



Sophomore forward Ethan Freeman drives to the lane Tuesday night against Quincy. Freeman had nine rebounds Tuesday and a career-high 20 points against William Woods on Saturday.

# Men begin season with two victories

BY JACK NICHOLL  
Assistant Sports Editor

Junior guard Gabe Landau made the first free throw to put the 'Dogs up by three with five seconds left.

And then, to put the game out of reach, he made the second.

With that, Truman won 66-62 against Quincy University on Tuesday night at Pershing Arena. The 'Dogs shot 71 percent from the line in the game, including 20-for-28 in the second half, in an area that had been a problem for most of last season.

"I think it's important to have anybody, such as Gabe right there, come up and just knock them down," head coach Jack Schrader said. "I mean, he drained them."

This season marks the Bulldogs' first 2-0 start since 1999-00, when the team went on to win its first seven games.

Truman never trailed against Quincy, but a 10-point lead with 1:18 to go dwindled to just two points with seven seconds left. The Hawks were four for their last five in shooting down the stretch, a vast difference from the first half when they did not score until eight minutes in and were 1-for-10 from beyond the arc.

Truman improved its shooting percentage, steals and free throw percentage in the second half despite Quincy's threat of a comeback.

"I think tonight we found out what it takes to win a close game to the end," sophomore forward Ethan Freeman said. "That's the improvement we made since last year. Last year we really weren't tough enough to take a game for 40 minutes, and this game was all about toughness on both ends of the court."

Truman was just 2-13 in games decided by 10 points or fewer last season. The Bulldogs dominated on the

boards, as they out-rebounded Quincy 42-30, including 17-9 on the offensive side. Truman had 11 second-chance points to eight for the opponent.

Freeman led the 'Dogs with nine rebounds, including four on offense, while playing a team-high 34 minutes.

"I think for this game one or two offensive rebounds and a put-back is a difference between a win and a loss," Freeman said.

Senior guard Banks Estridge fought through a finger injury to post 20 points and five rebounds. But Quincy guard Mookie Pierre led all scorers with 24 points, including seven in the last minute of the game.

The Hawks shot just 26 percent from the field in the first half.

"I knew going into the game the hard part was going to be matchups — getting our right defensive personnel matched up to the guys they can guard the best on the other team," Schrader said.

The win against Quincy came at the heels of an 80-60 season-opening victory against NIAA William Woods University (Mo.) last Saturday.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 10-point lead 10 minutes into the game and never led by less than double digits thereafter. They made five of their first seven shots and shot 62.5 percent overall in the first half, which helped gain momentum for the rest of the game.

"I think the way we did it was good because we're not a team who is just going to blow people away," Schrader said. "So we sort of steamrolled them, kept grinding away."

Last season's team did not get its

first win until its sixth game and broke 80 points three times in 27 games.

Freeman led all scorers with a career-high 20 points and he led the 'Dogs with nine rebounds. He shot 7-for-13 from the field and 6-for-7 from the free-throw line. The free throws were a major upgrade from last season, when he shot only .495.

Estridge added 17 points and six rebounds before injuring his finger early in the second half and sitting out the rest of the game. Even after injuring his hand, he continued to drive to the basket and ended up with two points on the play.

Every Truman player who dressed for the game contributed with at least one rebound and seven minutes of playing time, and every player except one scored a basket.

"Obviously, we're finding out we gain momentum with certain combinations, sometimes we lose momentum," Schrader said. "So it was an up and down game, but I think we did enough things right to build on, and there's still plenty of things to improve on."

The team shot 47.7 from the field and 76.5 from the charity stripe for the game. The 'Dogs outplayed William Woods in every major statistical category except three-point shooting.

"A win is good, [but] it was a little rusty," Estridge said. "We don't like giving up 60 points to teams. But definitely everybody was getting up and down, we just have to find ourselves, execution."

Truman plays at home again at 7:30 tonight against NAIA Central Christian College (Mo.)

"I think tonight we found out what it takes to win a close game to the end."

Ethan Freeman  
Sophomore

# Women fall 76-58 to Quincy

BY KRISTA CRIDER  
Staff Reporter

The Bulldogs traded buckets with Quincy University (Ill.) for the first several minutes and the last several minutes of the first half, but it was the middle that allowed the Hawks to go into halftime with an 11-point lead against the Bulldogs and eventually take the 76-58 win in last night's home opener for the women's basketball team.

