

# Men snap streak against PSU

## Bulldogs defeat Gorillas for first time on road in 22 games

BY LOGAN JACKSON  
Staff Reporter

A clutch three pointer from junior guard Stefan Garrison and good free-throw shooting in the final seconds gave the men's basketball team its second conference win, 62-58.

The win gave Truman (4-15, 2-10 MIAA) a sweep of Pittsburg State University this season and ended the Bulldogs' 11-game losing streak. Before the game, head coach Jack Schrader said the team has been working hard and needed a win.

"I do know [the losing streak] weighs on the guys," Schrader said. "You go in the kitchen, and you're smelling victory, but you haven't tasted it yet. That makes you hungrier. We have to get hungrier and execute."

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 17-12 lead but went cold offensively and ended the half just 9-for-27 from the floor. The Gorillas went on a 19-5 run and maintained a nine-point lead at the half. Before the game, junior forward Ethan Freeman said Pittsburg State has several offensive weapons.

"[Pittsburg State] runs

several different offenses and have several guys who contribute," Freeman said. "We're going to come out ready for anything. They only have one conference win as well, and they'll be looking to get us back. We're going to come out ready to play."

The Bulldogs continued to struggle scoring, however, the Gorillas didn't take advantage. Pittsburg State extended the lead to 10 before Truman started to make its move. Back-to-back three pointers put the Bulldogs within four, and the two teams traded baskets for several more minutes.

With less than 40 seconds left and down by two, Garrison hit the go-ahead three. Freshman guard Tom Norton added two free throws with 20 seconds left to extend the lead to three. The defense forced a turnover, and two more free throws by junior guard Alex Henderson iced the game.

Before the game, Schrader said the Bulldogs needed to focus their energy on being assertive.

"[Pittsburg State] is playing better execution basketball," Schrader said. "We have to go down there and guard them and take the ball to them. We have to be aggressive and play our game. It is to our advantage that

we know we can beat them."

Truman had four starters in double figures. Garrison and Norton lead the way for the Bulldogs with 15 points and 13 points, respectively. Sophomore center Vesko Filchev and Henderson scored 13 and 11, respectively. Filchev also added eight rebounds.

Freeman scored nine points but controlled the glass for Truman. He ended the game with 15 rebounds as the Bulldogs out-rebounded the Gorillas by three.

The Bulldogs lost their 11th-straight game Saturday at the hands of Missouri Southern State University, 79-69.

Although the Bulldogs picked up another loss, it was an improvement from the first time the two teams met. During their first meeting Dec. 2, the Lions destroyed Truman by 29 points. Schrader said Saturday's game was a testament to how much the team has improved since the beginning of the season.

"We concentrated on keeping the ball in the middle of their pressure," Schrader said. "A team that causes you to turn it over, gets [turnovers] in clusters. They had two small clusters, where there were three or four turnovers in a row. Earlier [this season], that would

have made us implode. Now, we recover."

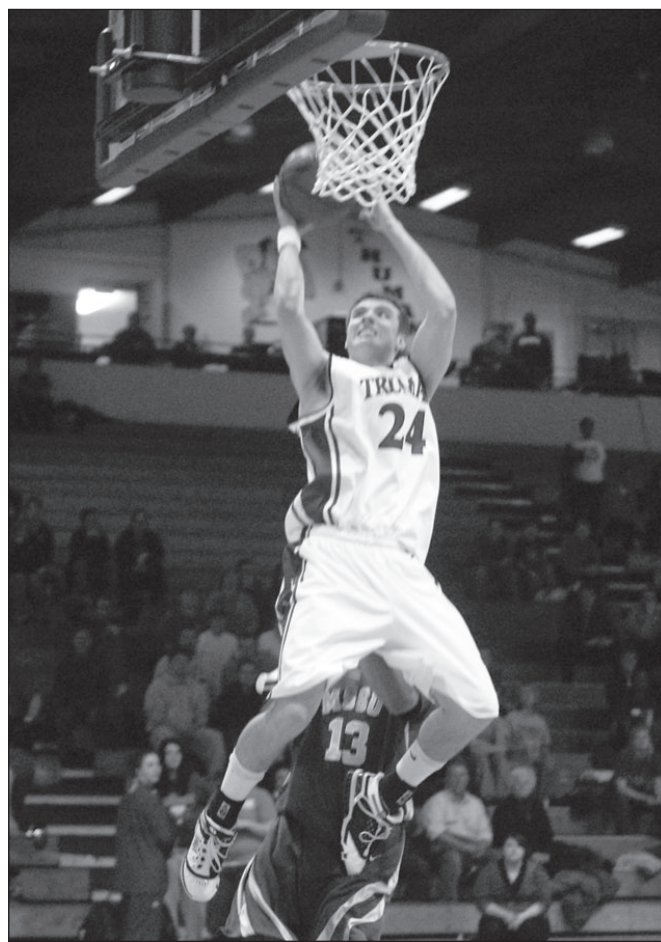
Turnovers hurt the Bulldogs down the stretch. They coughed up the ball 13 times in the first half and 10 times in the second. The Lions took advantage of the Bulldog miscues and scored 30 points off turnovers. Missouri Southern also out-scored Truman by five in second-chance points.

