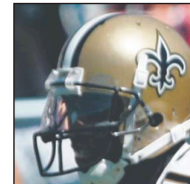




GIRLS SOCCER, PAGE D3

West's Brinkman nets another hat trick

# Sports



NFL PRESEASON, PAGE D4

Saints slam Oakland 45-7

## Scoring spurt helps Mavs top Truman



MSU freshman Sam Brockshus (left) nailed a 46-yard field goal and senior Kelvin Rodgers returned an interception 60 yards for a touchdown Saturday to help the Mavericks beat Truman State 31-13.

### Walker, Phipps, Balton, Rodgers all get to the end zone for MSU

The Associated Press

**KIRKSVILLE, MO.** — Minnesota State scored 21 points in a nine-minute span of the first half and rolled past Truman State 31-13 in a season-opening nonconference football game Saturday. "As a staff, we always have a lot of wouldas, couldas and

shouldas, but coming down here and getting a win is a big thing," coach Todd Hoffner said. "To get a victory on the road, that was our mission."

Truman State used a 62-yard kick return to score on the first possession, a 21-yard field goal from Mickey Masucci.

After Truman State missed a field goal, the Mavericks took the lead on an 80-yard drive, capped by Ernest Walker's 1-yard run. Jake Aberg rushed for 51 yards on three carries, and receiver Vinny Flury had a 17-yard run to highlight the drive. Sam Brockshus' PAT made it 7-3 with 2:26 remain-

ing in the first quarter.

The Mavericks added to the lead in the second quarter on Julian Phipps' 6-yard run, and Brockshus' PAT made it 14-3. Jesse Graves' fumble recovery gave the Mavericks the ball at the Truman State 35, and five plays later, Ryan Fick passed 8 yards to Omaar Balton for a 21-3 lead with 7:33 to play before halftime.

Truman State cut the lead to 21-6 before Brockshus nailed a 46-yard field on the final play of the first half to

make it 24-6. It was the second-longest field goal in program history by the true freshman.

"That was a great way to finish the half," Hoffner said. "Our defense did a great job to give us that opportunity. He had about 10 yards extra on that one."

The Mavericks gained 223 yards of offense in the first half, including 129 yards rushing. Truman State had 123 yards of offense.

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### MSU: Aberg rushes for 83 yards

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A blocked punt gave the Bulldogs the ball at Minnesota State's 20 early in the third quarter, but a fumble near the goal line was recovered by Don Thomas to stop that threat.

Truman State scored its only touchdown midway through the fourth quarter on a 28-yard pass from Phillip Davis to Phil Kenney to make it 24-13 with 7:54 to play.

Minnesota State's Kelvin Rodgers capped the scoring on a 60-yard interception return for a touchdown with 2:29 to play.

"The defense responded big time," Hoffner said. "They were in the red zone a few times, and we came up real big."

Linebackers Dan Fehlberg and Kevin Klug each had a team-high eight tackles and one tackle for loss. The Mavericks forced four turnovers, including a late interception by Ross Jirgle.

The Mavericks had 303 yards of offense to 289 for Truman State, but Minnesota State committed 13 penalties for 117 yards.

Fick completed 12 of 23 passes for 136 yards, with Flury making four receptions for 54 yards. Aberg was the leading rusher with 81 yards on 14 carries.