

Women drop MIAA Opener

Bulldogs allow 10 three pointers in 79-65 loss to Missouri Southern

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

Before last night's game against Missouri Southern State University, head coach Michael Smith said the Bulldogs had to stop guard Jasmine Lovejoy off the dribble and contain Southern's three-point attack.

The Bulldogs (3-3, 0-1 MIAA) did neither as Lovejoy scored 20 points and the Lions added 10 three pointers to down Truman 79-65 in the MIAA opener for both teams.

Senior guard Sara Seberger made a jumper with nine minutes left in the first half to give Truman a 20-19 lead, the last the Bulldogs would have. The Lions responded with a 13-3 run.

Lovejoy scored all of her points inside the three-point line, but guard Jolea Apon feasted on the Bulldogs from beyond the arc, hitting 8-of-13 on her way to a game-high 28 points. She leads the MIAA with 22 three pointers.

"There was no perimeter defense," Smith said.

Southern shot 54 percent from the field, partly because of how well they shared the basketball. The Lions had 19 assists on 33 baskets. The Bulldogs had just nine assists and shot 43 percent from the floor.

Lovejoy also benefited from some second-chance points by garnering five offensive rebounds to go along with her five defensive rebounds.

Senior guard Laura Joya had 20 points to lead the Bulldogs. It

was Joya's third straight 20 point game.

Freshman point guard Amy Galey and sophomore guard Bri Daniels struggled to give Joya support. Galey finished with three points and was 0-for-7 from the floor. Daniels scored eight points on 4-for-16 shooting, including 0-for-6 on three pointers.

The Bulldogs lost, despite finishing with a season-low 10 turnovers, seven below their season average.

During Thanksgiving Break the Bulldogs got a chance to step up their level of competition, and nearly defeated their first ranked opponent since the 2008 MIAA Tournament.

The Bulldogs completed a four-game stretch Saturday night with a 70-62 victory against Lincoln University.

On Nov. 24 the Bulldogs went toe-to-toe at No. 19 Quincy University, before losing 69-67 on a pair of free throws in the game's final seconds.

With the game tied at 67, Seberger fouled Quincy guard Jeanette Burgin as she drove to the basket with two seconds remaining. Burgin made both shots and the Bulldogs did not get a final shot off.

Smith said there might have been contact between Seberger and Burgin, but said he wished the call would not have been made in that situation.

"Let the kids decide it," Smith said. "I think it was more the of-

ficial blew the whistle and realized he blew the whistle and had to make the call. They didn't have a choice but to make the call. We didn't knock the girl down. There was nothing that would be obvious to call, but those things happen."

Truman fell behind 13-2 early, but slowly chipped away at the lead. The Bulldogs used a 16-5 run early in the second half to take a 52-50 lead with just more than 10 minutes remaining.

Truman extended the lead to five with just more than three minutes left, due in part to a four-minute scoring drought by Quincy. But the Hawks fought back down the stretch, holding Truman to just one basket in the final three minutes.

"They nailed tough shots," Joya said. "They are just a good team."

Smith said he wants Truman to be where Quincy is at now.

"Quincy has a program to where I want to be — meaning when they step on the floor they expect to win every game," Smith said.

The Bulldogs also defeated Southwest Minnesota State 71-59, but lost to Minnesota State-Moorhead University 76-55. Southwest Minnesota is receiving votes in the USA TODAY/ESPN Coaches Poll.

Joya continued her strong play. She averaged 16.5 points per game during the four games, including a pair of 21-point games against Lincoln and Quincy.

Turnovers continued to be a problem for the Bulldogs during the stretch of games. Truman com-

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Michael Smith
Head Coach



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Senior guard Julie Guinn was one of three Bulldogs in double figures during last night's 14-point loss to Missouri Southern. She had 10 points.

mitted 78 turnovers in the last five games. Opposing teams this season have averaged 8.2 steals per game against the Bulldogs.

"A lot of them seem to be stolen passes," Daniels said. "So we are really working on making sure we are making smart passes and making good angles."

Joya continued her strong offensive play. She averaged 16.5 points per game during the four games, including a pair of 21-point games against Lincoln and Quincy.

Truman plays Pittsburg State University at 1 p.m. Saturday in the conference home opener.

Joya, Daniels lead Bulldogs' offense

BY JACK NICHOLL
Sports Editor

The motion offense Michael Smith, women's basketball head coach, implemented in his first season last year has taken immediate effect this season. The offense features more movement, few set plays and a plethora of scoring opportunities for multiple players.

The transition has not been lost on senior guard Laura Joya. Joya, one of the five returners from last season, has moved to the two-guard this season — her natural position — to make room for freshman Amy Galey at the point.

The results show. Joya leads the team with 17.5 points per game, including 21 in her last two entering Wednesday night's conference-opener against Missouri Southern State University. Joya has scored at least 13 points in five games this season.

Meanwhile, Galey leads the team with 23 assists.

"She draws the defenders, I look where I can get open, and that's where she distributes the ball," Joya said. "She's really quick so she can break anyone down, and if anyone draws on her, then she'll definitely look for the open man."

Joya said there is less pressure on her at the two-guard



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Senior guard Laura Joya (left) and sophomore guard Bri Daniels have been offensive forces for the Bulldogs this season. The duo has combined to average 28 points per game this season for the 3-3 Bulldogs.

because she no longer takes the ball down the court. She said she now focuses more on shooting and less on turnovers.

Entering Wednesday, Joya was shooting at a .541 clip, including a 9-for-18 mark from beyond the arc. She also led the team in minutes, shots and steals.

"Whatever [the defense] gives me, I'll take," Joya said.

"I'm not going to try to force anything unless coach wants me to."

The second-year experience in the motion offense also improved the play of sophomore forward Bri Daniels. She is averaging 10.8 points per game, up from 8.6 last season. The biggest difference is in her three-point shooting, which is up more than 10 percent.



"I've been able to read the defense a lot better this year," Daniels said. "There were times last year where I felt like I was just doing the same thing over and over again and stuff like that, but this year I feel like I've definitely got better at reading the defense."

But Daniels has helped the team in more ways than scoring. Daniels shot only

4-for-13 against Lincoln University last Friday, but she led the team with eight rebounds.

Smith said the addition of Galey has had an effect on Daniels as well, but on the defensive side.

"Between Amy and Joya, those two can match up against the other team's best perimeter players, and that takes a little pressure off Bri,

because Bri is not quite as quick defensively as Amy or Joya," Smith said.

Daniels said she started to settle down at the end of last season, and she entered this season knowing what to expect out of the team and the motion offense.

"She's using her strengths," Smith said. "She's not a great ball handler, and she knows it, but we're using her strengths — meaning coming off screens, driving the ball."

The improved production from Joya and Daniels started with the motion offense. Unlike last year, when forward Georgia Mueller was the go-to offensive threat, the team now relies more on outside players to score. Senior starting forward Sarah Seberger is fourth on the team in points, and junior forward Malorie Kiecker is sixth.

These four players, along with senior guard Julie Guinn, are the five that had experience with Smith's motion offense entering this season.

"It was definitely a big help this year with the five returners that we knew what we were doing," Daniels said. "Because it was like having five more coaches out there to help teach the new ones, and we knew what we were looking for so we knew how to better develop what we were already working on."

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