

Women defeat Hannibal 58-54

Bulldogs rally from 10 down for second-half comeback

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

The women's basketball team was in danger of losing its season opener Tuesday night until sophomore guard Bri Daniels came to the rescue with seven points in less than a minute to lift Truman to a 58-54 comeback victory against Hannibal LaGrange College.

The Bulldogs trailed the NAIA school 50-43 with 4:33 remaining when Daniels kicked it into another gear. She made two free throws to cut the lead to five. On Hannibal's ensuing possession, senior guard Laura Joya came up with a steal and kicked it to Daniels who drained a three pointer.

Daniels stole a pass on Hannibal's next possession and turned it into a layup, but

what might have been her biggest play came on Truman's next possession. With just less than three minutes left and the score tied 50-50, Daniels drove to the basket and looked like she was going up for a shot, but instead passed to a wide open freshman forward Jennifer Conway. Conway made the short jumper for her only points of the game and gave Truman the lead for the first time since early in the first half.

Daniels added two free throws to ice the game with less than 10 seconds left.

"That's what she does," Joya said. "She knocks down the free throws with a year of experience."

Truman struggled to stop Hannibal's guard penetration in the first half. The Trojans scored 22 points in the paint, mostly from their guards driving to the basket. Hannibal's strong guard play allowed the Trojans to take a 31-28 lead at halftime. But

"When we were down 10 I was worried, but I wasn't going to tell my team I was worried because I wanted to see what they were made of."

Michael Smith
Head Coach



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Junior point guard Amy Galey drives to the basket during Tuesday's victory against Hannibal LaGrange College.

the Bulldogs made the necessary adjustments at halftime and forced Hannibal's guards to stop and take more out-

side shots. "[When] we were down 10 points I was worried, but I wasn't going to tell my

team I was worried because I wanted to see what they were made of, and obviously they came back," head coach Michael Smith said. Joya said the defense stepped up the intensity in the second half.

"We took it too easy in the first half," Joya said. "We should have applied more pressure. We know that we still have to force baseline. ... That's something definitely we have to tighten up on."

While Daniels helped secure the win down the stretch, Joya kept the Bulldogs close in the first half. She led all scorers with 19 points on 9-for-16 from the floor, but scored 15 of those points in the first half on 7-for-8 shooting.

Smith gave the Trojans a lot of credit on the way they fought and competed. He said they came out with a lot of energy and were a "scrappy team that had nothing to lose." He also said a game like this is better than a blowout because it allows the team to work on specific trends from the game in practice.

Truman shot 43 percent from the field, but that would have been much lower had it not been for Daniels and Joya, who combined to shoot 15-for-28 and scored 37 of Truman's 58 points. The rest

of the team went a combined 8-for-22 from the field.

Smith said he wasn't disappointed by how the team played but said he wanted to see fewer turnovers and better defense, especially in the first half.

"I felt like we didn't challenge their shots enough," Smith said. "We let them dictate what they wanted to do offensively. Defensively it should have been that way."

Truman had 19 turnovers for the game, but only eight came during the second half. Turnovers were a major problem for the Bulldogs last season when they averaged 19 per game, four fewer than their opponents.

Junior point guard Amy Galey made her Bulldog debut and scored eight points and had a team-high four assists. Galey at point allowed Joya to move back to her natural off-guard position after she played point guard last season.

"No more point guard duties, so that definitely helped me out," Joya said.

Truman returns to action Friday and Saturday for two games in Minnesota. The 'Dogs play Southwest Minnesota State University at 6 p.m. Friday and Minnesota State Moorhead at 1 p.m. Saturday.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Junior forward Mark Misiewicz attempts a dunk during Monday's 86-68 victory against Culver-Stockton. The Bulldogs are 1-1 this season.

Bulldogs fall 71-59 at Western Illinois

'Dogs defeat Culver-Stockton in Monday's season opener

BY BRENDAN O'BRIEN
Staff Reporter

The men's basketball team hung around for a while but could not pull off the upset as the Bulldogs fell 71-59 at Western Illinois University on Wednesday night.

The face-off against the Div. I opponent was Truman's first in the regular season since the team lost to Southeast Missouri State University 59-56 in its first away game of 2005.

After a win Monday against Culver-Stockton College, freshman guard Tom Norton said a win against Western was not out of reach if the team followed the same pattern.

"Get up, push the ball, crash the boards hard, and just make effort a key emphasis and hopefully things turn out good for us," Norton said.

Despite an 11-2 run to start the game by the Leathernecks, the 'Dogs proved their confidence was not misplaced. The Bulldogs shot just 35.8 from the field and had just eight chances at the charity stripe, yet managed to stay in the game.

Led by sophomore center Vesko Filchev's 18 points and Norton's 17, Truman cut the lead to just five with 18:43 left in the second half and cut it to single digits in the waning minutes. Before the game head coach Jack Schrader said he expected a tough match-

up, but all he wanted his players to think about was playing hard throughout the game.

"I just want us to play with the energy and aggressiveness that we did [on Monday]," Schrader said. "That's all we're worried about right now. Really simple, so all we have to worry about is energy and being aggressive."

The narrow road loss to a Div. I team in 2005 was the start of a 20-9 season that eventually led to an NCAA tournament berth for the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs controlled the pace and caught fire from beyond the arc to earn an 86-68 win against Culver-Stockton College in its home opener.

The 'Dogs had production up-and-down their lineup. Every player on the roster tallied at least one score, and four players finished in double digits. Junior forward Mark Misiewicz led the charge. He went 4-for-6 from beyond the arc en route to 16 points. Misiewicz said he realized the need to step up now that he is an upperclassman.

"It's a big junior class, and the first two years we were kind of — you know, you don't really have the burden on your shoulders, but now it's our time, it's our team," Misiewicz said. "With only [Matt Taylor] being the lone senior, you know it's up to all of us, but I think there's more emphasis with the juniors."

Fellow junior forward Ethan Freeman, the Bulldogs' second leading scorer in 2008-09, played a big role in the win as well. He came off the bench and chipped in 11 points on a perfect 4-for-4

from the floor.

The upperclassmen, however, were not the sole contributors as Norton added 11 points of his own, nine of which came from beyond the arc. Filchev balanced the attack with 10 points and seven rebounds.

The Bulldogs wanted a fast start and they did just that. The team jumped out to a 25-8 lead in the first 10 minutes and never looked back.

Right before halftime, Truman got a fastbreak, but instead of attempting to drive past the defender, Norton took a step back and buried a three to give the 'Dogs a 50-19 lead.

"It's a lot of confidence," Norton said. "I looked for guidance from the older guys, but we all have to trust in each other so hopefully we can put it together and go on a run."

During the second half, the Wildcats improved by 20 percent and knocked down nine treys to cut into the 31 point deficit. The Bulldogs shot less than 50 percent in the second half, and Truman secured the 18-point win.

Schrader encouraged his team to have some fun in the game and said the team ran a "shoot-before-we-turn-it-over" offense. The team shot 50 percent from the floor and recorded just 14 turnovers, only two of which came in the first half.

"They're certain they're working really hard, and I'm trying to find a way that's compatible with what they do, and also help us to make us successful in the conference," Schrader said. "And so this was a step in the right direction."

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WITH THE INDEX EVERY THURSDAY MORNING

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