

'Dogs set season low in field goals

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The Bulldogs lost a close game to Pittsburg State University 58-56 last night at Pershing Arena. The 'Dogs are now 5-12 and 3-10 in conference.

With 2:56 remaining in the game, senior guard Alex Henderson hit a three to make the score 56-54 in favor of the Gorillas. Two free throws by senior forward Ethan Freeman a little more than a minute later narrowed the deficit to just one. The next point did not come until Pittsburg State sophomore guard Jordan Embers hit a free throw with three seconds remaining. A last-second heave by Freeman fell short to end the game.

"I like the way our guys fought the last eight or nine minutes," head coach Jack Schrader said. "Pittsburg is a team that really gets you to play ugly. They make it very difficult for you. They break your rhythm and earlier in the game we were trying to find our rhythm after one or two movements. Couldn't get it done. Actually brought in a bunch of young guys. They just played. Got a good rhythm. Got us back in the swing of things."

The game remained close throughout, featuring six lead changes and 11 ties. Schrader said the pace wore both teams down.

Truman had just 15 field goals on the night, their lowest margin since making only 14 last season against Fort Hays State University. The Bulldogs shot just 31.9 percent from the field while the Gorillas shot 37 percent. The 'Dogs did win the free throw battle, shooting nearly 77 percent from the charity strip, the highest they have shot from the line this season.

Freeman recorded his eighth double-double of the year with 12 points and 17 rebounds. The forward leads the MIAA in boards, averaging 9.4 per contest. Freeman along with Gorilla's junior forward Eric Marshall, tied to lead all scorers.

The game was physical. Both teams combined for 37 fouls and Pittsburg's sophomore forward Javon McGee received a technical foul in the second half.

"You [the Bulldogs] had a chance to beat these guys," Schrader said. "But I think our

last two games we've demonstrated we can beat anybody. I don't think we played great tonight. I don't think we shot real well from three at all but the bottom line in at [Missouri] Southern, here, at Pitt we can beat anybody, anytime, anywhere. We just have to start going out and believing in how we can get it done."

Truman surrendered an 11-point lead in the second half of last Saturday's game at Missouri Southern State University on their way to a 70-83 loss. Both teams shot 46 percent from the field but the Bulldogs were outscored by 24 in the second half.

Turnovers were yet again an issue for Truman. They turned the ball over 20 times while Missouri Southern surrendered the ball just four times the entire afternoon. Missouri Southern pressed the whole game and intensified the pressure as the end of the game drew closer.

"I'd say we were a little frustrated from these last couple games," Freeman said. "Especially (the University of) Central (Missouri) and our performance. I think we put together 35 minutes worth of basketball and obviously that couldn't beat the No. 1 team in our conference. I think obviously 40 minutes would."

The 'Dogs led by two with 8:23 remaining in the game. A pair of made free throws by Missouri Southern senior guard Skyler Bowlin tied the score at 57. Less than a minute later Bulldog senior forward Andrew James fouled Southern freshman Jordan Talbert. He made both free throws putting Truman behind for good.

Missouri Southern currently is first place in the MIAA and No. 14 in the nation. The Bulldogs allowed 91 points to the Lions at Pershing Arena Dec. 1 losing their first conference game of the year by 17. The 'Dogs had 22 turnovers in their first meeting with the Lions.

"We're maturing a little bit," assistant coach Tim Deidrick said. "We had 20 turnovers, but Missouri Southern, that is what they live off of. Some of those happened a little bit late but we did mature. We handled the pressure. Some of those happened in the half court. There were a couple early on right after half time that we turned the ball over but then we got back into it and competed."



Laura Tyler/Index
Junior center Vesko Filchev loses the ball last night against Pittsburg State University. Filchev went 3-for-7 from the floor. He also had six rebounds while contributing nine points. The 'Dogs had 16 points in the paint.

Both teams had four scorers in double figures. Freeman recorded his seventh double-double of the year with a career-high 18 rebounds and 11 points. Sophomore guard Tom Norton led the Bulldogs with 14 points. He shot 50 percent from the three and the free throw line. He had no field goals from two point range. Both Norton and freshman guard Isaac Gardner had most of their

production come in the first half knocking down three triples a piece. Fifteen of Freeman's 18 rebounds also came in the first half.

Missouri Southern guards Bowlin and junior Jason Adams tied to lead all scorers with 17. In the first game between the teams Adams had scored 19 while Bowlin exploded for 34 points in Kirksville. Saturday only 10 of Bowlin's points were scored on

the floor while the rest came at the free-throw line.

"He is an excellent player," Deidrick said. "That's one of the reasons [senior guard] Alex [Henderson] started. Thought that we would challenge him and put him on Bowlin and he did a good job of guarding him. We had different guys on him throughout the game. I think it was a team effort of knowing how he plays."

Blue Key Rush

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Wednesday, February 9

7:00 P.M. SUB Down Under:

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Questions?

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