to the Truman web page at gobulldogs.truman.edu for details or click on to www.regionalradio.com.

A new feature to the Truman athletics website this year is that live video and audio will be streamed for every home football game. Check out Truman’s website for complete details.

Fans who cannot catch the game in person or through the internet can still listen to the KRES broadcast over the phone. Call Teamline at 1-800-846-4700 and use the Truman access code, 6350. You will be billed a reasonable fee depending on how long you listen for the Teamline option.

MEDIA INFORMATION

MEDIA INFORMATION

Media Credentials:
Please direct all requests for press, photo and parking credentials to the athletics media relations office at the address on page one.

Press Area:
Truman’s press box accommodates about eight members of the media. Admission is by PASS ONLY. Person wishing to sit in this area must contact the Athletics Media Relations Office in advance of game day.

Press Services:
Roster, game programs and statistics will be provided to media personnel. The office will FAX final results to opponent media if numbers are provided. A small lunch is served to members of the media who have given advanced notice of their attendance.

Interview Policy:
All interviews should be arranged through the Truman Athletics Media Relations Office. Approximately 10 minutes after a contest, players and coaches will be available upon request.

Photography:
Photographers, with passes, are permitted to shoot from the end zone to the 50-yard line, but are NEVER permitted to enter the player’s box. Passes must be displayed at all times and may be obtained from the Athletics Media Relations Office.

Visiting Radio:
Visiting radio stations wishing to broadcast games must contact KRES sports director, Brad Boyer (660-263-1600), after first contacting the Truman Athletics Media Relations Office.

Media Parking:
Parking passes are available upon request. Media parking is located directly behind Stokes Stadium.

2005 TRUMAN FOOTBALL MEDIA GUIDE - PAGE 2
TRUMAN LOOKS TO RETURN TO UPPER TIER OF MIAA STANDINGS IN 2005

Year one of the Shannon Currier era as Truman head coach was a disappointment if you judge it strictly by the win/loss record. However, the season was a success in terms of the young team improving week after week under the new system that was brought in.

Everything came together for the Bulldogs over the last three weeks of the season, when Truman nearly upset Northwest Missouri, one of the top teams in the country, and easily defeated Missouri-Rolla and Southwest Baptist.

In that final stretch, Truman’s offense averaged 38.3 points and 535.3 yards of total offense a game. Defensively, the team also played at its highest level, including shutting the Bearcats out in the final game of the season.

The question then becomes whether or not that play will carry over to the 2005 season.

The Bulldog coaching staff feels it has four main players to replace off last year’s team in quarterback Jake Czeschin, tight end A.J. Weber, defensive tackle Ted Guisinger and linebacker Ben Wilson.

To fill those holes, Truman will rely on an experienced group of returning players plus nearly 60 newcomers who are expected to report to fall camp.

Offensively, do not look for the Bulldogs’ quarterbacks to match Czeschin’s passing numbers from last year, when he threw for the fifth-most single-season yards in MIAA history.

However, whoever wins the starting job behind center will be more athletic than Czeschin, allowing Truman to create havoc by using the quarterback in the running game.

Overall, the running game will play a bigger role in Truman’s offense in 2005, as the Bulldogs look to take advantage of the offense being much more physical than a year ago.

The passing game will still be there as well, as the Bulldog receivers are one of the top strengths of the team.

Most of the question marks surrounding the squad will come on the defensive side of the ball, especially among the front seven.

Currier is hopefully that at least one redshirt true freshman will step up at this position to help out units that are already bringing back their kicker and returners from last year.

Quarterbacks

The most watched battle during two-a-days will be to see who wins the starting quarterback spot.

After spring practice, Matt Burel is listed number one on the depth chart. The redshirt freshman had a strong spring game, leading Truman to two touchdowns.

One of those scores came on the most impressive drive of the game, an 11-play, 70-yard score. He threw for 70 yards on the drive and rushed for 16 yards, including a seven-yard run for the touchdown.

Burel was a third-team all-state and first-team all-conference selection in his final season at Houston High School in Tennessee.

Sophomore Jonathan Duffy is the only quarterback on the roster who has seen collegiate action. Last year, he appeared in five games, including one start.

