

# 'Dogs fall to Mo. Southern

## Men's basketball loses conference-opener 84-55

BY LOGAN JACKSON  
Staff Reporter

The men's basketball team opened conference play with a lopsided loss to Missouri Southern State University last night.

The Lions beat the Bulldogs 84-55 in the MIAA opener for both teams. The Bulldogs trailed by only four points at halftime, but were outscored by 25 in the second half.

Junior guard Alex Henderson led the way for Truman with 14 points and nine rebounds. Junior guard Stefan Garrison and sophomore center Vesko Filchev added 13 points apiece. Filchev picked up his third double-double by grabbing 11 rebounds. Freshman guard Tom Norton was also in double figures with 12 points.

The Lions used a tough defense to force 22 Bulldog turnovers. Before the game, Henderson said Truman expected to play against a very good defense.

"The last couple of years, we've matched up pretty well against them," Hender-

son said. "They really try to pressure you on offense and they shot the ball well. They've got a lot of guards and their posts are usually smaller. We're going to try to keep them off the glass, try to make some shots and not turn the ball over."

Lions' guard Jason Adams scored 26 points. Adams was the MIAA Freshman of the Year last year. Southern's guard Skyler Bowlin, who scored in double figures in both games against Truman last year, was held to seven points but had eight assists.

The Bulldogs also didn't get any production from their bench. Truman's bench didn't hit a field goal and made only one free throw the entire night. The Lions scored 29 points off the bench.

Although the Bulldogs have gotten off to a slow start, head coach Jack Schrader said the team has undergone several changes early in the season. After playing two exhibition games against Div. I opponents, Schrader said the Bulldogs looked lost. He told the players to do what they do best, whether that is shoot, drive or post.

"We changed horses in the middle of the game

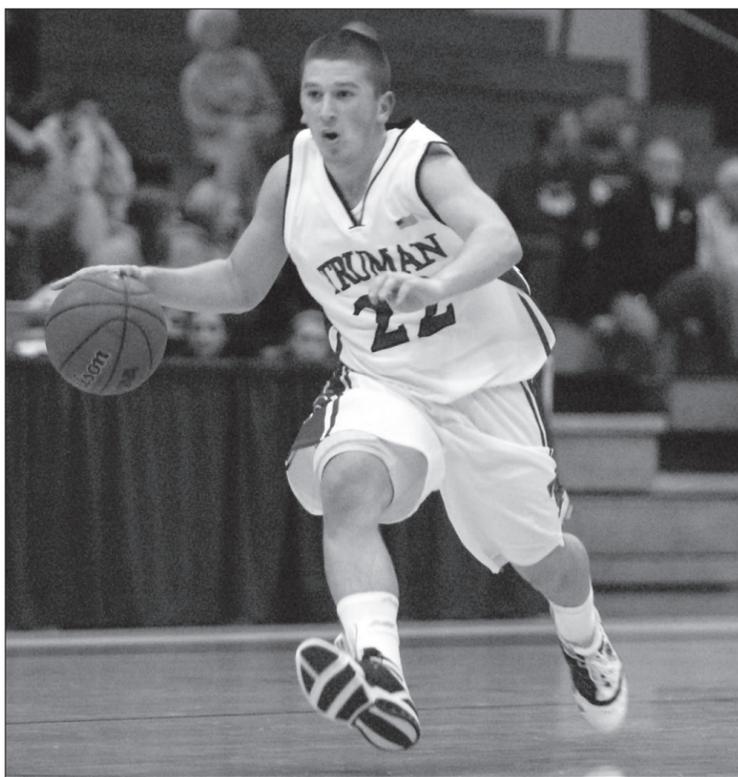
against [University of Missouri-Kansas City]," Schrader said. "The horse we were on wasn't going to get us to where we needed to go. Inexperienced ball handling couldn't get us into the offense and the post hadn't got much better. I said, 'Guys, no mistakes. I don't care what you do as long as it's aggressive, I don't care.'"

On Saturday the Bulldogs hosted Quincy University (Ill.) and couldn't overcome an early deficit. Truman lost 94-61 and shot about 37 percent from the field. The Bulldogs were also outscored by 24 in the paint. Schrader said the Bulldogs had a tougher time with Quincy because of the Hawks' physical play.

"We are not a physically tough team," Schrader said. "We just aren't. We have got to learn to become more physically tough. Quincy was a physical team and we struggled."

Henderson led the way for the Bulldogs with 16 points and five assists. Juniors Ethan Freeman and Garrison scored 13 and 10, respectively.

Defense is still something that the Bulldogs have been working on. Going into Wednesday's game,



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Freshman guard Tom Norton, shown in a game earlier this season, netted 12 last night in a loss to Missouri Southern State University. He was one of four Bulldogs in double-digits.

the Bulldogs were giving up a little more than 80 points per game.

"During practice we've really been working on help defense," Norton said. "We're not going to be able to keep everyone from going to the basket, but if we have everyone helping, the other team won't be able to score as easily. We've been giving up too many layups, so our concentration has to be better."

