



Amy Vicars/Index

Freshman forward Bianca Szaferowicz (left) pushes the ball up the floor last night against Pittsburg State while sophomore forward Jennifer Conway fills in behind her.

'Dogs drop two straight

BY SAM SHERMAN
Staff Reporter

After losing 58-70 to Pittsburg State University last night in Pershing Arena, Michael Smith, women's basketball head coach, said this team is not the same team he coached earlier in the season.

"As a coach right now, I feel lost," Smith said. "The team doesn't have the momentum they had, they don't have the drive and they don't have that look in their eyes that they had [earlier in the season]."

The Bulldogs (8-9, 6-7 MIAA) started off slowly, falling to an 2-11 deficit within five minutes of the starting whistle. This quick run by the Gorillas proved to be the prevailing theme as Truman fought to get back in the game.

After going into halftime trailing 23-37, the Bulldogs showed some life. Truman came within five with 3:42 left in the game, but this strong second half was not enough as the Gorillas (10-7, 8-5 MIAA) went on a 10-4 run to seal the conference win.

Sophomore guard Becka McHenry said the team's attitude caused the loss.

"We have a different attitude than when we beat them earlier in the season," McHenry said. "We just don't have the

same fight that we had in the beginning."

McHenry led the Bulldogs with a game-high 14 points on the night, while sophomore forward Jennifer Conway led the team with five rebounds.

Although they got off to a quick start on the season, the Bulldogs have lost five of their last seven games. They have a tough schedule in their next few days, first playing at Emporia State University (12-5, 9-4 MIAA), the defending national champions and going on the road again to face Washburn University (14-3, 10-3 MIAA). Smith said it could be a rough stretch if the Bulldogs continue on the same path.

"We could easily get drubbed in the next two games," Smith said. "If the same Truman team that I've seen the last weeks shows up in the next two games, we will get drubbed. We'll be the laughingstock of the MIAA. We better figure things out really quick if we want to be playing in the postseason."

Saturday, the Bulldogs faced Missouri Southern State University and lost 40-64, their biggest loss of the season.

"The big difference was that they've gotten much better since the last time we played them," Smith said. "I really thought we were right in the game at

halftime, but we just didn't execute."

Going into halftime, the Bulldogs were losing 21-27 and Jennifer Conway said the team still had fight left in them.

"We were ready to go out at halftime," Conway said. "We were ready to go out and get the lead back, but they just outplayed us in the second half."

In the second half, Truman was outscored 37-19.

The Bulldogs shot only 37.5 percent from the field and were outrebounded 34-23 on their way to their eighth loss of the season. Junior guard Bri Daniels was held scoreless for only the second time in her career at Truman.

Conway said the team had trouble executing their game plan.

"They took us out of our game a lot," Conway said. "We weren't ready to be taken off our game so we really struggled with that."

On the other side, the Lions ended up shooting 54 percent and finished the game with three players scoring in double digits.

The Bulldogs' effort was led by Conway and freshman forward Bianca Szaferowicz who each finished with eight points on the day. Conway also led the team in rebounds with four.

Truman's next game will be 1 p.m. Sunday at Emporia State University.

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Wrestling: Freshmen lead Bulldog attack

Freshmen Devon Fenstermaker and Ryan Maus lead the Bulldogs this season in overall wins with 18 and 17, respectively. Fenstermaker is one of four Bulldogs with five pin victories. He also has two technical fall wins.

Sophomore Colton Schmitz is third on the team in wins with 16. Truman has seven wrestlers with more than 10 wins this season. The team also has five wrestlers that have first-place tournament victories this season.

Last year, the Bulldogs had eight wrestlers with 10 or more wins. However, they had no first-place finishes in tournament matches. The year before that, Truman had only four wrestlers with more than 10 wins.

The Bulldog record for most wins in a season was by Irving Ward during the 1990-91 season. Ward went 37-11 and ended his career with the sixth most career victories in Truman history.

Last year, alumnus Loyde Braidlow and sophomore Alex Maus had more than 30 wins. Braidlow led the team with 31.

Swimming: Bulldogs begin to taper

Starting next week both the men's and women's swimming teams will begin their tapering, when each swimmer begins to strategically rest to optimize performance.

Interim assistant coach Danielle Odenthal said tapering is a difficult set of workouts to prescribe because each swimmer is different. Odenthal said it helps to know the swimmers from past years. She said this is where she can assist interim head coach Jennifer Godlewski.

Both Odenthal and Godlewski have been with the team for only three weeks, however Odenthal swam as a Bulldog the last four seasons.

The swimmer's times will improve with rest, and this is what the Bulldogs are counting on to succeed at conference and move on to the Div. II NCAA Championships.

Women's Basketball: Sharpe injured

Sophomore forward Megan Sharpe will miss at least one more game after dislocating her shoulder.

Sharpe did not play in the women's basketball game last night at home against Pittsburg State University and did dress for practice earlier in the week.

"She's going to miss probably a week at least and I'm hoping that's it," head coach Michael Smith said Monday.

Smith said Sharpe was injured while going after a loose ball when she took a knee to the shoulder. The trainer popped her shoulder back into place at the time but she remains out.

Sharpe played 3 minutes against Missouri Southern State University last Saturday before the injury sidelined her for the rest of the game.

Sharpe is averaging 4.2 points and 3.8 rebounds after missing the first five games of the season due to volleyball.

"We need to get Megan Sharpe healthy," Smith said.

660-785-4319

Deadline: Monday by 5 p.m.

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