Head coach Michael Smith said Quincy came into the game with more overall experience than the young Truman team, which attributed to the Hawks' win.

"[Quincy is] very, very good," Smith said. "They are a team that made it to the Sweet 16 last year, and they have everybody back, so they are experienced, they are mature, they have very good team chemistry, and all those things that we are still trying to build right now, they have. I know that we will get there, but it is just going to take some time."

Truman is now 0-3 this season.

Quincy started the game off with a basket, but the Bulldogs didn't give up easily and took the lead with the next two field goals. After going back and forth, the Hawks responded with a 16-4 run to put themselves at a 31-17 advantage with just more than six minutes left in the first half.

With three minutes left in the half and both teams in the bonus, Truman began to play even with

the Hawks again, taking back some of Quincy's lead. The Bulldogs went into the locker room with the momentum but a 40-29 deficit to make up.

The Bulldogs scored the first two points of the first half off a jumper from Georgia Mueller, but the momentum didn't take them very far. Halfway through the second half, Truman was down 64-42, and never got back within 15 points of QU.

"We are not to the point where we want to be yet," junior guard Laura Joya said. "We can't put everything together. We have little pieces here and there [that we do right]."

Joya said the highlight of the game for the Bulldogs was that they didn't have more than 20 turnovers. In the season's first two games, Truman committed 30 and 28 turnovers, respectively.

But on the downside, Truman gave up 18 offensive boards and let the Hawks score too many points in transition.

At the Texas Women's Invitational in Denton, Texas last weekend, Truman lost its first two games of the season, both by fewer than three points.

The Bulldogs fell 57-55 against Texas Women's University Sunday after a last-second shot attempt by senior forward Georgia Mueller was deflected by TWU leading scorer Renee Renz. Renz scored 20 points, and Mueller had a team-high of 13 for the 'Dogs.

Truman jumped out to take the lead at the start of the game and didn't give it up until five

minutes left in the first half when a three-pointer by Casey Pool put TWU up by one. Truman regained the lead briefly after the Bulldogs converted a steal from junior forward Sarah Seberger into a layup by sophomore guard Natalie Fleming, but TWU retook the lead for good when Renz connected on a jumper in the lane at the 4:20 mark in the first half.

Truman didn't score from the field for the rest of the half, and TWU took a 30-25 lead going into the locker room.

Halfway through the second half TWU capitalized on Truman's mistakes and took an 11-point lead before the Bulldogs used a nine-point run to get back within two points. Mueller said hard work and defense were the reasons Truman was able to make the comeback.

"We came out in the second half, and we kind of gave them a chance to make a run on us," Mueller said. "We just took a step back, got it under control, and decided that we weren't just going to hand them the game, and we got down and we played really good defense, and people made stops, and it opened up a lot of things for us."

But that was as close as the women got. They were unable to convert on two shots in the last five seconds that would have tied the score.

Saturday, the Bulldogs lost their season opener to Cameron University in Texas after letting a 12-point lead with less than four minutes left in regulation slip away. Truman ended up losing 77-76 in double overtime

despite a double-double from Mueller and three other players in double digits in scoring. Smith said the 'Dogs played well, especially with having to face their first overtime, but they were plagued with missed free-throws and turnovers.

"Anytime you have 30 turnovers in a basketball game it's hard to win any games, and we went 9-18 from the free-throw line," Smith said. "So I basically told the team after the game that Cameron didn't beat us, we beat ourselves by turning the ball over so much. I mean, free-throws are easy. They're free points."

Truman committed 58 turnovers during the weekend.

"Everyone knows more turnovers lead to more opportunities for the other team to score and options that we've lost," Mueller said. "It makes it hard that we had a lot of turnovers, but overall each game I think that we're kind of getting it more under control, and I think that as the season goes on, we'll see a major reduction in turnovers, and that will help us keep the momentum that we build in the games."

Smith said turnovers will be a factor for the young team all year, not just in the beginning games. He said the fact that the team doesn't have what he deems a 'true' point guard will be the reason for its problem with turnovers. Junior Julie Guinn started at point guard against Cameron and she had a team high of nine turnovers.

The women next play at Rockurst this Saturday at 2 p.m.



Senior forward Georgia Mueller puts up a layup Wednesday night against Quincy University. Mueller led the Bulldogs with 14 points on 7-of-15 shooting.

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