



Chris Tharp/Index

Freshman shortstop Neil Bleish readies to throw to first earlier this season after fielding a grounder. Bleish knocked in five runs during this weekend's action.

Baseball ends 20 game losing streak

'Dogs senior outfielder Josh Rubin ties a school record with his three home runs

Tyler Madsen
Staff Reporter

Southwest Baptist University head coach Sam Berg turned to his ace, Zane Montgomery, in the bottom of the eighth inning during the second game of Saturday's doubleheader in an effort to keep Bulldog senior Josh Rubin from making history.

The decision backfired. Rubin etched his name into the record books by hammering Montgomery's offering over the left field fence, marking his third home run of the game and tying a school record with the blast.

More importantly, the shot led the team to a 3-1 record against the Bearcats during the weekend, including a Saturday sweep.

"I saw the ball really well today, so all the time I've spent working on getting my weight back really came through," Rubin said. "We just want to keep hitting in clutch situations and put together some wins to end the season strong."

After grabbing a 6-2 victory Wednesday afternoon against Hannibal-LaGrange College in a non-conference affair, the 'Dogs (10-31, 4-24) hosted a four-game weekend series against the Bearcats.

Southwest Baptist entered the series with a 9-9 conference mark, including a series split against perennial power Central Missouri State University and a four-game sweep, split up during two weekends, of Pittsburg State University.

In game one, Montgomery baffled Bulldog hitters as he allowed only one hit in the final four innings in Southwest Baptist's 7-3 victory.

Senior designated hitter Randy Beilsmith had a pair of hits while sophomore pitcher Jason Thomas was dealt the loss.

Truman's senior ace Sean Zaborowski took the ball in Friday's

nightcap and pitched seven solid innings as the 'Dogs salvaged a split by grabbing an 8-6 victory.

Seven Bearcat errors led to four unearned Bulldog runs.

"We have an extremely young lineup, and you just can't give a team seven extra outs in a game and expect to win," Berg said.

Freshman shortstop Neil Bleish went 3-for-5 with three runs scored while Rubin added a pair of hits and RBIs.

Senior Greg Mundy got four outs for his third save of the season.

"We did a great job of hitting the ball to the right side," Bleish said. "Our whole team showed a lot of confidence at the plate."

On Saturday, the 'Dogs benefited from six more Bearcat errors in the first game of the doubleheader as sophomore A.J. Barton and senior Andrew Pitts combined to hold Southwest Baptist to two runs in the 6-2 Bulldog win.

"A.J. had been struggling with his mechanics a little bit because of an injury, but he was much more consistent Saturday," head coach Lawrence Scully said. "And Andrew should get a lot more credit than he does because he bridges that gap between our starter and closer really well as his strikeout-to-walks ratio shows."

The 'Dogs only mustered five hits in the contest, with two coming off Thomas' bat, but the team capitalized all afternoon on the extra outs given by the visitors, including four errors by SBU shortstop Kevin Miller.

But if there's one game from this season that the Bulldog seniors will carry with them, it would be Saturday's second game that featured two ties, three lead changes, 10 different pitchers and five combined home runs in the 8-6 Bulldog victory.

Rubin hit his first home run of the day in the bottom half of the second inning, and a sacrifice fly later in the inning by senior catcher Mike Arway gave the 'Dogs an early 2-1 lead.

After a Bearcat RBI single in the top of the third, the purple and white re-

April 21-22 vs. Southwest Baptist	
Southwest Baptist	500 002 0 - 7
Truman	201 000 0 - 3
W - Montgomery (SBU); L - Thomas (TSU)	
Southwest Baptist	102 030 000 - 6
Truman	000 150 11X - 8
W - Zaborowski (TSU); L - Murray (SBU); S - Mundy	
Southwest Baptist	000 020 0 - 2
Truman	030 030 X - 6
W - Barton (TSU); L - Davis (SBU)	
Southwest Baptist	011 031 000 - 6
Truman	021 002 12X - 8
W - Fisher (TSU); L - McMillin (SBU); S - Mundy	
HR - Davis (TSU), Rubin 3 (TSU); McMillin (SBU)	

gained the lead in the bottom half on a sacrifice fly by Beilsmith, scoring senior second baseman Adam Davis.

Southwest Baptist freshman outfielder Bobby McMillin hit a towering home run in the fifth, and after a Bearcat sacrifice fly in the sixth inning, Rubin connected on his second home run of the day to bring the 'Dogs to within one run.

An RBI single by Bleish in the seventh inning knotted the game at six before Rubin's eighth-inning heroics gave the team a two-run lead.

Mundy then sat the Bearcats down one, two, three in the ninth, propelling the team to its longest winning streak of the season.

"Our guys have played really hard all year, but when you look around the MIAA, anyone can see what a difference a couple extra scholarships can mean to a program," Scully said. "All we can focus on is treating each series like it's a new season, and we just want to win as many as we can."

The purple and white traveled to Northwest Missouri State University on Wednesday afternoon for a doubleheader with the Bearcats. Two runs in the first inning of each game led the home team to 17-2 and 7-5 wins against the Bulldogs.

Thomas was the hitter of the day for the 'Dogs as he went 3-for-3 in the first game and drove in a pair of RBIs in the nightcap.

The team hosts Iowa Wesleyan College in a doubleheader tomorrow afternoon.

Softball drops two to Hornets

Joseph Barker
Assistant Sports Editor

The Bulldog softball team was on a roll after completing a 4-0 weekend in which it outscored the opposition 28-1.

That is, until the No. 2 team in the nation came to town.

Emporia State University (48-4, 15-1) blanked the 'Dogs in both games of Monday's doubleheader. The Hornets took the first game 2-0 and the second 7-0. The losses dropped the 'Dogs to 28-19 on the year, 7-7 in the conference.