Duffy is a very athletic quarterback who is as big as a threat to run as pass the ball. Despite struggling at times last season, he improved a lot in the spring.

Two other redshirt freshmen, Kurt Napier and Kyle Shimemens, will look to move up the depth chart in the fall.

The wild card at the position could be true freshman Michael Long, who will get a chance to earn playing time in his rookie season.

Running Backs

Sophomore Michael Patnode started the majority of games at running back last season as a true freshman.

In 10 games, he collected nearly 1,000 all-purpose yards, with 662 rushing and 306 receiving yards. After a slow start to the year, Patnode averaged over 100 yards rushing in the final six games he played in.

“Michael improved a lot over the offseason,” said Currier. “He got much stronger and will be much more explosive this year.”

Senior Jerard Leverson, a 1,000-yard rusher in 2003, is a physical back who was used a lot in short-yard situations last season. He is expected to be in much better shape this fall and should add to the 12 career rushing touchdowns he has already collected.

The other returner expected to be in the mix is redshirt freshman Tommy Long.

Several true freshman are also expected to compete for playing time at this position. Among those in the mix are Jeremy Davis, Phil Kenney, Nick Nathan and Dwayne Riley. All four of those players were first-team all-conference performers in their respective high schools last year.

Wide Receiver

The receiving duo of junior Jeff Amundson and senior James Walton will lead Truman’s receiving corp in 2005.

Last season after transferring to Truman, Amundson was the team’s top possession receiver with 762 yards and led the team with six touchdowns for the year.

Currier is hopefully that at least one redshirt or true freshmen will step up at this position to add depth to an already lethal group.

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Tight End

One of the holes for Truman to fill this year is the one left by Weber, a second-team all-MIAA tight end.

The likely starter this year is a converted wide receiver, Richard Mayson.

“Richard Mayson still needs to improve his blocking skills,” said Currier. “He will add to the position, though, in that he will be more heavily involved in the passing game than Weber was last season.”

After making the move to tight end in the spring, Mayson received high marks at his new position. He caught five passes during the spring game for 64 yards.

The other returner player listed as a tight end is also in his first-year at the position. Tyler Paytas, a former defensive lineman, will compete for the number two spot with three freshmen. Brad Crader, Steve D'Antonio and Ryan King could all play right away in their first season.

Offensive Line

In 2004, the same five players started every game for Truman on the offensive line. With four of those players being just sophomores, the line struggled a bit early on, but at the end of the year the offensive line was the most improved part of the team.

Four of those five players return this season, including three of which earned all-conference honors last year.

Pat Murray, the right tackle, will lead the way for the o-line as Currier expects him to dominate his position this year.

Besides Murray, left guard Tyrone McCormick and center Mike Shelden earned honorable mention all-MIAA accolades last year.

The other returning starter is Quinn Sullivan at the right guard spot.

The one position Truman will have to replace is the left tackle spot. Redshirt freshmen Jon Frantz and Chris Lorren will look to compete for the starting role at the position.

Another player added to the mix is sophomore guard Ron Clark, who transfers to Truman from Division IAA Missouri State (formerly Southwest Missouri).

The biggest improvement on the line will be the added depth the newcomers will add. After struggling to field a line during spring practice, 19 players will compete for playing time at one of the offensive line positions. Among the top newcomers expected to help out are Ted Esbrook and Jon Gialds.

Defensive Linemen

Truman’s defensive line was hurt a little at the end of last season with the graduation of several players, including Guisinger, a two-time all-MIAA performer.

If the Bulldogs hope to get better in this area in 2005, it will require improved play from returning players, plus they will need several newcomers to step up right away.

At the end positions, the top returning players are juniors Steven Holman and Darryl Reddick.

Holman started seven games at defensive end last year after moving to the defensive side of the ball from the tight end spot. For the season, he had 17 tackles, three tackles for losses, 2.5 sacks and one forced fumble.

Reddick had one start last year and played in eight games. He was second on the team with six tackles for losses and tied for second with three sacks.

The other key returner on the defensive line is junior nose tackle Justin Smith. Smith started nine games at the position last year, recording 3.5 tackles for losses for the year.

Junior Josh Terrian, a tackle, also lettered on the line last season. Junior Cole Voigt will look to follow in the footsteps of Holman, moving from right end to the defensive line this season.

