

# Building Momentum



Women's basketball head coach Michael Smith instructs the Bulldogs during practice. Truman has won both of its preseason games. File Photo

## Bulldogs knock off Div. I school

BY TYLER KILLEN  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Truman women's basketball team traveled to Western Illinois University to play a Div. I opponent with the sole expectation of gaining experience in an exhibition game, but the Bulldogs left with a 61-54 upset win.

"I can say we didn't feel intimidated at all when we walked in their gym," head coach Michael Smith said. "We understood that we went there for a purpose, and we wanted to leave feeling good. And obviously it was a great feeling to walk out of [Western Illinois] with a win — a hard-fought win against a Div. I opponent."

Sophomore forward Jennifer Conway led the way for Truman in most statistical categories. She was first on the team with 16 points, nine rebounds and one block and was tied for the team-lead in steals with two.

"It was great," Conway said. "[My stats]

were better than I have done for a while, especially here. So I was just really ecstatic that I could put that up for the team."

Junior guard Bri Daniels had 14 points and three assists, while senior point guard Amy Galeley added 11 points and three rebounds for the Bulldogs.

As a team, Truman shot 44 percent from the field and more than 31 percent from behind the arc.

Smith said he was most satisfied with the way Truman played defense. The Bulldogs held Western Illinois to less than 37 percent from the floor. Truman forced 16 turnovers and out-rebounded the Leathernecks 40 to 32.

"Defensively, we played extremely well," Smith said. "They executed our game plan to a 'T.' I felt like we dictated the tempo of that game."

Smith said he thought the 2-0 pre-season was successful for the team. Although the games do not count in the

standings, Galeley said it gives the team more confidence entering the regular season.

"It's a great confidence boost for our team," Galeley said. "It sends a message to the rest of the MIAA, especially since it was against a Div. I school."

Truman officially opens its season Nov. 19, when the Bulldogs travel to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. for the Nova Southeastern Classic. Smith said he noticed a few areas the team needs to improve in before the season begins.

One area Truman needs to work on is free-throw shooting. The Bulldogs shot 75 percent from the line in their first exhibition game against Central Methodist University. However, Truman only shot 56 percent from the charity stripe in the Western Illinois game.

The Bulldogs' first opponent will be Barry University (Fla.) which finished 20-10 last season. Smith said the season opener will be a challenge.

"We want to hit the ground running when we go to Florida," Smith said. "It's going to be a tough two days for us. We've got to have everybody on board."

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head coach

## TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

### MIAA: Task force discusses scheduling

If the results of the first MIAA expansion task force meeting become reality, the new 16-team conference will have a different scheduling format for each of the three main fall sports.

The expansion task force met for the first time Nov. 1. It includes a representative from every school currently competing in the conference, as well as from the four schools that will begin competition in fall 2012.

No decisions made by the task force are final, but instead are the first step in a process that filters through the coaches and the Institution Representatives Council before finally being voted on by the conference presidents.

Athletic Director Jerry Wollmering said the task force discussed scheduling for football, women's soccer and volleyball at the meeting.

For football, the task force decided on a rivalry format, Wollmering said. Each team in the conference has a pair, and those pairs would play each other every year. The other 10 conference games — the football regular season lasts 11 games — would be based on a rotating schedule, which Wollmering said they "don't know what that looks like yet."

Wollmering said the pairs of teams are Truman—Lincoln University, Northwest Missouri State University—Missouri Western State University, University of Nebraska-Kearney—Fort Hays University, Washburn University—Emporia State University, Missouri Southern University—Pittsburg State University, Lindenwood University—Southwest Baptist University, University of Central Missouri—University of Nebraska-Omaha and Northeastern State (Okla.) University—Central Oklahoma University.

Should the rivalry scheduling hold true, it theoretically would create a situation in which there could be two undefeated conference champions. There would not be a conference championship game because Div. II playoffs start in the 12th week of the season.

For volleyball, Wollmering said the decision was to create two seven-team divisions because two teams in the conference do not have the sport. The conference schedule would be 19 games, as each team would play six divisional schools twice and seven non-divisional schools once.

Truman's division would include Lindenwood, Central Missouri, Southwest Baptist, Missouri Southern, Pittsburg State and Central Oklahoma. Truman's "travel partner" for long trips would be Lindenwood.

Women's soccer is another sport that 14 of the 16 schools sponsor. Wollmering said there would be 13 conference matches and up to five non-conference matches, with no divisions within the MIAA.

"The coaches have ever liked the double-round robin where you play everybody twice," he said. "They have always wanted a single-round robin."

The next task force meeting is in the middle of December. Wollmering said that by then the three fall sport schedules hopefully will have been voted on by the conference presidents.

-Reporting by Jack Nicholl

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#### Miscellaneous

Bible Study, 8 p.m. Monday, Ryle Hall Cafeteria. For more information, call or e-mail: Colin at 573-673-3633/ [colins573@yahoo.com](mailto:colins573@yahoo.com)

Rebekah at 660-349-0509/ [rgg7546@truman.edu](mailto:rgg7546@truman.edu) Jesus said, "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free." - John 8:32

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