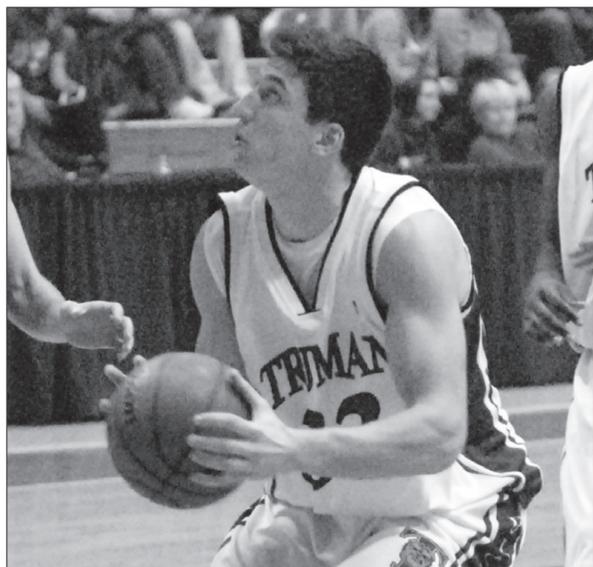
Early in the season, Schrader said the team looked at playing a zone defense. However, he said the zone defense hasn't been effective and the team will focus instead on a man-to-man defense. The zone defense will only be used during certain situations.

"We've tried and gone to the well probably too often

with zones," Schrader said. "Right now we've got to establish something defensively. We have really got to tighten up our defensive rules. We need no transition baskets, no easy shots off penetration, good help defense, and we have to rebound."

The Bulldogs next game is 1 p.m. Saturday against Pittsburg State University at Pershing Arena.

# Misiewicz adjusts to increased role



## Minutes nearly triple, junior forward starts four out of five games

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER  
Editor in Chief

A new season has brought a new offensive philosophy for the men's basketball team.

Last season, the Bulldogs (1-4) alternated between head coach Jack Schrader's traditional three-out, two-in power offense and a four-out, one-in offensive scheme with 6-foot-10 center Vesko Filchev having free reign of the paint.

Schrader has brought back four-out, one-in offense this season — but with a twist. Schrader described the new offense as a "shoot before you turn it over" type of fast-paced offense.

"It's not even close to what we ran last year," Schrader said. "It's, make the first easy play you can. It is as simple as that. Throw it to Vesko, shoot if you're open, drive if you're a driver. Guys are given green lights to do what they do."

Junior forward Mark Misiewicz is one of the players experiencing increased production in the new offensive scheme. Misiewicz has started in four of Truman's games this season, and he is fifth on the team in minutes per game at 18.8. He played 6.5 minutes per game last season.

Junior guard Stefan Garrison said Misiewicz seems a lot more comfortable in the new offense.

"Once he gets in there, there aren't any nerves," Garrison said. "He's athletic as hell, and he can shoot too. He creates a lot of mismatches."

At 6-foot-7, Misiewicz plays the four-position. But he always has been a face-up shooter rather than a back-to-the-basket post player, and the Bulldogs' new offense provides him with plenty of outside shooting opportunities.

Misiewicz led the Bulldogs with 16 points in Truman's season opener against Culver-Stockton College, and he posted 16 again in the Bulldogs' Nov. 24 matchup with the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Misiewicz drained four three pointers in each contest, and he is connecting on 34.5 percent of his attempts from three-point range this season.

"I like [the new offense] a lot better," Misiewicz said. "I think the last two years, we've kind of struggled finding a style and an identity. Last year, we tried different offenses, different lineups."

"With this one it's pretty simple — shoot if you're open, pass if you're not and look inside [to Vesko]. It's a lot easier to play knowing that if you miss a shot, you're not going to come out. It's a lot more fun."

Misiewicz' shooting, however, has been streaky. His two 16-point games have been balanced by two games in which he combined to shoot 5-for-20 from the floor.

But Schrader said that's OK with him. Schrader said he has instructed his players to be aggressive this season.

That mindset has led to Truman averaging 65 field goal attempts

per game through the first four games this season. The Bulldogs never have averaged at least 60 field goal attempts per game in Schrader's 14 previous seasons on the Truman bench.

While Misiewicz thrives behind the arc and slashing to the basket, he said his defense has limited his playing time in the past. Misiewicz worked to improve his defense during the offseason by adding about 20 pounds of muscle so he can better match up with MIAA forwards.

"I definitely have gotten a lot better defensively since freshman year, and I know freshman year that was a big knock on why I didn't see as many minutes, and last year even," Misiewicz said. "But with the weight that I've put on, I feel lot stronger, and I can already tell a difference in these first couple games."

"So I think I'll be fine. ... It's not exactly my strong suit, but I think I'll do OK."

If Misiewicz struggles at all defensively, the Bulldogs have another option in junior forward Ethan Freeman, who frequently started at the four-position the past two seasons. Freeman has been Truman's sixth man so far this year.

Schrader said he's not opposed to putting both Misiewicz and Freeman on the floor at the same time as the two bring different offensive talents to the table.

"Mark is a perimeter shooter, and Ethan's a driver," Schrader said.

# Ball'er

Career Numbers: **Mark Misiewicz**

Year	Min/gm	FG %	3-PT %	Reb/gm
2007-08	10.9	39.0	30.8	1.9
2008-09	6.5	45.9	38.1	0.8
2009-10	18.8	33.3	34.5	4.2

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