A large collection of freshmen will get a chance in fall camp to compete for playing time at the defensive line positions.

The top newcomers at defensive ends include Courtney Jordan, Les Hammers and Zachary Maas.

At the tackle spots, the head of the freshmen class will likely be Andy Swedehjelm, Alex Miller, Justin Foster and Nick Hernandez.

Linebackers

The biggest question mark on this year’s Bulldog team is at the linebacker spot. A lot of those questions are due to the loss of Wilson, who ended his career last year and now moves to the sideline as a student assistant coach.

“We will be very young at the linebacker position,” said Currier. “However, we will be very active and faster than last year’s linebacker corp.”

The lone player who isn’t a question mark is senior Marcus Yokeley, last year’s MIAA interceptions leader.

Yokeley finished fourth on the team last year with 65 tackles, including four tackles for losses. He had six picks on the year and five pass breakups. If he could match the six intercep-

tions this season, Yokeley will become the school’s all-time leader in that category.

The other players slated as starters after the spring season is redshirt freshman Kyle Glenn and junior Larry Giglio.

Sophomore Josh Lucas and redshirt freshman Richard Branson will also be in the fight for playing time at this position.

Like the defensive line positions, freshmen will play a big role in how the linebackers fare in 2005. Currier expects up to eight newcomers to compete for both starting positions and to add depth to the linebacker position.

The top of the freshmen class at this position are Jason Their, Eric Sternberg, Robert Massop, Michael Schumacher, Kyle Supianoski, Matthew Verslues, Calvin Van O’Linda and Alex Van Delft.

Defensive Backs

The strength of the 2005 defense will be in the backfield, as the team has returning starters at every position.

At the corner positions, the team is stacked with three talented players in junior Josh Mayson, sophomore Jason Terry and sophomore James Thabuteau.

Mayson started 10 of 11 games last season at one of the corner spots. He led the team with seven pass breakups and had a hand in three turnovers.

Terry started the first two games last year before an injury forced him to take a medical redshirt.

Thabuteau broke into the starting lineup for the final four games of the year. On the season, he had 26 tackles and two pass breakups.

At the safety spots, senior Jason Douglas and sophomore Jesse Cooper, both starters at the end of 2004, return. Douglas, the free safety, was third on the team in tackles last season and had six pass breakups.

Cooper, the strong safety, ranked seventh on the team in tackles and intercepted two pass during the year.

Other returners in the backfield include junior Darnell Williams and sophomore Josh Kilcrease. Both of those players started five games last season.

The top newcomers at this position are Brody Tubbaugh, Bobby Floyd and Phillip Hawley. While it will be tough for any freshmen to see a lot of playing time at these positions this season, all three of the players above could be important contributors on special teams.
Special Teams

With the added depth of this year's team, Currier expects much better production out of its special teams play.

The top special teams player is senior kicker/punter Mark Kamphoefner.

Last season, Kamphoefner led the team with 43 points, with seven field goals and 22 extra points. He missed just one field goal under 40 yards during the season.

Punting, Kamphoefner looks to regain his 2003 form when he was named first-team all-MIAA and second-team all-region. That year, he averaged over 40 yards a punt. In 2004, his average dropped to nearly 36 yards a kick.

Three players are back for the Bulldogs who return kickoffs and punts.

Douglas has been one of the team's top returners during his career. He has averaged 22.3 yards on kickoff returns and 9.4 yards on punt returns.

Amundson was the team's top returner last year, averaging over 20 yards on kickoff returns and 6.7 yards on punt returns. Terry has returned 18 kickoffs in his career, averaging over 22 yards a return.

Several freshmen could also earn playing time as kick and punt returners. Davis, Kenney, Tubaugh and Jeff Sanders are among the top athletes who will be competing for that.

The final returner on special teams is junior Andrew Pitts, who is back as the team's long snapper.

2005 Schedule

One of the reasons Truman struggled last year was that it had to face one of the toughest schedules in the nation. Four of the team's games came against teams ranked nationally in the final poll of the year, and several other MIAA opponents were ranked throughout the season.

The bad news in 2005 for the Bulldogs is that the schedule is nearly identical to last year's. Another challenge for the team to overcome is that Truman will have to go on the road for seven of its 11 contests.