"We knew turnovers were a key," Schrader said. "We knew we were going to have some turnovers because they're just really good at [forcing turnovers]. The idea was to not let the turnovers bother us."

Missouri Southern is No. 1 in the MIAA in turnovers forced per game.

The game was tied at 35 at the end of the first half, after Missouri Southern's junior guard Skyler Bowlin drilled a three at the buzzer. It was just one of two threes the Lions made Saturday. Truman shot 50 percent from the field in the first half and hit four three pointers but found themselves without a lead. Norton said the Bulldogs still struggled with holding onto the ball.

"Offensively, when we got it to a half-court offense, I didn't feel like they could stop us," Norton said. "We gave up too many easy buckets again. The first game we



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Junior guard Stefan Garrison hit the go-ahead three pointer with less than 40 seconds left against PSU last night.

gave up a ton of easy baskets, but this game was better."

Norton led the 'Dogs with 20 points. Norton matched his career-high and became the first Bulldog to score 20

points in a game twice this season. Henderson scored 14 points. Filchev added 13 points and seven rebounds. Garrison also was in double figures with 11 points.

## Track competes at Iowa Open

### Biermann breaks two school records at Iowa State Open

BY JOCELYN NEBEL  
Staff Reporter

Despite the presence of Div. I teams and Olympic trial athletes, the men's and women's track teams showed their strength last weekend at the Iowa State Open.

"When we're talking about competing and racing, this is the kind of level that you have to deal with," head coach John Cochrane said.

"We have to develop this ability to compete and understand that you're going to have to be nasty in order to be successful."

Senior Katrina Biermann was one of those competitive athletes. Biermann competed in the seeded pole vault and the women's triple jump and placed first and second, respectively. Her vault of 13-1/4 feet set a new Truman indoor record. Biermann's jump defeated her previous record by 4 3/4 inches. Biermann also topped the indoor triple jump school record with a jump of 38-11 1/2 which beat the previous record set by Biermann and former Bulldog Christin Lauer. Biermann is now second in the pole vault in Div. II and has automatically qualified for the national meet in March.

"This is the first year that [Biermann] was able to survive the training in the vault the way we wanted to have her do it," Cochrane said. "Last year we got into November, and then she got a little sore. This year, she got all the plyometric stuff, the running and

training. She's a lot faster than she was last year. She worked hard this summer to get her strength levels really good, and that's the thing with getting to be good."

Sophomore distance runner Dani Dell'Orco was another top competitor for the women's team. She ran the anchor leg for the fifth-place women's distance medley relay and placed fourth in the seeded 3,000-meter run. Dell'Orco's time of 10:05.05 was a new personal best and nearly seven seconds faster than her season-best time last week.

The women's distance medley relay had the opportunity to get a provisional mark at the meet. Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, they completed the race in 12:20.33, about 3.5 seconds short of a provisional mark.

Dell'Orco said coming up short of the provisional mark could have been caused by a number of small reasons, including messy handoffs and athletes cutting off their teammates.

Other top competitors for the women's team included freshman distance runners Karen and Cindy Graul. The sisters competed in the unseeded women's 3,000-meter run and placed first and second, respectively.

