



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Junior guard Julie Guinn dribbles the ball during a game earlier this season. Guinn led the 'Dogs with 12 points in Truman's loss last night.

Bulldogs nipped by UCM in final minutes

Women squander 11-point second-half lead, fall to 4-13 for season

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

Coming off a tough home loss against winless Missouri Western State University (2-14, 2-8 MIAA) last week, the women's basketball team played arguably one of their best games of the season last night. But it wasn't quite enough.

The Bulldogs (4-13, 1-9 MIAA) blew an 11-point second-half lead and endured a six-minute long scoreless drought late in the game, falling to the University of Central Missouri 59-55 in Warrensburg last night.

Even with the offensive struggles down the stretch, the 'Dogs had the ball trailing 57-55 with a chance to pull off the upset, but junior guard Julie Guinn's three pointer from the top of the key was off the mark with six seconds left. UCM (14-4, 8-2 MIAA) got the rebound and iced the game with two free throws, handing the Bulldogs their fifth-consecutive MIAA road loss.

"We had six seconds left on the clock and I was hoping to get a better shot," head coach Michael Smith said.

Throughout most of the game, things were looking bright for the Bulldogs. In the second half the 'Dogs seemed to be pulling away, but like several other times this season, they went cold from the field. Senior forward Georgia Mueller hit a free throw with 7:07 left in the game to give the Bulldogs an 11-point lead. Those would be the last points Truman would score until junior guard Laura Joya hit a jump shot with just more than a minute left to tie the game at 53.

During the scoring drought, UCM went on a 13-0 run and stymied Truman defensively. The Bulldogs missed eight shots from the floor.

"We were just battling," Smith said. "We were trying everything in the books to run."

Michael Smith
Head Coach
on the Bulldogs' second-half scoring drought

Both teams struggled offensively throughout the game. Truman shot just 36 percent and UCM shot 29 percent. The difference in the game for the Jennies came from the line. The Bulldogs shot 9-for-11 from the line, while UCM got to the line 30 times, connecting on 23 of them.

Turnovers contributed to both teams' poor offensive numbers. The two teams combined for 38 turnovers. Truman's scoring drought could have been irrelevant in the outcome of the game had the 'Dogs

been able to take care of the ball in the first half. The 'Dogs committed 14 of their 21 turnovers in the first half.

Despite the season-long struggles for the Bulldogs, freshman guard Breanna Daniels said before the game that the team was remaining optimistic.

"We all really want it really bad and all [are] working really hard for it," Daniels said. "I think the morale is pretty good. We didn't have a game this weekend so we had some time off to focus our thoughts and come back."

Three Bulldogs finished in double figures for the 'Dogs: Guinn with 12 points, sophomore forward Malorie Kiecker with 11 and Joya with 11.

Before the game, senior guard Eli Medina said the team was focusing on trying to stop Central's three-point shooters — and for the most part the Bulldogs did. Central hit just four threes, which is half its season average.

"We actually are trying a little different tactic and force them to penetrate more than they usually do," Medina said before the game. "We are going to hug the other defenders instead of helping off as much, just to make sure they get no open three-point attacks."

The Jennies are now 53-6 all-time against Truman.

The Bulldogs will try again for their second conference win of the season at 1 p.m. Saturday on the road against Missouri Southern State University.

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Mules wallop 'Dogs

Central Missouri holds men to season-low 46 points

BY JACK NICHOLL
Assistant Sports Editor

The men's basketball team only could keep up with the No. 24 University of Central Missouri Mules for the first half last night.

UCM defeated the Bulldogs 76-46 in Warrensburg. Truman dropped to 6-11 and 1-9 in the MIAA. The Mules' (14-3, 7-3 MIAA) win was their ninth win in their last 10 games.

Truman kept the game close in a low-scoring 25-21 first half despite UCM having a slight advantage in most statistical categories and the 'Dogs only shooting 30 percent from the field. But the Mules were relentless in the second half, outscoring Truman 51-25 and ending the game with a 12-0 run.

"They're a type of team if they can bury somebody, they will," head coach Jack Schrader said Tuesday.

Schrader's pregame words turned out to be prophecy.

In the first part of the second half, the Mules used a 22-to-7 run to pull away for good. Truman was scoreless from the field in the span. The run was exactly the type of occurrence the Bulldogs needed to avoid

for a chance at an upset.

"We tend to go on runs for about a five-minute period of time during the game where we just don't score, and that's not going to get us a win versus Central," sophomore forward Ethan Freeman, who was held to just four points, said before the game.

Truman shot 30 percent from the field for the game and 75 percent from the line. The 'Dogs turned the ball over 14 times compared to just five for UCM.