The Bulldogs do open the season at home, hosting Winona State (Minn.) on Aug. 27. Winona State was 13th in the final national poll last year and Truman has not beaten the Warriors in their meetings the last two years.

Truman will then finish warming up for conference play the next week by travelling to South Dakota, and the always tough DakoDome. South Dakota was also ranked in the top-20 at the end of last season.

Combined, those two non-conference opponents went 19-4 last year.

The Old Hickory Stick game will be early this year as Truman and Northwest Missouri play in Maryville on Sept. 10.

The next week, the Bulldogs will be on the road for the third straight week when they take on Central Missouri.

2005 MIAA COMPOSITE SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 25
NWMSU at Minn. St.-Mankato
Adams State at CMSU
Central Oklahoma at MWSU

Saturday, August 27
Winona State at Truman
Harding at SBU
WU at Colorado Mines
MSU at Ouachita Baptist
ESU at Fort Hays State
Delta State at PSU

Thursday, September 1
Lincoln at CMSU
Chadron State at MWSU

Saturday, September 3
ESU at Winona State
Western Washington at WU
SBU at Bethel
Truman at South Dakota

Saturday, September 10
CMSU at WU*
Truman at NWMSU*
SBU at MSSU*
MWSU at PSU*

Saturday, September 17
SBU at ESU*
Truman at CMSU*
NWMSU at MWSU*
WU at Central Washington
PSU at MSSU*

Saturday, September 24
MWSU at Truman*
ESU at NWMSU*
WU at SBU*
ESU at PSU*

Saturday, October 1
NWMSU at ESU*
PSU at WU*
SBU at Missouri-Rolla
CMSU at MWSU*
Truman at MSSU*

Saturday, October 8
WU at NWMSU*
CMSU at SBU*
MSU at MWSU*
Okahoma Panhandle at PSU
ESU at Truman*

Saturday, October 15
MWSU at ESU*
Truman at WU*
MSU at CMSU*
PSU at SBU*

Saturday, October 22
WU at ESU*
CMSU at NWMSU*
SBU at MWS *
PSU at Truman*

Saturday, October 29
CMSU at ESU*
MWSU at St. Cloud State
MSU at WU*
NWMSU vs. PSU*
Truman at SBU*

Saturday, November 5
Truman at Okla. Panhandle
SBU at NWMSU*
PSU at CMSU*
ESU at MSU*
WU at MWSU*

Saturday, November 12
NWMSU at MIAA
Adams State at CMSU
Central Oklahoma at MWSU

Saturday, November 19
NWMSU at MIAA
Adams State at CMSU
Central Oklahoma at MWSU

Saturday, November 26
NWMSU at MIAA
Adams State at CMSU
Central Oklahoma at MWSU

Saturday, December 3
NWMSU at MIAA
Adams State at CMSU
Central Oklahoma at MWSU

Saturday, December 10
NWMSU at MIAA
Adams State at CMSU
Central Oklahoma at MWSU

Both the Bearcats and Aggies are expected to be national powers in 2005, meaning Truman could open up the season facing four straight ranked opponents.

The first MIAA game at Stokes Stadium will come in week five when the Bulldogs host Missouri Western.

The next three weeks after that will see Truman travel to Missouri Southern, host Emporia State and visit Washburn.

That four-game stretch will likely determine if Truman is able to reach its goal of returning to the upper tier of the conference standings.

Those four teams combined to have a 500-0 record (18-18) last year in conference action.

The biggest home game of 2005 will be on Oct. 22 when the Kirksville squad hosts 2004 national runner-up, Pittsburg State.

In a busy afternoon, Truman will celebrate Homecoming, Hall of Fame Day and Senior Day, while the football team looks to knock off one of the top programs in the country.

Truman will conclude the season with two more road trips. It ends the conference season with a game at Southwest Baptist and then concludes the season with a non-conference tilt against Oklahoma Panhandle State.

The Bulldogs have never faced Oklahoma Panhandle before in football. The Charging Aggies replace Missouri-Rolla on the schedule after the Miners left the MIAA to become a football independent following last season.

“We need to get some momentum with some victories early in the season,” said Currier. “That will give us a lot of confidence and help us establish our program as a threat in the MIAA once again.”