



## A TEAM PLAYER

- 4.4 assists/game led team and was 2nd in MIAA

- 1.50 assist-to-turnover ratio

- Averaged 6.6 points and 4.0 rebounds

# Sharing the rock

## Galey returns for 'Dogs at the point

**Senior was second in conference in assists last year after transferring schools**

BY TYLER KILLEN  
Assistant Sports Editor

After one year in the program, senior point guard Amy Gale is expected to be the field general of the Truman women's basketball team. She said she is ready to accept that role.

"First of all, I'm just excited," Gale said. "Especially with the new kids that we have and the type of offense we have implemented — the motion offense. I feel like with a year under me, I'm understanding it a little better."

Last year, Gale transferred from Highland Community College (Kan.) and immediately assumed the role of starting point guard. As a junior, she averaged 6.6 points, 4.4 assists and 4.0 rebounds per game. She finished first on the team in assists with a total of 119 and second in steals with 28.

She spent much of the year adapting to the motion offense and learning head

coach Michael Smith's system. Smith said Gale, an All-American, contributed right away.

"We were very fortunate when we signed Amy," Smith said. "We got her in last year and kind of threw her into the fire. But she's a junior college transfer, and she understood that."

Gale's biggest contribution last season might have been reducing the number of turnovers. Two years ago, the team averaged more than 19 turnovers a game. Last season, with Gale, the team averaged just 15 turnovers.

This season, Gale will be again asked to reduce the turnover margin again while also speeding up the offense.

"She's been in our system for a full year," Smith said. "She understands my expectations. She understands how important her role is on the team. She's like a quarterback on the football team. Basically, they've got to run the team and do what they need to do [to lead the team]."

One of the primary point guard responsibilities is to distribute the ball to other players. Junior guard Breanna Daniels said Gale is able to deliver passes through tight windows.

"Amy does an amazing job of [passing]," Daniels said. "There are so many times she'll give me passes and I don't even know how it got to me. She'll give the ball to me, and I'll be in an excellent

scoring position."

Besides leading the team on the court, Gale has also been named the lone team captain this season. She said she tries to lead all the players, no matter what their position might be.

"Everybody, one through 13, is important," Gale said. "If you're the top scorer or the person passing or rebounding the ball or if you're just being vocal on the sideline — one through 13 is important."

Smith said that a lot of this season's success will rest on Gale's shoulders. He said he expects her to take control of all of the roles she has been assigned.

"I'm going to put a lot of pressure on her this year just because she's got to be able to get the team going and put people in the right spots," Smith said. "She's done a good job in practice of grabbing people off to the side and saying, 'Listen, this is what we need to do.' Those are the things you look at in quality leadership and captain skills."

Although there is a lot of pressure on Gale this season, she said she is ready for the challenge and the anticipated tough times this season.

"Personally I want to fulfill [Smith's expectations], a leadership role, to be vocal for the team and just help out wherever I can distributing the ball," Gale said.



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