"[UCM is] a type of team if they can bury somebody, they will."

Jack Schrader
Head Coach

Guard Tremaine Luellen led UCM with 18 points and guard Joe Young added 17 points. Forward Sanjay Watts, who is averaging 14 points a game, was just 2-for-6 from the field.

"Watts and Young are pretty consistent,"

Schrader said before the game. "The others are weapons, but they are inconsistent. You want to make sure they stay inconsistent, and limit what Watts and Young do."

The bright spot for the 'Dogs was the career day for freshman center Vesko Vilchev. Vilchev had a career-high in points and rebounds, with 17 and nine, respectively. He led the team in points and blocks and tied for the team lead in boards.

Vilchev was also 7-for-7 from the free-throw line. Before the game, he was shooting just 40 percent from the stripe.

Filchev has seen increased

playing time as of late as the Bulldogs switched their offense to a four-out, one-in scheme — something they worked on during the off week.

"Once the season gets going, you have a game every couple of days, so you are really worrying about what [the other team is] doing — working on their stuff," sophomore guard Alex Henderson said. "But with the week off we've been able to refine our offense."

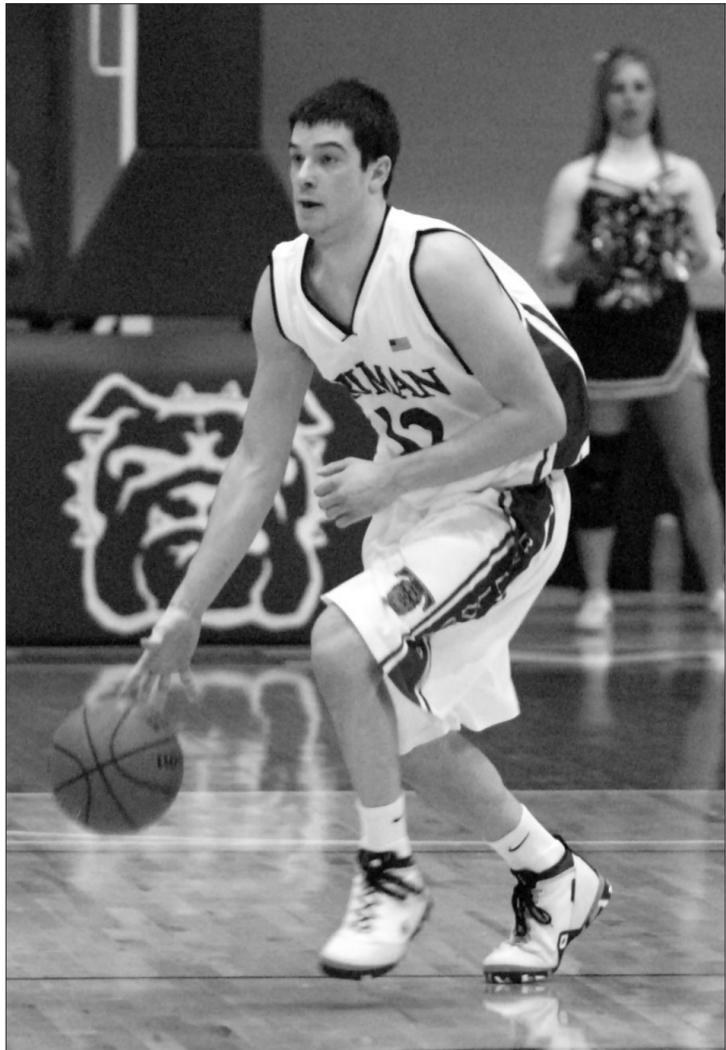
The offense now revolves more around post men Filchev and senior forward Patrick Fandja, who had eight points and nine rebounds.

"We've added more things to it," Freeman said. "We'll go into a game and if a team takes something away we can rebuild our offense and change it around a little bit."

UCM limited senior guard Banks Estridge and junior guard Gabe Landau, who Schrader said missed practice earlier this week because of sickness, to a combined six points and five field goal attempts.

The Bulldogs are last in the MIAA at the halfway point of the conference season. They will have to be one of the top eight teams in the MIAA at the end of the season to make the conference tournament, but they currently hold the head-to-head tiebreaker against Missouri Western, the team that currently is eighth in the MIAA.

Missouri Southern State University is next up for the Bulldogs. The two square off at 3 p.m. Saturday. Truman's next home game is Wednesday against Pittsburg State University.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Senior guard Banks Estridge was one of several Bulldogs held in check offensively last night at the University of Central Missouri. Estridge scored six points on 2-of-4 shooting. Truman ranks last in the MIAA in scoring offense at 63.9 points per game.

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