

# Last-second shot gives women win

'Dogs defeat Bearcats 84-82, Candace McGee nets career-high 31

BY SHAWN SHINNEMAN  
Staff Reporter

Tied 82-82 with just seconds left, the basketball was in the unlikely hands of Truman's seventh-leading scorer.

Senior guard Julia Montebello looked to pass, then drove the lane and threw up an off-balance shot from the left side of the key that kissed off the glass and fell through the net with 0.4 seconds showing on the clock.

After a desperation three didn't go, Truman (12-4, 4-3) held on to win 84-82 Wednesday night. The Bulldogs knocked off Northwest Missouri State University, co-leader of the MIAA, in front of a noisy Pershing Arena crowd.

"I wasn't really thinking I was going to penetrate [until] the shot clock went down," Montebello said. "It feels good to help the team because I think we worked really hard to win that game. I'm glad I could help."

But Montebello wasn't the only hero Wednesday night. Senior guard Candace McGee hit nine three-pointers en route to a 31-point performance. Both marks were career-highs, and the nine three-pointers were one off a Truman record set in 1990.

"I was definitely feeling it tonight," McGee said. "They were doubling down on [junior

forward] Georgia [Mueller], so we had to hit from the outside. ... I was feeling it."

Although the constant double-teams might have helped keep her at just 11 points, Mueller made her presence felt on the boards. She racked up a game-high 14 rebounds and also had nine assists.

Up 81-76 with just 1:20 to play, Truman allowed a 5-1 run that tied the game at 82. After Montebello's shot, Truman players jumped off the bench and hugged Montebello, not realizing that 0.4 seconds still remained in the game. No technical foul was called.

The win came after back-to-back losses against ranked opponents and could help get the momentum back on the Bulldogs' side.

"It was a great game," head coach John Sloop said. "Either team could have won, [and] either team deserved to win. We were fortunate to have the ball in our hands for what was basically the last possession of the game, and we had a player make a hell of a play for us."

Saturday the Bulldogs got off to their second straight slow start when Washburn University jumped out to a 15-0 lead. The Bulldogs then scored the next 11 points of the game. But it wasn't enough, as the No. 8 Lady Blues won the game 83-60 in Topeka.

"We missed some open shots," Sloop said. "We missed them early, dug ourselves a big hole, [but] made a big run to get back. ... I thought the kids

competed, and I thought we got better throughout that game."

Mueller — Truman's leading scorer — finished with 25 points and seven rebounds, but only scored five first-half points. Despite her big second half, the Bulldogs never were able to cut the 44-23 halftime deficit to less than 17.

Truman was outmatched down low. Washburn out-rebounded the Bulldogs 46-31.

Montebello did not play. In her absence, sophomore guard Julie Guinn struggled.

Guinn went 0-8 from the field and did not record an assist while turning the ball over seven times. Truman had 20 turnovers as a team.

A bright spot within Truman's disappointing loss was sophomore guard Laura Joya. Providing a spark off the bench, Joya scored 11 points and added a team-leading three assists.

"She's a good player," Sloop said. "She's given us some big baskets and some points and minutes throughout the season. She's been a big part of this. She's old school in terms of being able to be put on the floor — stop and pop. She can take it to the goal, or she can shoot it from three."

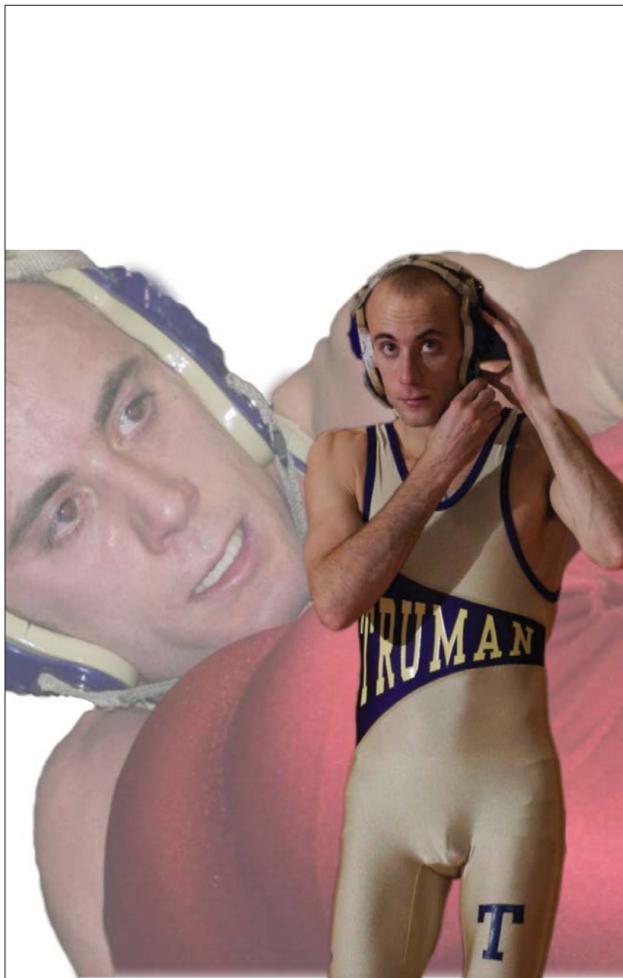
As a team, Truman continued to struggle shooting the ball. The Bulldogs shot just 33 percent from the field and a measly 23 percent from beyond the three-point line.

