

'Dogs hang tough, fall to Washburn

Scoring droughts doom women in loss to No. 13 Lady Blues

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

The women's basketball team kept the score close for most of the game, but dropped a 50-38 decision to No. 13 Washburn University last night at Pershing Arena.

Junior guard Amy Galley made a layup with five minutes remaining that cut the Lady Blues' (17-3, 11-3 MIAA) lead to two points, but the 'Dogs (7-14, 2-12 MIAA) did not score the rest of the game.

Washburn used a decisive advantage on the inside, highlighted by an 18-8 advantage on the offensive glass, and a 36-16 advantage in points in the paint. The Lady Blues used the advantages to overcome a 34 percent shooting performance. Washburn was averaging 42 percent entering the game.

"They have probably one of the best or second best defensive teams in the conference," head coach Michael Smith said. "We needed to get to the free-throw line, and we didn't do it."

Sophomore guard Bri Daniels led Truman with 11 points, but she got little help from her teammates. The 'Dogs shot 32 percent from the field and got to the line only six times. Their 38

points was the second-lowest output this season. The 'Dogs scored 33 points during a Jan. 20 loss to the University of Central Missouri.

Senior guard Laura Joya did not score for the first time this season. She played 16 minutes but just three in the second half.

Washburn led 28-22 at halftime, thanks to another five-plus minute scoring drought for Truman late in the first half. Daniels made a 3-pointer with 6:56 left in the half to put the Bulldogs up 19-17. Truman did not score again until freshman guard Becca McHenry made a 3-pointer with 1:03 left in the half.

Truman's post players could not contain Washburn forward Dayna Rodriguez, who led all scorers with 22 points and 13 rebounds. The Lady Blues won the turnover battle 16-8.

Emporia State University proved Saturday why they are the No. 5 team in the country. The Hornets outscored Truman 61-26 during a 26-minute stretch and cruised to a 76-60 vic-

tory against the Bulldogs.

Truman made four of its first five shots from the floor to take a 14-6 lead eight minutes into the game, but it was all Emporia (19-1, 12-1 MIAA) after that. The Hornets led by 12 at halftime and ballooned the lead to 29 points midway through the second half.

"What I talked to my team about at halftime was that how it could go from 12 to 25 in the first five minutes, and I'll be darned if it didn't do that," Smith said.

The Bulldogs switched offenses late in the game back to the motion offense. The 'Dogs switched from the motion offense to a spread offense six games ago.

Using the motion offense, the 'Dogs cut the deficit from 29 to 14. Smith said he wanted to change things up and see how much of the motion offense the team could remember.

"We were able to score points off of that [motion], so I don't know what it's going to be like from here on out," McHenry said.

Emporia entered the game outrebounding opponents by more than 11 per game, but had just a 37-36 advantage on the glass. The difference in the game came on the offensive end, where Emporia outshot Truman 48-36 percent and made 11 3-pointers.

Cassandra Boston — the MIAA's leading scorer — scored just nine points. She entered the game averaging more than 18 points per game. But Emporia flexed its muscles with depth as four Hornets scored in double figures.

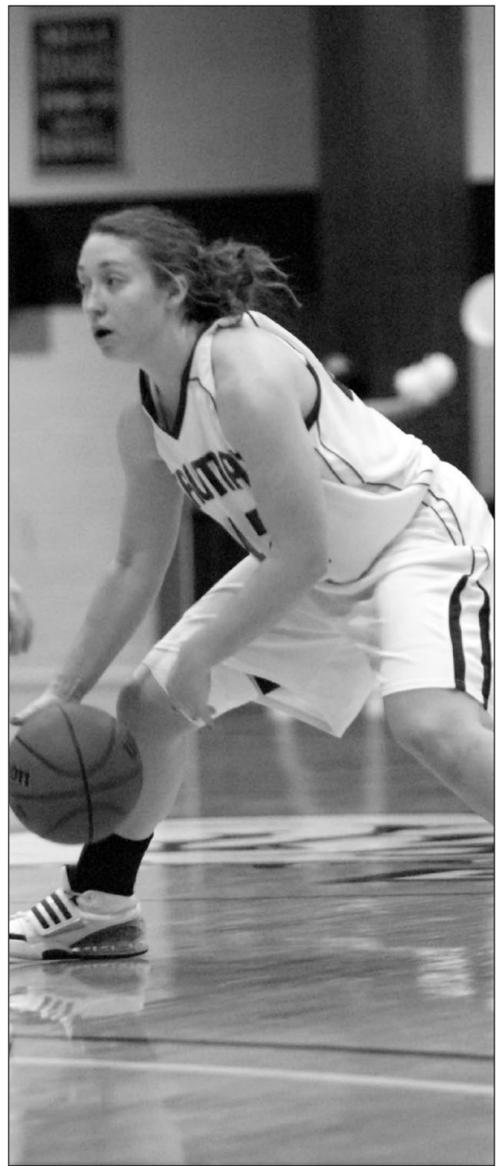
The Bulldogs had 13 assists and 12 turnovers.

Daniels led all scorers with 16 points on 6-of-12 shooting, including 4-for-4 from beyond the arc. Daniels is Truman's leading scorer, averaging 12.1 points per game. McHenry added nine points and three assists.

Joya, who led the team in scoring all season until Saturday, scored two points in 19 minutes off the bench. This was the seventh straight game she has come off the bench after starting the first 13. Joya did not elaborate why she is no longer in the starting lineup, but said it has taken time to adjust to not starting.

