

'Dogs lose first home game

Mueller limited to 10 points as UCM beats women again, 79-72

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

For the second straight game against Truman, the University of Central Missouri looked like a defensive mastermind.

The Jennies attacked junior forward Georgia Mueller early and often, forcing her into foul trouble and making her ineffective as the Jennies beat the Bulldogs 79-72 for their second win against the Bulldogs in the last week.

The loss drops the Bulldogs to 13-8 on the year and 5-6 in the MIAA. It was also the Bulldogs' first loss at Pershing Arena this season.

Mueller was held to just 10 points on four of 12 shooting in only 26 minutes of play. She fouled out with 6:50 left and the Bulldogs clinging to a one-point lead.

In two games this season, the Jennies have held Mueller to a total of 21 points, which is right at her season average per game.

"She didn't get to play a whole lot of minutes tonight because of the foul trouble, especially in the second half," head coach John Sloop said. "Obviously that hurts, but I'm proud of the kids that came into battle."

Truman jumped out to an early 19-14 lead behind hot shooting from Candace McGee, but UCM used a 14-0 run midway through the first half and took a seven-point lead into the break.

Despite Mueller's foul trouble, the Bulldogs were able to battle back and regain the lead midway through the second half.

The Bulldogs were 20-for-23 from the charity stripe, but had two costly misses down the stretch. It appeared that the Jennies had given Truman a gift when they fouled senior guard Julia Montebello 70 feet from the basket with 45 seconds left and a four point lead. However, Montebello proceeded to miss both free throws, which sealed the game.

McGee led four Bulldogs in double figures with 17 points including five three-pointers



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Sophomore guard Laura Joya looks to pass to freshman forward Malorie Kiecker during Wednesday's loss to UCM. The loss was the Bulldogs first home lose of the season.

Sophomore guard Laura Joya also chipped in 13 points.

Lindsey Maple burned Truman again this week with 24 points and four three-pointers.

There was more bad news for the Bulldogs when sophomore guard Julie Guinn went down in the first half with what appeared to be a serious knee injury. Sloop said he could not comment on the extent of the injury. Guinn had been averaging four points per game coming off the bench for the Bulldogs this season.

For most of the Saturday game, the women's basketball team fought like a contender in the MIAA.

But in the end, the Bulldogs couldn't put away the feisty Lions and fell to Missouri Southern State University 77-71 in overtime.

The loss dropped the Bulldogs to 13-6 overall and 5-5 in the MIAA.

Truman jumped out to an early 21-8 lead 10 minutes into the game but never was able to put the game out of reach.

Sloop said it was good for

the team to be able to come out of the gate so quickly.

"We were a just a little more solid from the start," Sloop said. "One of the biggest things is [that] this is one of the first conference road games where the opposing team just hasn't made everything coming out of the gate, threes and everything. It allowed us a chance to get in the game."

Mueller rebounded from her worst outing of the season last Wednesday against UCM to have one of her best performances of the season. Mueller scored a game-high 29 points on 12-for-16 from the floor. She also logged a game-high 42 minutes of playing time.

Senior guard Katie Fowler also was in double figures. Fowler chipped in with 10 points on 3-of-7 shooting.

The Bulldogs shot 38 percent for the game and were held to only four points in the extra frame.

The game very well might have been decided from the charity stripe. The Bulldogs shot only 64 percent from the line, which is nearly 10 per-

cent below their season average. The Lions shot 86 percent from the line for the game, including five for five in the extra frame.

Mueller said this loss was especially tough to take.

"It was just disappointing because we worked so hard, and we played really well," Mueller said. "It just came down to the last few seconds, and that's always a heartbreaker to lose."

The losses continue to mount on the road for the Bulldogs as they lost their sixth straight road game and fell to 1-6 on the road. They have not won a road game since Dec. 1.

Senior guard Katie Fowler said there were positive things to take out of this game.

"Southern came into the game and had just beat Washburn," Fowler said. "They were hot. We showed up and we stuck with them the entire game. We had a lead going into the [second] half and kind of let it slip away."

The Bulldogs will hit the road again Saturday when they take on seventh-ranked Southwest Baptist University.

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Women's basketball: Team improves in MIAA

The women's basketball team has had success in MIAA play. Heading into Wednesday night's game against UCM, the Bulldogs had five wins in conference play, the team's most victories since the 2002-03 season. The Bulldogs need only two more MIAA victories this season to match their most victories in a season this decade. They still have eight more chances to get those two wins before the end of the season.

The Bulldogs currently sit in sixth place in the MIAA, one game between Missouri Southern State University and Northwest Missouri State University.

Wrestling: Bulldogs to compete in dual meets

The team has three home duals coming up this week against the University of Central Oklahoma on Feb. 9, Oklahoma City University on Feb. 10 and Missouri Baptist College on Feb. 13. Both weekend matches will begin at 3 p.m., and Wednesday's dual will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Head coach Dave Schutter said the team doesn't really have a strategy for each individual dual.