"You're going to miss some shots every once in a while," McGee said. "Once we get one player going, everyone else usually feeds off of that."

Truman will look to build off Wednesday night's win this Saturday when they face Southwest Baptist University at home. They will then hit the road to take on the University of Central Missouri on Wednesday night.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Sophomore guard Laura Joya elevates for a jumper during Wednesday night's 84-82 win against Northwest Missouri State University. Joya scored six points in the contest.



Photos by Blake Peterson and design by Mark Hardy/Index

## Senior wrestler takes 2nd at Open

BY BRENT FOSTER  
Staff Reporter

When coaches and fans measure an athlete's career, they often look at how the athlete developed each season. Rob Nahlik is a wrestler who has improved steadily throughout his years as a Bulldog.

The senior from Chesterfield, Mo., finished 3-1 at the Central Missouri Open on Saturday in Warrensburg and took home second-place honors in the 125-pound weight class. His only loss was a 7-0 decision to Troy Dolan of the University of Missouri, who was wrestling unattached. Missouri is the eleventh-ranked team in Div. I. Dolan, who is redshirting this season for the Tigers, was the eleventh-ranked high school senior in the country last year, according to W.I.N. Magazine.

Nahlik said that even though he welcomes the challenge, it was tough having to wrestle against someone of Dolan's caliber.

"I knew he was going to be good, and he pretty much controlled the whole match," Nahlik said. "... [He's] the toughest guy I've faced this season for sure. It was frustrating, but it was good to let me know where I'm at."

Nahlik is off to a blazing start this season with a 13-4 record, including a first-place finish at the Central College Open and a second-place finish at the Central Missouri Open.

Nahlik was riding a seven-match winning streak until his loss to Dolan

on Saturday. Nahlik breezed through his first three matches of the Central Missouri Open. He won his first match by fall and his second two by a combined score of 13-2 to reach the title match.

Head coach Dave Schutter said Nahlik is wrestling well right now.

"He's had a pretty solid year," Schutter said. "He's 13-4 on the year right now. He's been in the finals the last two tournaments. He's improving a lot on his feet. Where he needs to improve on is tough on top, tough off bottom. Just got to keep working hard everyday."

Schutter also said Nahlik is a good wrestler for the team to have to start off duals and tournaments.

"He gives us a real solid 125-pounder starting off our lineup," Schutter said. "He goes out there and wrestles solid. It's going to take a pretty good wrestler to beat him. He's always in a match. He's really good in certain positions. He gives us a really good guy to start off a dual with or start off the day with at tournaments."

At 13-4, Nahlik is off to the best start of his career by a long shot. Nahlik already has set a career high for wins in a season and his 13 wins are second on the team behind sophomore Andrew Bader's 15. His career record also has risen this season to 39-41.

Nahlik also has prevailed in close matches this season. Three of Nahlik's matches this season have been decided by two points or less. He has a record of 2-1 in those matches.

## Athlete of the Week

**Rob Nahlik**

Sport: Wrestling

Year: Senior

Hometown: Chesterfield, Mo.

Nahlik finished second in the 125-pound weight class at Saturday's Central Missouri Open. The senior was 3-1 and lost in the championship match to Troy Dolan of the University of Missouri-Columbia, who wrestled unattached. Nahlik has a 13-4 record this season and has won seven of his last eight matches.

## Pimple Popping?

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