



## WEEKEND WINS

Women's swim team sets records in victories

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# SPORTS



Basketball: 3 p.m. Saturday Jan. 26 vs. Southwest Baptist



Basketball: 1 p.m. Saturday Jan. 26 vs. Southwest Baptist

Thursday, January 24, 2008

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## Carrier finalist for job

### Bulldog football coach meets with officials from Minnesota State-Mankato

BY JOE BARKER  
Sports Editor

Shannon Carrier is one of four finalists for the vacant head football coaching position at Minnesota State University-Mankato.

Carrier was scheduled to meet with the Mankato officials Wednesday. He has not been offered the job yet.

"If I was to be offered, I am surely not set on taking the position because we have a lot of good things here," Carrier said.

Like Truman, Minnesota State-Mankato is a Div. II school. Its football team plays in the North Central Conference and had a 5-6 record last season. The other three finalists for the job are Dan McLaughlin, Wayne State College (Neb.) head coach, Jim Williams, as-

sistant head coach and offensive coordinator at Illinois State University, and Todd Hoffner, the University of South Dakota offensive coordinator.

Carrier said he found the job opening on his own and was encouraged to apply by someone in the Minnesota State-Mankato athletic department.

"I didn't apply for the job until the very last possible second," Carrier said. "I had contact from people up there that encouraged me to do that, so I checked into it. There was encouragement for me to contact their [athletic director] from somebody up there. So, I called on the last possible night just to see what's going on, and he was really interested. Had there not been a lot of interest on their part, I wouldn't have applied because it's just not worth the time."

Other than the interest level of the Mavericks, the proximity to his family was another reason Carrier updated his résumé and cover letter for the first time since he became the Truman head coach.

"It's 30 minutes from my parents,"

he said. "Not that I necessarily want the cold weather, but when my parents both retired — I think we all understand that our parents aren't going to be around forever. That's really the main attraction, is the location."

Carrier stressed that he is not out the door yet. He said he would love to remain a Bulldog but thought the Minnesota State-Mankato opening was something he needed to check out.

"I'm not looking to bail ship here," he said. "I'm not here to build something so I can move somewhere else. That's not my prerogative. I like this community. My family likes this community. If there's one job out there that's going to be close to my family and my wife's family — this is that one job, and that's why I'm looking into it."

After deciding to throw his name into the ring, Carrier contacted Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering and his team to let them know he had applied for the Mavericks job.

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## Carrier Chronicle

Head football coach Shannon Carrier is a finalist for the head coaching position at the University of Minnesota-Mankato. Carrier has been the head man for the Bulldogs since the 2004 season and has compiled a 16-28 record. Prior to taking over the Bulldogs Carrier was the head coach at the University of Concordia-St. Paul where he was 32-12.

Design by  
Antionette Bedessie/Index



## From Cameroon to Kirksville

### 6-foot-6 forward adjusts to life in United States

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER  
Assistant Sports Editor

It's 5:10 on a Friday evening. Practice for the men's basketball team ended about an hour ago. But one player remains.

Junior Patrick Fandja shoots free throw after free throw on a practice court in Pershing Arena while the women's basketball team practices nearby.

This is not a rarity for Fandja. He routinely stays after to practice field goals and foul shots.

"His work ethic is impeccable," head coach

Jack Schrader said. Maybe Fandja is making up for lost time. The Bulldogs' 6-foot-6 forward, who ranks third in the MIAA with 8.2 rebounds a game, is from Douala, Cameroon. He never played basketball until he was a teenager, when his cousin got him to play the game.

"Almost everyone plays soccer [in Cameroon]," Fandja said. "... I remember the first time I played basketball — it was with a soccer ball."

Once Fandja started playing basketball, he was hooked on the sport. But because soccer is the prevalent sport in Cameroon, Fandja said he had to walk about

30 to 40 minutes to the nearest court.

When he wasn't playing, Fandja said he spent time watching NBA basketball on TV. Because of the time difference, Fandja said he had to watch games at about three or four in the morning. Soon, he had dreams of going to the United States to play basketball.

