



Senior forward Georgia Mueller puts up a jump hook during Saturday's win against Emporia State. Mueller had 15 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists in the victory.

Mayank Dhungana/Index

CHASING JARRARD

POINT LEADERBOARD

1. CAROL JARRARD: 2,006
2. GEORGIA MUELLER: 1,794
3. FELICIA SUTTON: 1,578
4. AMY EAGAN: 1,527

'Dogs grab home win

Daniels posts career-high 24 points, Mueller adds 15

BY BLAKE TOPPMAYER
Sports Editor

Head coach Michael Smith gave the women's basketball team an ultimatum in the locker room at halftime of Saturday's game.

"I challenged them at halftime," Smith said. "I said, 'If we play like this, we don't deserve to be in Kansas City.'"

The Bulldogs were up to the challenge.

After being tied at halftime against Southwest Baptist University, the Bulldogs posted 53 second-half points to claim an 87-80 victory in Pershing Arena. The win keeps the Bulldogs' (5-17, 2-13) chances alive for reaching the MIAA Tournament in Kansas City.

With five conference games remaining, including Truman's home game tonight at 5:30 against Fort Hays State University, the Bulldogs are two wins behind SBU (7-15, 4-11) for eighth place in the MIAA. The top eight teams qualify for the conference tournament.

Saturday's win against SBU snapped Truman's six-game losing streak, which began Jan. 14 and included four losses by 10 points or fewer.

Freshman guard Breanna Daniels led all scorers Saturday with a career-high 24 points. She connected on 9-of-14 attempts from the floor. Daniels got help offensively from senior forward Georgia Mueller,

who arguably had her best all-around game of the season. She finished three assists shy (15 points, 10 rebounds, seven assists) of a triple double.

The duo helped seal the victory for Truman down the stretch. Daniels and Mueller combined for 11 points in the final 4:17.

Both players had a hand in one of Truman's biggest baskets of the game. After SBU closed Truman's lead to six points with less than six minutes to play, Mueller received the ball in the post. The two-time First Team All-MIAA forward quickly was under a double-team from Bearcat defenders, and she alertly passed out to an open Daniels, who drained a three-point jumper to extend the 'Dogs' lead to nine.

"Georgia kept on saying, 'When they double down, spot up in the corner, and I'll kick it out to you for a three,'" Daniels said.

Bulldog players had assists on six of Daniels' nine baskets. Rather than creating her own shot, Daniels primarily found openings by spotting up in the holes in the Bearcats' zone defense, and her teammates kept dishing her the ball.

"I told her, 'Shoot the ball,'" said Mueller, who assisted three of Daniels' baskets. "She just moves really well without the ball and she has a really good shot. And I always encourage her to shoot it, and she just knows where to go."

Despite turning the ball over 14 times in the first half and allowing eight offense rebounds, the Bulldogs had a slim lead

throughout most of the first half. SBU took the lead right before halftime, but Daniels' baseline jumper at the buzzer sent Truman to the locker room tied 34-34.

"We scored right at the end of the half, and the last couple games the other team had scored [at the end of the half]," Daniels said. "It's a big momentum going into the locker room having just scored."

Unlike their previous five games, when opponents outscored the Bulldogs by a combined 34 points in the second half, the 'Dogs came out of the locker room stronger Saturday.

Truman preserved the ball better in the final 20 minutes against SBU's half-court trap and turned the ball over just seven times in the second half. The Bulldogs also gave up just four second-half offensive rebounds.

"Second half, I think the key was we didn't give up as many offensive boards and second-chance opportunities," Smith said. "We came out the second half [and] we played with more poise."

Offensively, Truman probably had its most balanced attack of the season. Five Bulldogs finished in double figures in scoring against an SBU team that entered the game last in the MIAA in scoring defense and field-goal percentage defense.

The Bulldogs' quest to reach the MIAA tournament continues this evening against Fort Hays. The 'Dogs lost to the Tigers 71-46 on Jan. 3, but Mueller did not play in that game.

Baseball suffers 7-4 loss in season opener

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

The baseball team couldn't take advantage of key opportunities Tuesday.

Truman had the tying run at the plate in both the eighth and ninth innings but lost its season opener to Quincy University 7-4.

Trailing 6-2 in the bottom of the eighth, the Bulldogs mounted a rally. With two on and one out, sophomore outfielder Jeff Davison hit an opposite-field RBI double cutting the lead to 6-3. Quincy then brought in right-hander Jared Fisher, who struck out sopho-

mores outfielder Kenny Swanson and catcher Bryce Bond back-to-back to end the threat.

"There are some things we need to do better," head coach Dan Davis said. "We need to put the ball in play. When we started striking out late in the game it was against some of their better arms. When you bring a good arm in, that's what they're supposed to do. They're supposed to get strikeouts."

The Bulldogs brought the tying run to the plate again in the ninth, but sophomore third baseman Drew Garwood hit a fly out to medium right-center field to end the game.

Quincy scored four runs in the second inning, even though the Hawks hit just two balls out of the infield. Bulldog sophomore starting pitcher Logan Frame struck out the first batter of the inning before the Hawks got consecutive infield hits on dribblers between home plate and the mound. Frame came back to strike out the next batter for the second out, but No. 9 hitter Daniel Entzroth drove a double that plated the Hawks' first run. The next batter hit another roller in front of the mound that Frame fielded, but he made a wide throw to first base, which allowed two runs to score. Quincy's Brett Zurienne capped off the inning with an

RBI single, giving the Hawks a 4-0 lead.

Frame went two innings, allowing four runs on four hits. Only one of the runs was earned.

The 'Dogs got 2.1 scoreless innings in relief from sophomore right-hander Michael Staihr. He settled the Bulldogs down after Quincy's four-run second inning.

"It was really important [to get off to a good start]," Staihr said. "I've just got to go out there and throw strikes and have good command of my pitches."

Both teams finished with nine hits, but the Bulldogs mistakes and inability to come up with timely hits early on cost

them. Truman left 10 men on base.

Bond finished with a pair of hits for Truman. Four different Bulldogs had stolen bases.

Feb. 10 is the earliest date the Bulldogs have had their home opener. The previous earliest home opener was Feb. 25, 1999 against William Penn University (Iowa). It was 62 degrees at first pitch Tuesday, making it feel more like April than February.

This weekend Truman heads to Adelphi, Ark., where the Bulldogs will play three games in five days. The first game will be Friday afternoon against No. 5 Ouachita Baptist University (Ark.).

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