"We've got to see who we have available come Saturday," he said. "We may not have guys available for various reasons. Injuries being one, but sometimes guys can't go because they have a lab on Saturday or a test. At Truman you deal with things that other universities don't deal with."

Football: Signing Day party occurs Thursday

The football team will be hosting a Signing Day party from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Georgia Room today.

Attendees will be able to view highlight film of the recruits who signed with the Bulldogs on Wednesday, which was college football's National Signing Day. There also will be refreshments at the event.

Head coach Shannon Currier said the event is intended for anyone who is a fan of Bulldog football.

Men's basketball: Certa nears 1,000 point mark

Senior forward Nick Certa started in his 50th career game Wednesday against the University of Central Missouri.

Certa scored 16 points Wednesday as he continued to close in on the 1,000 point plateau. He now has 979 career points. Certa would become the 22nd member of the 1,000 point club.

The Bulldogs' lone senior starter leads the team with 14.5 points per game this season, which ranks ninth in the MIAA.

Indoor track: Important part of season nears

Truman's indoor track team loves February — and it's not just for Valentine's Day.

February marks the core of the indoor track season. Junior pole vaulter Kristen Klesh said she sees this month as a time of building.

"These are really a chance for us to get out there and put into play what we've been working so far on since September," she said. "It gives us a chance to see more people from our conference. Really, they are our direct competition. These are really just precursors to that."

The Bulldogs will compete in the MIAA Indoor Championship from Feb. 29 to March 1.

Roller hockey: Team fighting through sickness

Like most of the campus last week, the Truman roller hockey club battled flu-like symptoms.

The sickness hit the Bulldogs when they were supposed to be gearing up for an important stretch of games.

"Last week we didn't even get a regular practice in," head coach Joe Nedelec said. "I'm hoping that this plague that is going around here doesn't impact us too much this week. This weekend and next weekend are big weekends for us where we should be in tip-top shape."

Bulldogs struggle on road

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

Maybe the women's basketball team needs to take a page from the New York Giants' book.

The Giants won 11 straight road games on their way to a victory in Super Bowl XLII.

As the Bulldogs pass the halfway point of the MIAA season, they have been nearly perfect at home with a 10-1 record, but far from flawless on the road. Saturday's loss to Missouri Southern State University was their sixth straight loss on the road and drops the team's road record to 1-6 on the year.

Head coach John Sloop said the opposing teams seem to be firing on all cylinders against the Bulldogs on the road this season.

"We've hit people on hot nights," Sloop said. "We are getting people's best shot coming around. Honestly, the results have been different to this point in the conference. Except in the Central game on Wednesday, our energy's been really good. For the most part, we've been pretty good at what we are trying to do. The other team has just been better on those nights. Hopefully, Saturday is a starting point for us to start having more success on the road."

Saturday might be the most daunting road task of the season. The Bulldogs will

travel to Bolivar to take on the MIAA leader Southwest Baptist University.

Struggling on the road is not a new problem for this team. In the five seasons prior to this one, the Bulldogs have only won a total of 13 true road games. Most of those wins have come against the likes of Lincoln University and the Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly the University of Missouri-Rolla). During that stretch, the team won only seven conference road games.

Before the overtime loss Saturday, the Bulldogs had not been competitive on the road this season. Their six losses have been by a wide margin. They have been outscored 512-396, an average of 19 points a game.

So far on the road this season, the problem mostly has been on the defensive end. Fort Hays State and Emporia State hung nearly 100 on the 'Dogs. However, in the last two games, the defense has clamped down on the road, allowing 77 points in each game.

The Bulldogs have four more opportunities before the MIAA tournament to right the ship. These include tough games against Southwest Baptist and Northwest Missouri State University next week, both teams that sit ahead of the Bulldogs in the MIAA standings. These upcoming road games could go a long way in determin-

ing seeding for the MIAA tournament. Currently, the 'Dogs sit in sixth place in the conference, but a few wins on the road could jump the team into the fourth seed.

Junior guard Georgia Mueller said the road problems are a mystery to her and the team.

"I couldn't tell you why," Mueller said. "I don't have anything specific except that we seem to get off to a slow start when we play on the road."

Playing away from Pershing has not been all bad. The Bulldogs did win two games at a tournament in Hawaii in December. That trip included a win over nationally-ranked Shaw University (N.C.). The secret to success on the road could be playing games 3,000 miles away.

Despite the struggles, Sloop said he thinks there are a number of factors that contribute to better play at home.

"It's easier to play at home because you sleep in your own bed," Sloop said. "You aren't doing the travel and stuff, and you are playing in front of your home fans, and you're used to the environment. I don't think it's any big deal. For whatever reason, teams have jumped out of the gate really big on us on the road, and it didn't happen this time, and we fought them right down to the end."

The women's basketball team has struggled away from Pershing Arena this season. The Bulldogs have a 10-1 mark at home but are 1-6 on the road. This continues a history of struggling on the road.

Year	Record	
	WIN	LOSS
2007-08	1	- 6
2006-07	2	- 10
2005-06	3	- 9
2004-05	2	- 9
2003-04	4	- 8
2002-03	3	- 8
2001-02	3	- 8



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