Fandja's interest in the

U.S. increased even more when he began to study history and learned about the United States' military involvement in World Wars I and II.

"I [thought], 'What a really good country,'" Fandja said. "So I started to like the country from then. And every time I would be talking or playing, I would be like, 'I hope one day God would

let me get there because I just love that country so much.'"

Eventually, Fandja's dedication to school, combined with his basketball ability, proved to be his ticket out of Cameroon and to the United States.

Fandja said a man from New York helped Cameroon athletes who did well in school get to the United States on a visa.

Thus, when Fandja was 17 years old, he left behind his mother and younger sister in Cameroon and traveled to the United States to live with Dr. Mark and Betty Macke and attend Marshalltown. Please see Fandja, Page 19

## Run of bad luck persists

BY JOE BARKER  
Sports Editor

It pains me to say this, but I'm a jinx.

I'm officially bad luck for the sports teams I support. If I throw my backing behind a team, it is more than likely something bad is going to happen. I don't know why or what, but it seems like lately I have the anti-Midas touch.

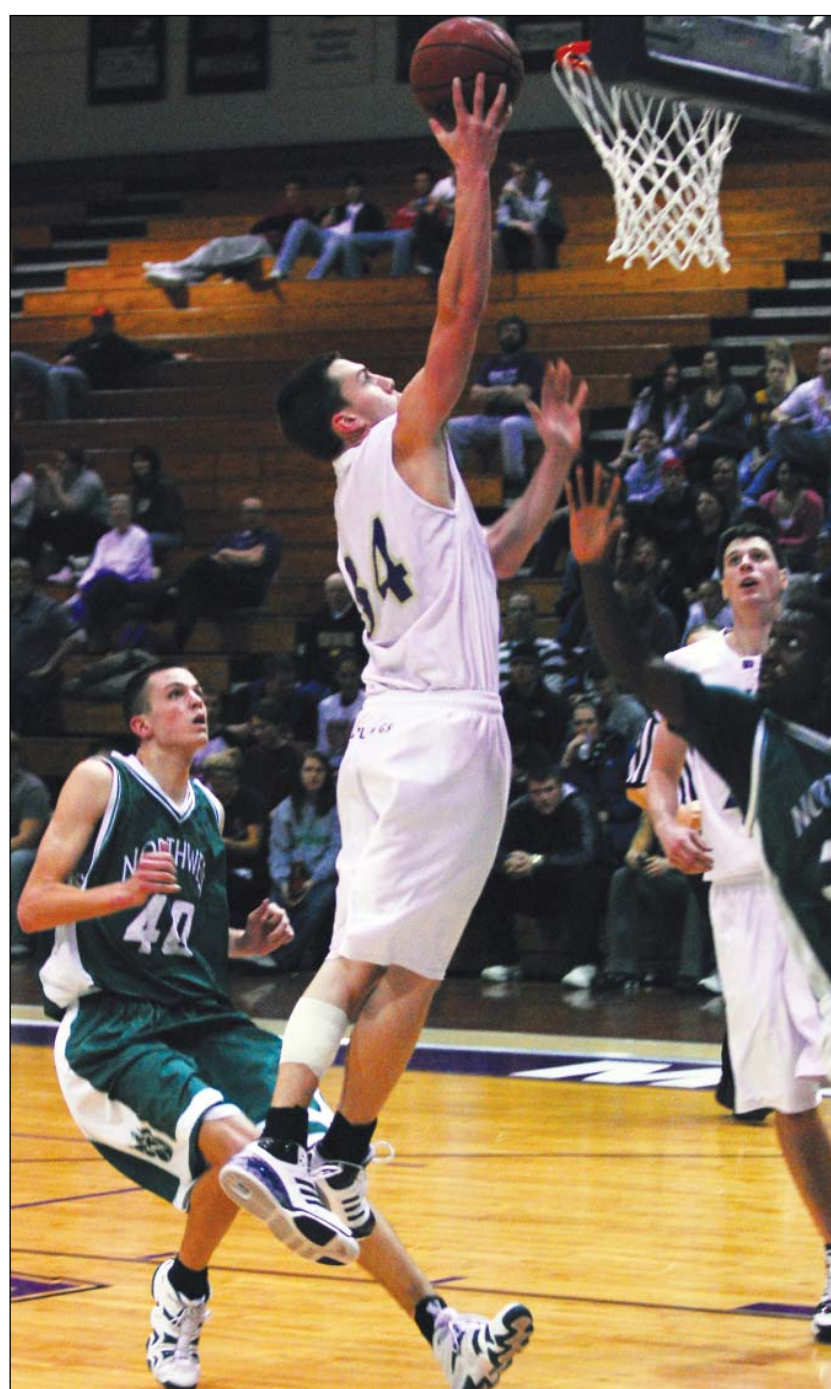
Everything I touch turns bad. It wasn't always like this. I didn't used to have an abundance of bad karma.

