

Lions dominate in MIAA opener

BY BRETT MCMILLAN
Staff Reporter

The men's basketball team opened its conference schedule against Missouri Southern State University on Wednesday night at Pershing Arena with a loss of 91-74.

MSSU led for most of the first half. Truman trailed by seven after five minutes of play but fought back to tie the score at 33-33 with 2:38 left in the first half. Sophomore guard Tom Norton sank a free throw with 59.1 seconds left to give the 'Dogs the lead, but the Lions ended the half on a 5-0 run, taking a 40-36 lead into halftime.

Three of Southern's final four points came on a three-pointer by senior guard Skyler Bowlin. He was 3 of 6 from the perimeter in the first half.

Southern started the second half with a 16-2 run in the first 3:30 of the half. Truman head coach Jack Schrader called two timeouts before TSU scored after the half.

"We were expecting [the MSSU pressure] and knew they were going to do

it," senior forward Ethan Freeman said. "Since we didn't execute it and we knew it wasn't a surprise, it was pretty frustrating. We put up the numbers as a team. Put up seventy-some points. We've just got to D-up. If teams score 90

points it's going to be too hard to win."

The Lions' full-court press kept the Bulldogs scoreless for almost a full two minutes in the first half. MSSU benefited from 22 Bulldog turnovers — 11 in each half.

Schrader said his team did not play well but that it is a long season, which allows for improvement. He expects that later this season adjustments will have been made.

"Several guys did not play well, and I don't call out players, but they know they didn't play well," Schrader said. "It is just a question of playing well. I have no doubt we get better. We go down there we can win there. That is what the MIAA is."

The 'Dogs lost their second game of the year 76-71 last Saturday to Quincy University at the Pepsi Arena in Quincy, Ill. The

Bulldogs led for most of the game. Truman had built a 16-point lead with just under eight minutes remaining in regulation.

The Hawks started to press during the last few minutes of the second half and forced Truman to have empty trips up the floor late in the game.

"The last stretch there they started getting up and pressuring us a lot more," freshman guard Isaac Gardner said. "We had some careless turnovers then. On defense, I think we let up a little bit and they started hitting some shots too. I mean, some tough shots."

Truman had 35 turnovers in the game — 24 of which came in the second half. Freeman turned the ball over eight times but also set a career-high mark in rebounds with 17.

The Hawks' senior guard Josh Edmonds led all scorers with 28 and was instrumental in engineering a second-half comeback for Quincy. The Hawks were 30-37 from the free-throw line, while Truman was 15-17. The 'Dogs shot 41 percent from the floor as opposed to Quincy, which was held to 33 percent.

Quincy was 9 for 29 in the first half but took advantage of Truman turnovers to end the second half 12 for 33.

"First 35 minutes thor-



Joyce Wong/Index
Senior guard Stefan Garrison tries to get around a Missouri Southern defender Wednesday night. Garrison scored six points in 25 minutes of play.

oughly controlled the game," head coach Jack Schrader said. "Thoroughly outplayed them. Then some adversity that happens on the road — sometimes we didn't respond to very well, and then the last three minutes we just crumbled."

The last three minutes saw Truman turn the ball over five times. Three turnovers were Hawk steals. Quincy scored 12 points in the final three minutes on field goals alone. They also added seven from

the foul line for a total of 19 points. Truman managed only eight points in the same amount of time.

The Bulldog bench received a technical foul with one second left. Edmonds went 1-1 at the line to put Quincy up 74-71. Quincy's junior guard Tyler Thompson then hit two more free throws after senior guard Stefan Garrison fouled with no time remaining.

"It was disappointing," Schrader said. "I don't think

it was so much a function of that game or what Quincy did. These guys [the senior class] got a lot of baggage on their back. They've struggled for a couple years as seniors. They really want to do well, and so you get to that point and then it's not just the game. It's the game and all the other ones, the tough losses you had pile up. The toughest opponent you have is yourself, and so you're fighting yourself a little bit."

Henderson leads with complete game

Senior guard helps the Bulldogs by bringing consistency to the court

BY DEREK FRANKLIN
Staff Reporter

Averaging nearly 20 points per game is good, but senior guard Alex Henderson said he just wants to win basketball games.

After scoring 10.7 points per game last season, the guard's production has jumped to 19 points per game during this year's first four games (2-2).