"So far [Schwegler] has been putting them in the same events, so we'll see where that goes," Dell'Orco said. "They do always run together in practice, and it makes sense. I mean, they've been training together their entire lives."

The men's team also had some top performances. Junior thrower Derek Atwood placed third in the

men's shot put with a throw of 51-1 feet. Teammate freshman Matt Smith placed 10th in the same event with a throw of 46-7 1/2.

"Derek's doing OK," Cochrane said. "He's just got some technical things he has to address, [but] he's done pretty well."

Other top competitors for the men included junior distance runner John Venner. He won the men's non-seeded 3,000-meter run with a time of 9:01.94.

Cochrane also said sophomore distance runner Mike Dial and freshman distance runner Chad Petrofsky run well last weekend. Dial and Petrofsky placed third and fifth in the non-seeded 5,000-meter run, respectively.

Although the Bulldogs had many top performances, Cochrane said the team needs more competitors to do well in the next meets.

"One of the biggest things we're seeing right now is that some people are getting after it and competing and some people are just there," Cochrane said. "The ones that are just there need to get after it and compete harder and be nastier, and if they were to do that, it would help a great deal."

Sophomore sprinter Ryan Peterson is a newcomer to the Bulldogs track team. A transfer student from Missouri University of Science and Technology, Peterson said Cochrane placed him in a variety of races to help him compete harder and find his strengths.

"[Cochrane] put me in the 200-[meter run] just because he said, 'You need to run really fast races sometimes just so you get the feel of running extremely fast,'" Peterson said. "Now he's trying to see where I'd be best at. He might actually pull me up to the 800 as well."

The Bulldogs travel Saturday to Cedar Falls, Iowa, to compete in the UNI Invitational.

## TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

**Athletics:** CBS Sports interviews athletes

CBS College Sports is visiting campus this week to interview selected athletes for a monthly television show.

Athletes from various sports, including senior swimmers Andrew McCall and Kate Aherne, volleyball junior Ashley Petak, women's golfer junior Jen Lawson and baseball sophomore Steven Rose will be interviewed. The show is titled "On Campus" and focuses on the life of a student-athlete.

Lawson said the show will air sometime in February, but the exact date is currently unknown.

**Track:** Graul sisters place top two at Iowa State

Some of the top Bulldog track and field performances this year have come from the sister act of freshmen distance runners Karen and Cindy Graul. The Graul sisters competed in the non-seeded 3,000-meter run this weekend at the Iowa State Open and placed first and second. Karen Graul led the pack with a time of 10:39.05, about 13 seconds faster than her sister Cindy. Head coach John Cochrane said this time would have placed Karen seventh had she run in the seeded event. Sophomore distance runner Dani Dell'Orco said the sisters raced very well and she expected them to place first and second.

"I had a lot of admiration for Karen, who recognized that the pack was not going to be going their pace at the beginning, and she took it out and she finished quite a few seconds ahead of her sister, but she recognized that the pace wasn't going to be in [assistant coach Tim Schwegler's] plan," Dell'Orco said.

The Graul sisters will compete Friday and Saturday in the UNI Invitational in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**Men's Swimming:** Tillis, Simek eye National Cuts

Sophomore Brian Tillis said midway through December that his competition with freshman Jerod Simek would be essential throughout the year.

"It does a lot, not even in races most of the time but day-to-day training," Tillis said. "I think that's where most of the benefit comes from. Day to day we train against each other. We have positive competition. I think both of us come out better because of that."

Tillis' words have held true. He has two B cuts and Simek has four, good for six of the team's 10 total. Head coach Mark Gole said that based on what he has seen lately, he is confident both Tillis and Simek will get their A cuts in the mile.

"For [Jerod Simek] to die and go an in-season best time — I mean — he was excited about it because you've got to be able to beat 9:40 at the 1,000 to make your A cut in the mile," Gole said of Simek's race at Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Despite the fact that Simek beat Tillis by 10 seconds in that race, the rivalry continues daily in practice.

"We're finding that Jerod kind of races a little faster in-season than Tillis does, but Tillis is training out of his mind right now, and he's done significantly better and bigger things in practice on a daily basis this year," Gole said.



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