

'Dogs swept despite strong hitting

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Sports Editor

The Bulldogs had a .368 batting average against No. 2 University of Central Missouri during the weekend but still couldn't pull out a win.

The Mules swept Truman (11-38, 6-30 MIAA) in the four-game series that was rescheduled several times during the weekend because of rainy weather. The 'Dogs were outscored by 35 runs despite being out-hit by only 11.

"If we want to win a game against Central, we have to make sure we're doing everything right," sophomore pitcher Ryan Trimble said. "We've got to pitch, hit and play defense. We haven't been able to put it together, and that's what you have to do to beat them."

The closest game of the series was Game 1, which was part of a doubleheader Saturday. The Bulldogs couldn't rebound from an early deficit and lost 5-3.

The Mules scored four runs in the first two innings but only managed one more run in the last five. Trimble went the distance for his fifth complete game of the season.

"Ryan Trimble came out and gave us a chance to win," head coach Dan Davis said. "With their No. 1 starter, we knew runs would be at a premium. We scored three earned runs against him in six innings, and that's a testament to our offense."

Big innings hurt the Bulldogs throughout the weekend. In the final three games, the teams played a total of 23 innings. In 13 of those innings, Central Missouri scored at least two runs. In seven innings, the Mules scored at least four runs. In the final game of the series, the Bulldogs lost 21-3, and 10 of Central's runs came in one inning.

The Mules also did a good job of getting ahead early. The Bulldogs were behind after the second inning in all four games. After three innings, the 'Dogs were down by at least two runs. In the final two games, Truman found itself down by at least eight runs after the third inning.

Central Missouri had a .417 batting average in the series and hit 10 home runs. They had 60 hits and scored 55 runs.

"In the final game, we walked some guys and then gave up the big hit," Davis said. "Hitting is contagious. Central really started putting hits together. We knew going into the series that they were going to hit. They hit every mistake hard."

On the other side of the ball, the Bulldogs' offense came alive after recent struggles. Truman scored 20 runs in the series and had 49 hits. The nine runs that the 'Dogs scored in the second game was the third-highest by the team this season. The Bulldogs lost the second game 16-9 but showed that they could score some runs against a very good pitching staff.

"We've been missing [offense] this last month," Davis said. "It's good to see us finally break out. It's unfortunate that it happened so late in the season. We only have one weekend left, but we are showing some life."

Sophomore Devon Myers, who had 10 hits during the weekend, led the 'Dogs. He hit two home runs in the second game and had five RBIs, five runs and two doubles during the weekend.

During Game 3, a 13-5 Bulldog loss, the first three batters in the Truman lineup combined to go 9-for-11. Junior second baseman Luke Crader, freshman outfielder Brett Budd and Myers scored four runs and had three RBIs combined.

"We were just relaxing and trying to keep things simple," Myers said. "We're trying to make sure we don't do too much at the plate, such as putting pressure on ourselves. We just let our ability take over."

The second game of the series was delayed because of rain and moved to Sunday. After the game was completed, the scheduled doubleheader was supposed to take place. However, heavy rain moved the final game of the doubleheader to Monday.

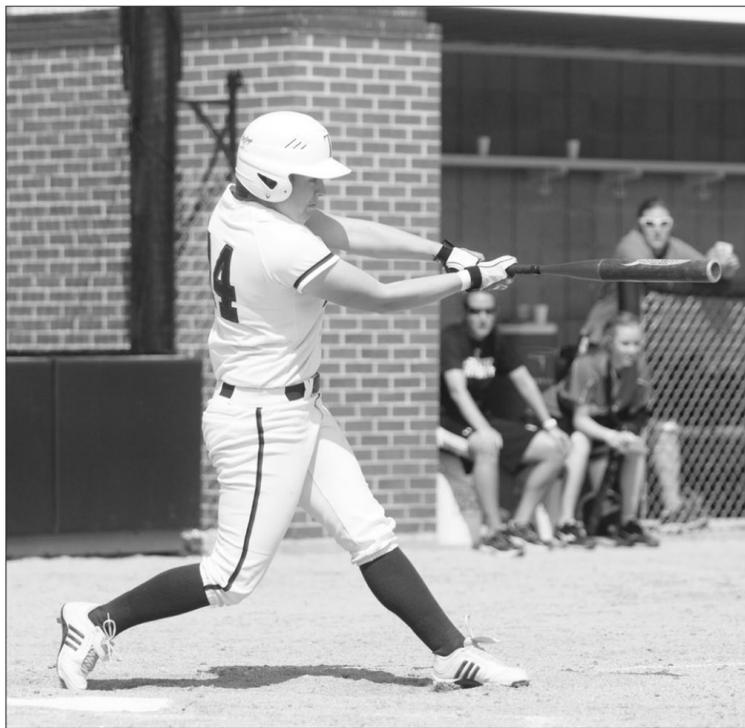
The Bulldogs are slated to play their final four games of the season this weekend against Fort Hays State University. The first game of the series starts at 2 p.m. Friday at the Truman Baseball Field.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Sophomore Ryan Trimble throws to the plate Saturday against Central Missouri. Trimble has pitched five complete games this season.

