



# SPORTS



## STRONG START

Women win nine of 11 flights at opening meet

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Photo submitted by Truman athletics department  
Cory Parker cuts down the net after the 1998-99 men's basketball team's victory in the Sweet 16.

## Recounting a historic season

### This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the 1998-99 men's basketball team's run to the Final Four

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER  
Sports Editor

The Bulldogs appeared to be headed for another loss in what was shaping up as a mediocre season.

It was Feb. 1, 1999, and the Truman men's basketball team went into the locker room in Topeka, Kan., trailing Washburn University 44-24 at halftime. Truman entered the game having lost six of its last 10 and had not won in Topeka since 1981.

But behind nine second-half three-pointers, the Bulldogs pulled right back in to the game. Washburn hit the second of two free throws to take a one-point lead with six sec-

onds remaining. This set the stage for then-sophomore guard Mike Peterson's long, buzzer-beating, three-point shot that would turn the Bulldogs' season around.

"There's a pass and Peterson's across half court with two dribbles and momentum going right over kind of by the sideline in front of the bench, and he launched it, drained it," said Hank Janssen, recalling the play. Janssen is the long-time radio broadcaster of Bulldog games who was the color commentator during that season. "And they beat Washburn in an upset, and then they took off from there."

Truman's miracle win at Washburn sparked a 15-game winning streak that led

the Bulldogs all the way to the NCAA Final Four, where they lost to Metro State and finished the season with a 26-7 overall record. This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the Final Four team.

#### The cast

The Bulldogs essentially utilized an eight-man rotation during the 1998-99 season. The team had its star in then-junior forward Cory Parker.

"Cory Parker was pretty spectacular," Janssen said. "He was a difference-making kind of guy. When you needed something to happen and create it, it was Cory Parker. He was poised and unflappable."

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## Men fall on road to Mo. Western

### Two Griffon scoring runs doom Bulldogs in second half last Saturday

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER  
Sports Editor

Head coach Jack Schrader has said numerous times during the season that his men's basketball team has a small margin of error. One mistake can send the Bulldogs spiraling toward a loss.

This was on full display in the Bulldogs' 68-47 loss Saturday at Missouri Western State University.

Truman (6-20, 1-18) trailed 29-27 early in the second half. But the Bulldogs committed a foul late in a Missouri Western possession that sent the Griffons' Lonnel Johnson to the line for two free throws. Johnson made the first free throw and missed the second, but Missouri Western (12-13, 9-9) grabbed the rebound and converted with a layup.

"Those are the moments in the game that determine which way the momentum is going," Schrader said after the loss.

The three-point trip down the floor sparked an 8-0 Griffon run that extended their lead to 39-29. The Bulldogs trimmed the lead to 49-44 with 7:12 remaining, but Missouri Western piled on a 14-0 run to put the game away.

"We didn't throw in the towel,"

Schrader said. "The final score is just a victim of our own circumstance, us trying to foul, trying to pressure, trying to take quick shots because we're trying to force it. That's just not our game. We're not a real good late-game, come-from-behind team in that situation."

The Bulldogs committed 18 turnovers and shot 37 percent from the floor in the loss.

After Missouri Western's 10 steals Saturday, the Griffons lead the MIAA averaging 9.6 steals per game.

"Their game is to get steals and get run-outs [and] easy baskets," sophomore guard Alex Henderson said. "They're athletic. Overall, they're not that big, but their guards are good-size and pretty athletic, and they hit the offensive rebounds really hard."

Despite shooting just 29 percent from the floor in the first half, Truman trailed 25-20 at halftime by utilizing a strong defensive effort.

But like many games this season, the Bulldogs were unable to put together a high-quality 40 minutes, and the Griffons outscored Truman 18-4 in the final 7:12.

"I feel like our turnovers started catching up with us, and we didn't shoot a great percentage to overcome that," said Henderson, who scored 11 points. "I thought we were lucky, really, to only be down five at half-time."

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Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Senior point guard Banks Estridge will play in his final game at 3 p.m. this Saturday against the University of Central Missouri. Estridge has started every game but one for the last three years.

## Estridge caps off 3 years at the point

BY JACK NICHOLL  
Assistant Sports Editor

Basketball was the first word Banks Estridge spoke.

When Estridge was young, the now-senior point guard for the Bulldogs received a toy basketball set. He quickly picked up the sport, and his parents predicted he would score 20 points in his very first game.

Bill Estridge, Banks' father, said he remembers the car ride home after the first game. All of a sudden, Banks spoke up from the back seat. "We're about halfway home ... and he goes, 'Mom! Dad!'" Bill said. "We go, 'Yeah?' and he's sitting there in the back seat and he says, 'You guys thought I was only going to have 20 points. I had 22!'"

#### End of an era

When Banks takes the floor for

the final time Saturday in Pershing Arena against the University of Central Missouri, it will mark the end of his three-year mainstay as point guard for the Bulldogs.

Banks has played in every game and started in all but one game during the last three years. He is seventh all-time in career assists and sixth all-time in career steals in Truman history to go with 949 career points, including a team-leading 10.2 points per game this season.

"I've had three guards that sort of stand out at the point," said head coach Jack Schrader, who has coached at Truman for 14 years. "Andy Guethle started every game for four years, Chip Sodemann started every game for four years and Banks started every game for three years."

Banks never has scored much more than 10 points per game, but

he always has excelled at what point guards are known for: assists.

On March 3, 2005, Banks' high school team, Westminster, defeated Jennings 65-57. Banks, who was a senior at the time, scored seven points in the game — not an eye-popping number — but he had two steals and eight assists.

Bill Sodemann, a high school coach who was at the game, wasn't focused on the points. Sodemann saw in Banks all the essentials necessary to be a good Div. II point guard like his son, Chip, who at the time was in his third season as the starting point guard for Truman.

"[Banks] just had a lot of things that I would like in players that I coach," Bill Sodemann said.

Banks averaged 9.4 points and 7.6 assists per game his senior year.

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Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Junior guard Laura Joya, shown in a game earlier this season, had 15 points in a 71-62 victory vs. Missouri Western last Saturday.

## Women's basketball picks up road victory

BY BRENT FOSTER  
Staff Reporter

With the chance to make the MIAA Tournament out the window, the women's basketball team entered last Saturday's game against Missouri Western State University just trying to play out the remaining two games on the schedule. The team responded with one of its best efforts of the season.

Senior forward Georgia Mueller scored a season-high 29 points as the Bulldogs (7-19, 4-15 MIAA) defeated Missouri Western State University 71-62 in St. Joseph, Mo. It was the first conference road win of the season for the 'Dogs.

"I told our seniors, 'You know, this is it,'" head coach Michael Smith said. "You've got two games

left that you're ever going to wear a uniform. I think that really hit home to Georgia."

Mueller scored 19 of her 29 points in the first half as Truman came out of the gates hot, hitting nearly 54 percent from the floor. The Bulldogs led 41-34 at the half and appeared to be in control of the game.

But when the Bulldogs came out in the second half, like many times this season, they squandered away the lead. The Griffons opened the second half on a 9-2 run to tie the game at 43. But Western never took the lead. Brittany Cassidy made a jumper with 5:08 left to cut the Bulldog lead to three, but that was the last field goal the Griffons scored the rest of the game.

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