

Turnovers plague 'Dogs on the road

BY BRETT MCMILLAN
Staff Reporter

A 108-75 loss to Southwest Baptist University dropped Truman's men's basketball team to 2-5 on the season. They are now 0-3 in the MIAA.

The 'Dogs had 24 turnovers Tuesday night. SBU started the game on a 15-3 run that lasted just under six minutes.

"They played a really hectic style of defense," senior guard Alex Henderson said. "[They] got a lot of turnovers early. We got in a hole and we weren't able to pull ourselves out of it, because they just made shots."

Henderson hit a three pointer a minute into the game to give the Bulldogs their only lead of the night. Ten seconds later Bearcat senior guard Tomas Brock hit a pair of free throws to put his team on top for good. Brock led all scorers with 23, going 8 for 13 from the floor including five from beyond the arc. As a team, SBU made 19 three pointers.

Truman hit nine treys, five of which came from sophomore guard Tom Norton. Norton and Henderson both scored 15 points to lead the Bulldogs. Junior center Vesko Filchev had 11 and senior forward Ethan Freeman added 13; along with a team high of 13 rebounds. Truman shot 43 percent from the floor while SBU shot 50 percent. SBU had 10 players who played more than 10

minutes. Eight players were on the floor for 15 minutes or more.

"They had a really good crowd," Henderson said. "They were getting loud and everything like that. Their defense, that's just the style they play. They play 10 or 12 guys probably regularly. I don't know. Just running people in and out and they can all shoot. They're all quick. They can play defense."

The SBU game was Truman's third loss in seven days and added to their four-game losing streak.

"It's behind us now," Freeman said. "We have to forget about the losses now and get prepared for this Saturday."

The Bulldogs take the floor again at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Pershing Arena against Washburn University.

Last Saturday night the Bulldogs dropped their third straight game of the season at Pittsburg State University. Truman trailed by only nine points at the half, but fell off in the second half and lost 91-68.

"They were a smash mouth team," head coach Jack Schrader said. "[They] lowered their shoulder, went to the basket. [They] shot a lot of layups and a lot of free throws getting to the basket, but we turned the ball over against their pressure."

The Gorillas used a half-court trap which forced 27 turnovers.

Schrader said his team is too tentative when handling the ball, which cre-

ates takeaway opportunities for the opposition.

Pittsburg State out rebounded the 'Dogs on the offensive glass 11-7 but Truman out rebounded PSU overall 36-34.

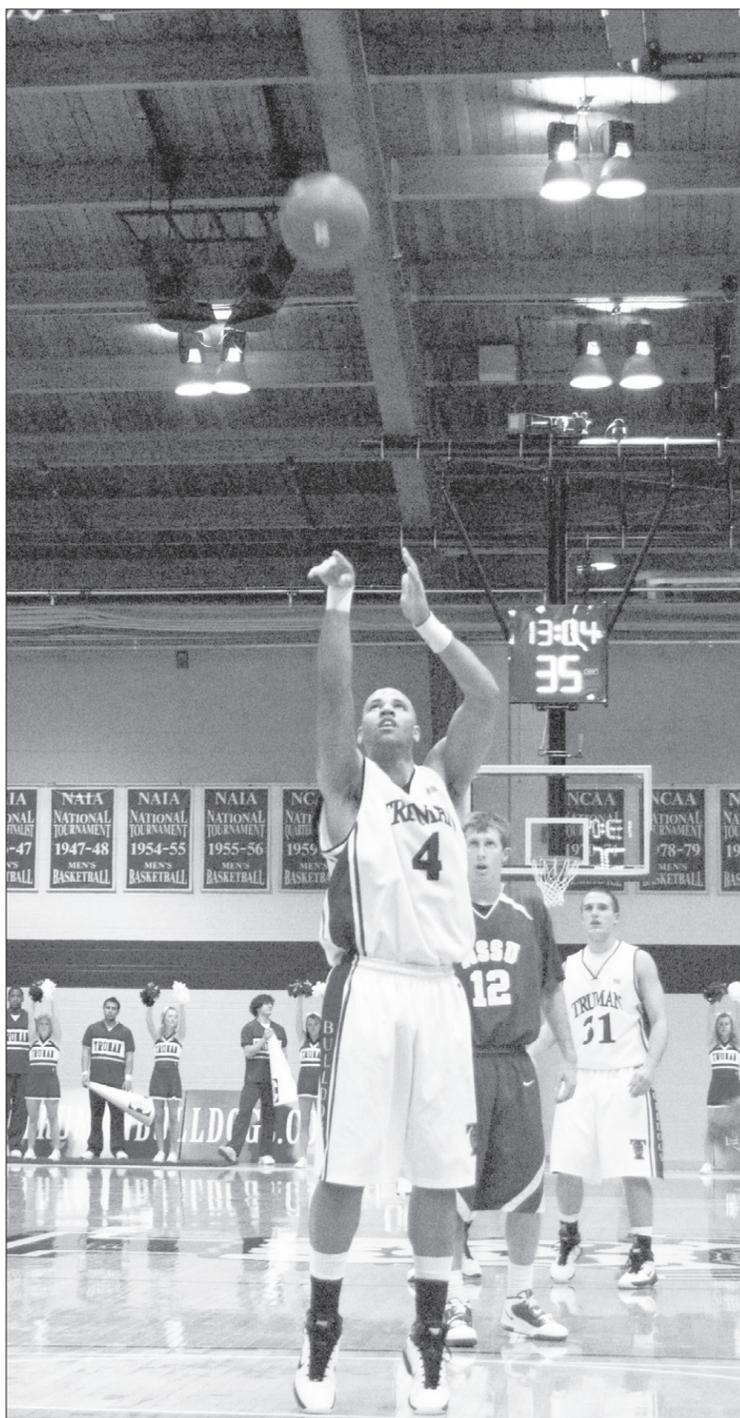
"Even though we had more rebounds we did not rebound them," Schrader said. "They did. They out-rebounded us. It all comes down to the number of possessions you have. Then it come down to how many points did you score per possession."