I think my luck started to change when the Cardinals won the 2006 World Series. After hoping for a championship for 21 years, I think the sports gods were fed up with me and decided to punish me.

The jinx has reared its head many times since October 2006, but I have ignored it as mere coincidence. Last fall, I wrote a column talking about how awesome the shutout streak for the men's soccer team was. The team gave up a goal the very next game.

Then the Rams tanked in the regular season, and my childhood favorite Dallas Cowboys choked in the first round of the NFL playoffs.

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Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Sophomore guard Gabe Landau puts up a layup against Northwest Missouri State last night. The Bearcats hit nine three-pointers in a 64-50 win.

## 'Dogs lose home contest 64-50

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER  
Assistant Sports Editor

Northwest Missouri State University used a barrage of three-pointers from its role players to topple the men's basketball team Wednesday night.

The Bearcats shot 9-for-16 from beyond the arc, including 6-for-8 in the first half, en route to a 64-50 win at Pershing Arena.

Northwest now has defeated Truman (3-13, 2-5) in eight of the past 10 meetings between the rival schools.

The Bearcats (12-4, 4-3) were led by sophomore Mike Larsen, who made his third start of the season Wednesday. Larsen scored 14 points, sinking four threes, and was one of three Bearcat role players to have a big offensive night.

"Some guys that we weren't ready for stepped up and started knocking down some threes," junior guard Banks Estridge said. "I guess teams have nights like that, where they just don't miss. ... It's kind of embarrassing when teams are just knocking down threes, and you feel like you're playing good defense."

Northwest's freshman Elijah Allen and senior John Hawkins entered the game averaging less than a combined seven points a game but scored 12 and six points, respectively, against the 'Dogs and hit a total of four three-pointers. Four different Bearcats sank three-point baskets. Truman made just two triples.

"The difference in the game was their non-shooters, non-players," head coach Jack Schrader said. "Larsen, Hawkins and Allen were 8-for-10 from three. Our game plan is pretty simple — we try to take away their [best] players

and make other people beat you. And those guys beat us."

Truman shot 53 percent from the field — 8 percent better than the Bearcats — but still scored just 50 points for the second consecutive game. Northwest attempted 18 more shots than the 'Dogs.

Turnovers proved to be a key reason for Truman's limited shots. Northwest, No. 2 in the MIAA in turnover margin, forced 18 turnovers and scored 25 points off of Bulldog miscues.

The Bearcats are known for their pressure defense, but Schrader said this was not the problem that plagued his team.

"Their pressure defenses did not make us turn it over," Schrader said. "We turned it over way too much, but it wasn't from their defense. It was from us making mental mistakes."

Senior forward Nick Certa and junior forward Patrick Fandja led the Bulldog offense against a Bearcat defense ranked No. 1 in the conference. Certa had 15 points, and Fandja added 14 points and a team-high eight rebounds.

"When [Fandja] plays aggressively and strong, he's as good as any big man in the conference, and I think that's what he showed in the second half," Estridge said.

The Bulldogs entered Wednesday's game against Northwest coming off a 59-50 loss Saturday at Washburn University. Saturday's loss marked the eighth time this season that the 'Dogs have lost by 10 points or fewer.

Truman led by 43-39 with less than eight minutes to play, but the Ichabods finished the game on a 20-7 run and outscored the Bulldogs 15-5 in the final five minutes.

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