Bulldogs win three in a row for first time all season

BY BRENT FOSTER Assistant Sports Editor

Just when it looked like the Northwest Missouri State University Bulldogs' season was over, the game opened in the second half and the season's hottest team turned it up a notch.

Sophomore guard Becka McHenry poured in a team-high 27 points, and senior guard Laura Joya added 19 to help head coach Thomas (55-13, 5-13 in the MIAA) get the win. The Bulldogs (10-15, 5-13 in the MIAA) beat Truman (10-15, 5-13) 99-91 in overtime.

The win against Fort Hays upset Fort Hays (12-13, 7-10) two out of the past three times.

The 'Dogs shot a season-high 67.9 percent from the field, including 67.9 percent in the first half and 57.1 percent in the second half. The Bulldogs shot 40 for 53 in the game.

The win against Fort Hays gave the Bulldogs a conference record of 5-13. They need to win one of the remaining two games to finish with a .500 conference record.

Sophomore guard Bri Dan- iels had a team-high 19 to help the Bulldogs upset Fort Hays. The Bulldogs trailed 51-39 with less than five minutes left. The Bulldogs scored 21 of the final 28 points to come back from a 12-point deficit.

Sophomore guard Brian Galey scored 14 of her 27 points in overtime and made 10-of-12 free throws, including 10-of-11 in the final 90 seconds.

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Fresenius sophomore Becky Moloney prepares to take a shot during last night's 99-91 overtime victory against Northwest Missouri State University. Moloney scored 27 points and had 10 rebounds during 34 minutes.

Simek nabs three A cuts at conference meet

BY JACQUE NICHOL Senior Staff Writer

Listening hard. coach Mark Gallo nearly wanted freshman Jerod Simek to choose the 500-yard freestyle when he gave Simek the decision between that and the 200-yard individ- ual medley for his first event at the NSISC meet in Colorado Springs, Colorado, last weekend.

Gallo had it in the race to prep Simek for the event and bring the 500-yard freestyle to the state meet last year. After a test event the day before the race, he chose the 500-yard freestyle.

“I’ve always known he could do it,” Gallo said. “I’ve watched him swim. So, I knew he was capable. But, my freestyle was going to be his best stroke. I knew, or he wouldn’t have been here, but my freestyle was running in his head. I know what he could do."

Simek said, “My mom was here and, so, I was like, ‘I’ll just do the 500.’”

It wasn’t as good as the decision. Simek placed eighth in the 500-yard freestyle, 1:34.24, about one second ahead of the state record needed to make a spot at the national meet in March and took off the pressure for the rest of the conference meet. It is the 12th fastest time in the history.

Simek said, “I freaked, I panicked right off the bat. I knew it was going to be a little bit harder.”

Gallo’s advice to Simek was simple: "It’s going to be a slow race, but at the end of the race, I want you to take the first place for a moment."

Gallo had one other advice to Simek on the 200-yard individual medley: “You have to relax and trust the process. Trust that the 1:50 is going to be there, but at the end of the race, take a deep breath."

Simek said, “It was an A cut for me.”

Simek ranked second in the nation in the 200-yard individual medley. He also chose the 1,650-yard freestyle, 15:07.28, and 500-yard freestyle, 4:30.77.

Simek received his first qualifier from Truman, all-American qualification at the NSISC.

It seems he made the decision that was his goal for the season.

Gallo said, “I wanted to try to get an A cut. Even after Simek chose not to swim the 200-yard individual medley, he was still in the race. He swam the 1,650-yard freestyle in 15:07.28, the 200-yard individual medley in 1:50.86, and 400-yard freestyle in 3:44.31.

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