Schrader said the way his team has been having four men crash the boards on offense is hurting their transition defense and leading to easy lay ups for the other team. The Bulldogs will soon return to a standard transition defense.

The Gorillas' sophomore shooting guard Courtney Ingram had 17 points on 6 of 7 shooting to lead Pittsburg State. He was one of five Gorillas to score in double figures. Truman had four scorers in double figures led by freshman guard Isaac Gardner, who had 13 off the bench.

The teams were almost equal from the floor. Truman shot 49 percent from the floor while Pittsburg State recorded a 50 percent shooting percentage. PSU managed 18 more shots than Truman overall. The major difference in shooting statistics were the free throw percentages. The Bulldogs went 12-21 while the Gorillas shot 18-29.

"Tough losses are always hard," senior guard Stefan Garrison said. "It always keeps you in check and makes you want to come back and work harder. [Free throws success] is mental approach again. We just have to be mentally strong. I think that is our weakness now."



Joyce Wong/Index
Senior forward Ethan Freeman concentrates on a free throw early in the first half last week against Missouri Southern. Freeman is shooting 77 percent from the line this season.

Experience at Truman meaningful

Commentary



TYLER KILLEN

When I came to Truman in Fall 2007, I had one goal — graduate as quickly as possible. I didn't have much desire to stick around too long because I didn't expect to enjoy college a lot. As usual, I was wrong.

I was right about some of my expectations. I am not going to miss 7:30 a.m. classes, 20-page papers, long tests — or any tests for that matter, walking to Barnett Hall, uncomfortable chairs and desks, unbearable weather, textbook prices, fees that pop out of

nowhere and several other things I won't mention.

But, the list of the things I will miss is much longer and mostly consists of people. I will miss my professors. In my time here, I only had one professor I genuinely did not like, and she isn't here anymore. Honestly, the professors here at Truman are great at what they do and I always can see their passion for what they teach.

The three I'll miss most are Mark Smith, Marilyn Yaquinto and Don Krause. If you have the opportunity, take a class with them. Their doors were always open and they actually enjoyed talking to me, even when I was there just to heckle them for a while. I knew I could talk to them about anything and they truly cared about me. In my book, there is nothing more anyone could ask of professors than what they have offered me.

I also will miss the physical plant workers. I've worked with those guys for several summers and enjoyed every minute. They

often have a bad reputation on campus and I don't know why. Their jobs are difficult and they get no respect for doing them.

One time I asked a plumber why he still works here and he told me he liked talking to students. I thought that was strange because most ignore or look down on him. I think that's ridiculous. Next time you see a physical plant worker, talk to them, or at least thank them. They are all friendly, funny people I will never forget.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the coaches on campus. Athletics are looked down upon at Truman as well. Like the physical plant workers, coaches don't receive a lot of respect, but they do hear the complaints. I am often one of the ones complaining.

But, I think I have lost sight of what makes Truman athletics special. I, a lowly student, have been able to walk into the office of all the coaches and have a real conversation with them.

I talked to several of them on a weekly basis. That simply never oc-

curs at most universities and I am thankful for the time they took to answer a lot of my dumb questions. I will miss the athletes as well.

They too are often ridiculed for their performances. This might be the worst injustice at Truman. I have a hard time getting things done as an average student. I cannot imagine what it would be like if I had two-hour practices every day and then had to travel throughout the Midwest for games. No, the athletes at Truman deserve a lot of respect. They compete in one of the top conferences in Div. II and also take classes at one of the most challenging universities around. It is truly an impressive feat to accomplish.

There still is a bunch more people I'll never be able to fit into this column. I'll also miss people at CCF, the Index, KTRM and News 36.

I would not trade what I had here at Truman for anything. The only thing I would do differently is appreciate what I had while it was happening instead of realizing it later.

There are three things I think

students should know about going forward. First, talk to everyone on campus. If you just go to class, do your homework and sleep — then you are missing out on a lot of interesting people.

Especially talk to your professors. Most of them enjoy hearing what you have to say, and you never know how that could help you down the line.

Second, go to some athletic events. When I talked to coaches and players, the one thing they wanted was for more people to come to their games. Well, help them out and go. You will enjoy it.

Finally, I have heard a lot of theories, philosophies and other complex things I didn't understand. But some of the best advice I ever received came from Jerry Clower, an old country comedian. He said, "If you want to be successful in life, if you want to get ahead in this world — be yourself."

I was being myself when I arrived at Truman. But, all the people I mentioned made me a better person.

Vista Heights Apartments

Now Leasing
1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments for the
2011-2012 School Year
May or August move in dates available

- On site 24 hour laundry
- On site manager
- On site maintenance with 24 hour on call services
- Off street parking
- Recently updated units
- Free daily shuttle to Truman Campus
- Clean and quiet living

For more information visit our website at vistaheightspts.com
For availability and showing appointments call
Kelli Nigh at 665-9224 or 626-3914

OPEN:
Sunday - Thursday
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday - Saturday
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

We Know What's at Steak!

Gift Cards Available!
Located at
1116 Country Club Dr.
Kirksville, MO
660-665-6336