"It's a big adjustment that I'm still not used to," Joya said.

The 'Dogs return to action at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Southwest Baptist University.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Sophomore guard Bri Daniels drives to the basket during a last night's game. Daniels scored 11 points in the 50-38 loss to No. 13 Washburn University.

"They have probably one of the best or second best defensive teams in the conference. We needed to get to the free throw line and we didn't do it."

Michael Smith
Head Coach

'Dogs take 15th at Wheaton Open

Three Bulldogs place, Braidlow paces team with sixth-place finish

BY CORY WEEKES
Staff Reporter

Last year, head coach Dave Schutter went to the Wheaton College Open knowing it was the perfect opportunity for his team to prove itself against tough competition before regionals. He left with only one wrestler, senior Loyde Braidlow, making it to the second day, placing sixth overall.

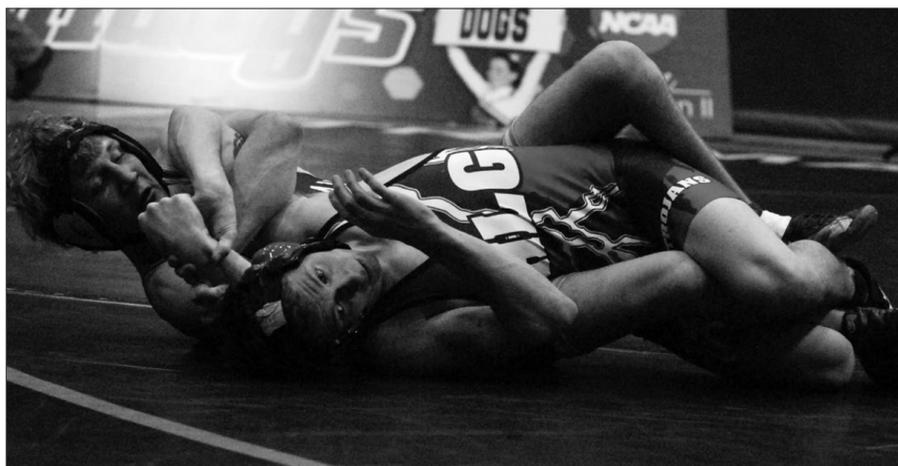
This year, Schutter found himself in a similar position. With the team floundering, it was important to do well at Wheaton.

"Wheaton is one of the toughest tournaments of the year," Schutter said. "If a guy places at Wheaton, it usually means he will make it to the national tournament."

With a full roster for the first time in weeks, the 'Dogs had four wrestlers advance to the second day and three placed. Braidlow was the highest, coming in fourth. The team finished 15th out of 30 teams.

Braidlow went into the open seeded fifth in the heavyweight division. He won two one-point matches in a row before losing to the No. 1 ranked wrestler in the tournament.

In the wrestlebacks, Braidlow won his first match, but in the third-place match, he fell to an opponent whom he beat once already in the



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Freshman Ryan Banning (left) wrestles during a dual. Banning has a 21-12 record this season.

tournament.

"Loyde made a mistake in overtime," Schutter said. "Regardless, it was a good performance, and he is looking solid."

The Bulldogs' performance at Wheaton isn't the only good news for the team. Freshman Colton Schmitz who, at one point, led the team in wins, might return from a knee injury that was supposed to sideline him for the rest of the year.

"There is no doubt that Schmitz's return would bode well for the team," Schutter said.

Schmitz has been working out

with the team and might weigh in Friday when the team hosts Newman College at home in Pershing Arena.

"Anytime you get an impact player back and into the lineup it's huge," Schutter said. "Getting Schmitz back bolsters up the whole team."

Braidlow has gotten progressively better as the year has gone on and looks to make his second appearance in the national championships. Last year, he missed nationals because of a double-overtime loss at regionals.

During the year, Braidlow has gone from starting slow to wres-

tling better than he ever has, a detail that Schutter said is the key to his success.

"Back early in the season, Loyde wasn't wrestling that well, but because he hung in there he has really improved," Schutter said. "There is plenty of time left in the season to get better."

Braidlow has placed in almost all of the last 10 tournaments and said he isn't changing anything.

"I am just working on making my strengths stronger," Braidlow said. "I'm just sticking with the game plan and wrestling with more discipline."

Newman College will be looking to kill Truman's momentum Friday. "They are going to be tough," Schutter said. "We have to have a good showing and especially when competing in front of a home crowd."

The last time Truman wrestled at home they beat Hannibal-LaGrange College by a large margin. Schutter and the team hopes to continue its streak now that everyone is back from injury.

"We are all pretty healthy now," Schutter said. "All except for Schmitz. If he could come back, it would be a huge boost to this team." Schmitz said he hopes to return this week.

"I'm feeling a lot better and have been working out with the team," Schmitz said. "I'll just have to wait and see how everything goes come Friday."

If the team were to get Schmitz back, all the starters would be back and Alex Maus, who has been attempting to drop weight to take Schmitz's place, could go back up and wrestle at his favorable weight class. Maus now leads the team in wins and is a vital part of the Truman lineup.

Schutter said the Bulldogs are not going to make any changes in the way they approach tournaments from here on out.

"If we just stick to the game plan we will win matches," Schutter said. "I'm confident that we will be exceptional as a team if we can keep our guys healthy."

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