"This year I've been having to score a little more for us — basically anything I can do to help us win games," Henderson said. "Being more aggressive and confident on the offensive end have been that need so far."

Head coach Jack Schrader said that Henderson has stepped up as a leader both on and off the court, especially when it comes to helping out the freshmen.

"Game-wise, [Henderson] shows poise and composure," Schrader said. "[Off the court, Henderson] shows the younger guys what I expect, and also with life at Truman — incorporating the academics

with the athletics."

Schrader said Henderson makes an effort to lead the younger players, and that they soak up his advice.

"Alex has done a good job as reaching out as a leader," he said. "[The younger guys] like to figure out what's going on."

Senior guard Stefan Garrison said Henderson's effort and hustle make him the leader of the team.

Henderson was one of the most well-rounded players for the Bulldogs last season, averaging 3.6 assists per game and 3.4 rebounds per game.

"You can always count on Alex," Garrison said. "He's going to bring everything and lay everything out on the line. With that effort his points increase and he makes us better."

Garrison has played basketball with Henderson since the two were in fourth grade, also playing on the same Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team and at Truman.

Henderson is a smart player who can help the team get points on the board even if he is not getting points himself, Garrison said.

"Alex is able to be a scoring threat but also a good passer, and this makes him very hard to guard," Garrison said. "If they

guard him just to keep him from scoring, then [Henderson] can open up good shots for other teammates, but if they play off of him he can always score."

Schrader said that one of Henderson's biggest improvements is his ability to adjust to the strong, physical play of the MIAA, which Henderson also agrees with.

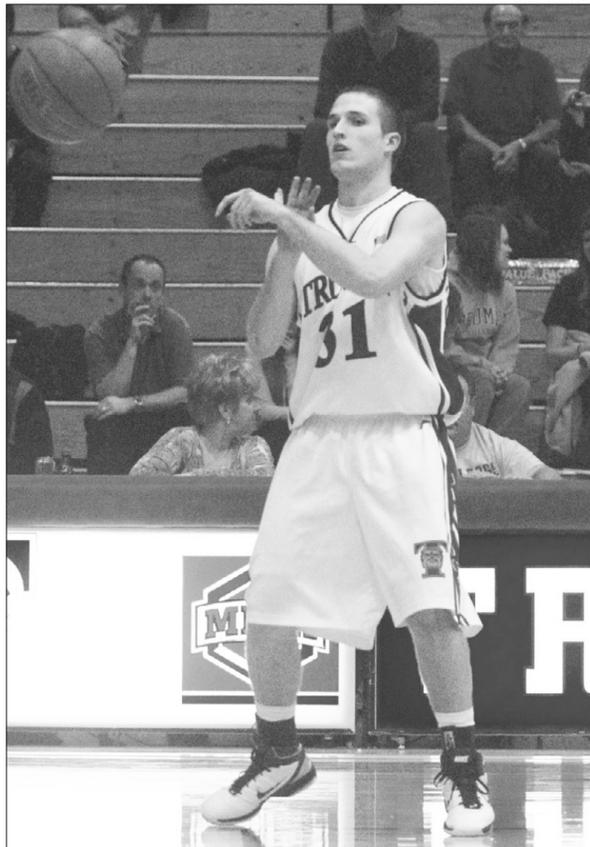
"I've gained some muscle to play in the MIAA, which is a very physical league," Henderson said. "The physical nature of the game is the biggest difference [from high school], and the speed of a game, but as a senior, the game has slowed down for me a lot."

Both Garrison and Schrader said Henderson's smart play is what makes him a valuable asset to the team, and that Henderson is also smart off the court.

Henderson said he takes a lot of pride in attending a university where academics are important and that he plans to attend medical school after his graduation from Truman.

Being a well-rounded player on and off the court fits with Truman's basketball team, because Schrader emphasized that his team has no superstars but will be successful when a collective effort is given by the team.

"We're a team where everyone has to do a little bit of everything," Schrader said. "[Henderson] is just stepping up to do what is needed by the team, whether it is handling the ball, defending or scoring, he's able to step up and do any one of those things."



Joyce Wong/Index
Henderson makes a pass in Wednesday night's game against Missouri Southern. He leads the team in scoring this season.

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