



Mark Hardy/Index

Senior guard Carmen McGee hauls in a rebound in Saturday's game against Missouri Western. McGee was held scoreless in Wednesday's 98-61 loss to Emporia State University.

## HORNETS | Emporia knocks off 'Dogs

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It wasn't just Stueve who track. Mueller shot just 8-22 from the field en route to 21 points. Her poor shooting has become a trend against the Lady Hornets. Mueller went just 17-37 in two games against Emporia State a year ago.

But it wasn't just Mueller whose shots weren't falling. The other four starters combined for just 19 points on 9-21 shooting.

Senior guard Candace McGee — a three-point specialist — missed all six of her shots from behind the arc and finished with just eight points. In addition, senior forward Carmen McGee — coming off a 15 point, 11 rebound performance a game prior — was held scoreless.

Emporia State forward Michelle Stueve, who came into the game averaging 21.9 points per game, finished with 20 points and six rebounds on the night. Her four second-half threes helped quiet any potential Truman comeback.

Before the game, McGee recognized Stueve's ability.

"They have Michelle Stueve, [who] is unbelievable," McGee said. "She is really good, [and] she's always been a big force."

It wasn't just Stueve who was hot from outside for the Lady Hornets. Guard Andrea Leiker was 5-8 from three-point land and finished with 21 points. As a team, Emporia State shot 48 percent from the three-point line.

Adding to the Lady Hornets' dominant performance was a 50-30 lead in the rebound category and a 33-11 lead in assists.

After suffering a defeat like this, Truman can only regroup and continue in a conference schedule that has proved challenging in years past.

"We've got some kids that really run hard for 40 minutes on both ends of the floor," Sloop said. "And we're going to have to do that to beat what have been, historically, the best teams in the league."

With two big tests coming in the next week, Truman must find a way to put this loss behind them quickly.

The Bulldogs play MIAA powerhouse No. 4 Washburn University (Kan.) Saturday afternoon in Topeka. Early conference leader Northwest Missouri State University will then come to Kirksville on Wednesday evening.

## PREDICTION | Women proving prognosticators wrong

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four games the team equaled its MIAA win output from last season. Simply put, this team is better than anticipated.

But how did they do it? They lost just one senior from last year's squad and don't have a freshman lighting up the stat sheet. The women basically have the same cast of characters they did last season.

So, what gives? Well, first they took the Tiger Woods route of learning how to win. Before the greatest golfer in my lifetime became a professional, he spent years kicking butt and taking names on the amateur circuit. Tiger learned how to win — and got pretty good at it.

The women's team did something similar to Mr. Woods. They played a non-

conference schedule that featured its share of winnable games — and win the Bulldogs did. They entered conference play sporting an 8-1 record and have kept on winning in MIAA action.

By learning what it takes to win, the women have managed to beat several highly regarded teams like Shaw University (N.C.) and No. 23 Missouri Southern State University.

Of course it's the players who actually have to win the games, and the women have several members who have stepped up their games this season.

Junior forward Georgia Mueller has been her usual dominating self, but she has been getting support on the offensive side. Senior guard Candace McGee is putting in

12.4 points per game — 13 per in conference play. Both would be career highs if she maintains her current production.

But the production doesn't stop there. Senior guard Carmen McGee, senior forward Katie Fowler and freshman forward Malorie Kiecker each are scoring at least six points per game.

Add in the rest of the roster and the women are scoring 76.1 points per game — 72.2 in the MIAA. It's hard to beat a team that scores 77 points a game.

The point is this team is much better than the coaches thought they are. I'm not saying this team is going to tear through the MIAA.

I'm just saying they are much better than they were once thought.

## MIAA | Team matches MIAA total from last year with 13 games left

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The confidence has led to Truman's best start since the 1998-99 season. In that year, the Bulldogs also started 11-2, went on to a 22-9 record and became NCAA Tournament Regional Finalists.

But no matter how the rest of the season turns out, Sloop said he is proud of how his entire roster of 14 players has played to this point.

"Obviously, the kids that

are getting playing time, you see a reflection of what they're doing out on the floor," Sloop said. "There's probably about six kids right now that aren't getting much of any playing time, but the effort they continue to bring every day helps us as a team get better in practice and helps them to improve. So I'm really proud of the group."

It is too early to tell how this team will finish the season. The conference schedule is grueling, and the Bulldogs barely have reached the halfway point of the season.

But if nothing else, Truman has become a real contender in one of the nation's top conferences.

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## RUST | Team looks to start 2008 on winning streak after enduring tough stretch in the second half of schedule last season

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matches after starting off the year 3-0. Many of those eight losses were blowouts, including a 41-0 loss to eventual national champion University of Central Oklahoma. The Bulldogs will try to avoid a similar situation with tough dual matches coming up against the University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University and Missouri Baptist College.

So far this season the Bulldogs are 1-2 in duals with a victory over Central College (Iowa) and losses to the University of Central Missouri and Upper Iowa University.

Junior Blake Peterson said there are some advantages for the team coming back after the break.

"I think one of the best things for our team, especially the new guys, is when we come back early," Peterson

said. "You get the sense of how hard you are working. You come here, you don't have to worry about school. You don't have to worry about anything but wrestling, and you just do that two or three times a day. There is a lot of team bonding."

Senior Rob Nahlik said he enjoys having a break in the middle of the season.

"I like the break because it's nice to be able to eat for a week and then come back," Nahlik said. "The rest of the season is pretty much two months, and we have to work as hard as we can."

Besides dealing with a break in the middle of the season, the Bulldogs also must deal with having only three matches at Pershing Arena this season. The match on Wednesday against Millikin University (Ill.) was canceled by Millikin. The Bulldogs' only dual in

Kirksville so far this season took place at Kirksville High School because of the MIAA volleyball tournament at Pershing Arena.

Wrestling away from Pershing might not be a disadvantage for the Bulldogs because home has not been kind to Truman in the last several seasons. The 'Dogs have not won a home dual since the 2005-06 season when they defeated Missouri Baptist.

Wrestling on the road is a not new for the Bulldogs either. The team has not had more than three home duals since the 2004-05 season.

Nahlik said he is not disappointed in the lack of home matches.

"Not for me," Nahlik said. "We pretty much compete elsewhere almost all the time, so we need to get comfortable competing elsewhere. It would be nice to compete in front



Photo Submitted

Sophomore guard Julie Guinn looks for an open teammate. The women's team already has matched last season's MIAA win total with 13 games left in conference play.

## WRESTLING | Three 'Dogs place at invite

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a kid in our room that is not capable of getting to the national tournament. ... It's a matter of getting everybody on the same sheet of music on the same day. ... Right now that's the key. We have to get everybody on the same page."

The Bulldogs originally were supposed to have a home dual with Millikin University (Ill.) on Wednesday.

However, the meet was cancelled because Millikin was not able to field a competitive team.

The Bulldogs will compete this weekend in the Central Missouri Open to fill the open date. They will not have a home dual until Feb. 9, when they will take on the defending national champions, the University of Central Oklahoma.

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