Emporia stymied the Bulldogs' bats in both games, only allowing three hits on the day.

Offense was hard to come by in game one, with both squads sending out their top hurlers. Emporia's co-ace Melissa Stevens took to the pitching rubber to square off against Bulldog senior pitcher Loni Wedemeier. Stevens pitched a complete game one-hit shut-out for her 20th victory on the season.

Wedemeier matched Stevens zero for zero until the sixth inning. After retiring the leadoff hitter, Wedemeier walked the next batter. After a fielder's choice, third baseman Megan Davison singled and knocked in the only two runs in the game.

In the bottom of the sixth, sophomore right fielder Christen Belcher broke up Steven's no-hit bid with a single. She stole second - her 39th steal of the season - but was stranded.

Wedemeier got into more trouble in the seventh but was able to get out of it unscathed. She finished the game only allowing four hits while striking out 10.

Former Bulldog and current Emporia head coach Kristi Bredbenner said her team

started off slow because they hadn't seen a pitcher who throws as hard as Wedemeier.

"In the first game we struggled a bit hitting since it was the first time we had seen a little bit faster pitching in awhile," Bredbenner said. "It took them awhile to make adjustments."

The 'Dogs went one-two-three in the seventh to close the game.

Game two featured the appearance of Emporia's other ace, Courtney Reed, who also stifled the Bulldog offense.

"It's a good feeling knowing that you can throw two No. 1's basically in a doubleheader when most of the teams are just going to have one No. 1," Bredbenner said. "Right now it's just setting up apart from other teams in the conference."

Reed held the 'Dogs to two hits, two walks and struck out 10 for her 21st victory of the season.

Junior pitcher Ashley McDougal couldn't keep Emporia's bats quiet. The Hornets jumped out to an early 3-0 and never looked back. The Hornets tagged McDougal for nine hits and seven runs - six earned in seven innings.

"The big difference was execution," Bredbenner said. "We were able to get the runners across the board when we needed to and then hit the ball in some timely situations, and it just seemed like Truman wasn't getting the timely hits they needed."

Despite the losses, freshman shortstop Jessie Shelman said the team played well. She said Emporia didn't intimidate the team.

"We gave them two good games," Shelman said. "It would've been really easy for us to just lay down, but I think we played really well."

The losses came after the 'Dogs had

April 21 at Missouri Southern	
Truman	101 110 3 - 7
Missouri Southern	000 000 0 - 0
W - Wedemeier (TSU); L - Schneider (MSSU)	
HR - Miller (TSU)	
Truman	002 000 0 - 2
Missouri Southern	000 000 0 - 0
W - Walsma (TSU); L - Craig (MSSU)	
April 22 at Pittsburg State	
Truman	003 023 - 3
Pittsburg State	000 000 - 0
W - Wedemeier (TSU); L - Moore (PSU)	
HR - Wedemeier (TSU)	
Truman	023 024 - 11
Pittsburg State	000 001 - 1
W - McDougal (TSU); L - Bott (PSU)	
April 24 vs. Emporia State	
Emporia State	000 002 0 - 2
Truman	000 000 0 - 0
W - Stevens (ESU); L - Wedemeier (TSU)	
Emporia State	301 000 3 - 7
Truman	000 000 0 - 0
W - Reed (ESU); L - McDougal (TSU)	
HR - Beattie (ESU)	

reeled off four straight conference wins. The team swept Missouri Southern State University on Friday and crushed Pittsburg State University on Saturday.

Shelman said the team was able to play well because it focused on having fun.

"For some reason, we came into those games and just had more fun," Shelman said. "We were all hitting the ball really well. We were really relaxed."

The squad is back in action today at Missouri Western State University. Then the team heads to the Minnesota State-Mankato Tournament on Saturday and Sunday.



Chris Tharp/Index

Junior pitcher Ashley McDougal throws a strike in an early season game. McDougal took the loss in game two of Monday's doubleheader against Emporia State.

THE DUKUM UPP

KIRKSVILLE'S HOME FOR ORIGINAL MUSIC

Balkan Songs Recording Artist The Goran Ivanovic Group Monk Prophet "Windy-city based Balkan fret-master Goran Ivanovic is, perhaps, America's finest guitarist today." -The Indie Review	Friday, April 28th 9:00 p.m.
Souled American Jessie Witherell Don't miss this rare live performance by alt country pioneers Souled American. Deeply influential for musicians like Frank Black, The Silver Jews, Palace and The Mountain Goats, Souled American play an unbelievable, unforgettable, glacial country music, pushing the genre far past its breaking point. Minnesota Music Awards Best New Artist 2005	Tuesday, May 9th 8:30 p.m.
Chris Koza Grass Withers "Koza knocks the listener off balance by pairing his avant-garde lyrical inclinations with precise folk-pop melodies of a largely traditional bent delivered in a clear, pleasing tenor, recalling '70s singer-songwriters like Jackson Browne and Paul Simon in the process." -The Pulse	Tuesday, June 6 8:00 p.m.

CDs and Advance Tickets Available at The 'Ville (South Side of the Square)

111 SOUTH ELSON STREET • KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI • 660-665-9764

LIVE MUSIC LISTINGS FOR KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THESE SHOWS PLEASE VISIT

WWW.KVROCKS.COM

DuKum Inn
Oldest Bar in Town
A KirksvilleInn Production

King's Buffet & Restaurant

1707 S. Baltimore 665-6622

College Student Discount
Sunday to Thursday Evening Buffet
\$6.28 (plus tax)
Friday and Saturday (No Seafood)
\$9.50 (plus tax)
with student ID

Buffet includes:
Grand salad bar, variety of appetizers, cocktail shrimp, sesame shrimp, beef, chicken, pork and more, ice cream and desserts.