Baseball All-Time Hits Leaders

191	Patrick Hardin (2002-05)
186	Mike Kubinski (1997-00)
184	KEATON JONES (2007-10)
181	Josh Rubin (2003-06)
175	Aaron Royster (1991-94)



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Sophomore first baseman Mary Manley gets a hit against Missouri Southern earlier this season. Manley leads the team in doubles with seven.

Softball splits series with Lincoln

Bulldogs swept by UNO on Saturday, fall to ninth in MIAA

BY BRENDAN O'BRIEN
Sports Reporter

In its final non-conference softball games of the season, Truman (19-28, 6-8 MIAA) split with the Lincoln University Blue Tigers on Wednesday. The Bulldogs won the first game 6-1 but lost the second game 5-9.

The 'Dogs were defeated twice Saturday against No. 25 University of Nebraska-Omaha, 7-1 and 8-0. Senior Day was originally scheduled for Friday against Northwest Missouri State University but were canceled because of bad weather. The teams will play Sunday at the Truman Softball Pitch.

Senior pitcher Richelle van Gennip held the Mavericks to a single run in the first five innings. The Bulldogs' lone run came when freshman third baseman Kristin Grossman led off the fifth with a homer to left field, but the 'Dogs could not build on it to take the lead. UNO tagged van Gennip for six runs in her final 1.1 innings of work. Northwest had 10 hits while the Bulldogs managed just three.

Truman failed to rebound in game two. Junior pitcher Beth Schnurbusch (4-8), who closed out game 1, gave up seven earned runs in 2.2 innings. Junior

shortstop Alex Weber led off the game for the Bulldogs with a single. Weber did not remain on the basepaths long, as she was thrown out attempting to steal second. Her out was a sign of things to come as UNO's pitcher Lindsey Slocum kept Truman off the basepaths the rest of the game.

Sophomore pitcher Ashley Rotkvich closed out the final 2.1 innings with one unearned run, and Truman dropped two games below .500 in the conference. Despite this, senior utility player Erica LaCombe said she feels the team is in good shape as it prepares for its final conference games.

"I think we're set really well for conference," LaCombe said. "There's like seven teams within one game of each other for conference tournament."

LaCombe said the team could finish third in the MIAA if it manages to win five of its final six conference games. Freshman catcher Meredith Kusky said the Bulldogs are approaching each doubleheader with the right attitude.

"We've been splitting a lot lately, but we're really trying to work hard to just — every time we play a team — get two wins, and I think we're right around there," Kusky said. "I think that the amount we practice and just our attitude will keep us going and get us above that .500 mark by the end of the season."

The team's 19-28 mark is a far cry from being top in the conference, but the 6-8 record in conference games is the key number. Truman will play a doubleheader against Pittsburg State University on Friday, an opponent Truman beat 3-2 in a non-conference game at the MIAA Crossover Tourney on April 18th. The team also defeated Missouri Southern State University 5-2 earlier in the season and will face off against the Lions. Head coach Erin Brown said the team needs to return to basics to make their run now.

"I think it's going back to work on some small things," Brown said. "I want them to see some live pitching and get to see balls and strikes ... to see what they would swing at."

Brown said it is important for the team — LaCombe and van Gennip in particular — to maintain focus with its return to Kirksville to play the rescheduled Senior Day games at 2 p.m. Sunday against rival Northwest. LaCombe said it has been an exciting season and her final game at the Truman Softball Field will be memorable, and the team will not go down without a fight.

"It's definitely an awesome senior year, and I feel blessed to have the year we've had," LaCombe said. "Even once we get to conference, we very much have the potential to win the tournament and beat everybody there."

Softball Single Season STRIKEOUT Leaders

Strikeouts

228	Loni Wedemeier (2005)
198	RICHELLE VAN GENNIP (2010)
181	Loni Wedemeier (2006)
181	Trish Kongable (1986)
172	Tami Billerbeck (1987)

Place Your Ad Here!

.....
indexads@truman.edu

660-785-4319