

MEN | Basketball remains winless in Div. II play

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 ty at Pershing Arena on Nov. 22. Freshman Andrew Vander Zwaag led the Bulldogs with 17 points and Hicks added 15, but the 'Dogs were unable to overcome a hot-shooting Quincy team that had 13 three-pointers and was 24-for-31 from the free throw line on the night. The Hawks went 5-for-6 from the charity stripe during the game's last two minutes.

"I just felt like I had more confidence [against Quincy]," Vander Zwaag said. "I didn't really force any shots, I just waited for a good open look and took it."

The 'Dogs dropped a close contest to Maryville University 64-67 on Nov. 19 during the final minutes. Maryville led 65-57 with 1:53 remaining in the game before a three-pointer by sophomore Isaac Gardner. Freshman Mike Carlson cut the lead to two, but Truman was unable to convert either a three-pointer or a layup in the last minute.

The Bulldogs' victory came before Thanksgiving Break started, as they defeated Grand View [Iowa] University 76-62 Nov. 17. Although they led by only four at the half, they put together a solid second half and brought home their first road win of the season behind junior Tom Norton's 27 points, a new career high for the Bulldog guard. Norton made seven three-pointers, the most by any Truman mens player since 2007.

"It was a good win," Woodley said. "Even though they're a [National Intercollegiate Athletic Association] team, that's a team that's won a lot of games, and they expect to win, especially on their home court. It was really nice to get a road win like that against a really good opponent."



Freshman guard Seth Jackson puts up a shot in the Bulldogs 99-51 win against Central Christian College. Jackson led the team in scoring against Missouri Southern on Wednesday with 11 points.

The men return to action Saturday Dec. 3 against Pittsburg State University at Pershing Arena as the conference season continues.

Woodley said Truman will have to perform to its potential to achieve success in the MIAA, which he considers

to be the best basketball conference in Div. II.

Hicks added that though the competition level is high, the Bulldogs are looking to win.

"The thing with nonconference games is, yeah, they matter, but then

again they really don't," Hicks said. "It's always good to win, but it doesn't help toward the end of your season. What really matters is the conference games. Our record's sitting at [2-6], and we're a better team than our record shows. We're hungry for a win."

UNBEATEN | Women move to 6-0 on the season with first conference win against Missouri Southern State University

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 Smith's squad made 17 of 22 free throws and sunk six three-pointers. The 'Dogs forced 23 turnovers from Missouri Southern.

While being on the road when playing Missouri Southern was not new to the team, it was a new experience when the squad faced Rockhurst University [Mo.] last Saturday.

Every player on the roster saw playing time during the first away game against Rockhurst. Despite recording their lowest scoring game this season, the Bulldogs finished on top 62-46.

"I wasn't really worried about the whole scoring performance," Smith said. "It's how we played [that] I was more importantly worried about."

Truman recorded 45 rebounds while Rockhurst had 35 rebounds. Truman shot 32.8 percent from the floor while Rockhurst shot 32.1 percent.

The first road game was the team's fifth win in a row.

"It's been a good feeling being able to walk off the court with your head high, instead of walking with your head down," Smith said. "The last

few years we've walked with our head down a lot more than we've walked with our head up."

For the first time since week six and seven polls of the January 2008 season, the womens basketball team received votes in the USA Today / ESPN Div. II Top 25 Coaches' Poll. In the last rankings conducted Nov. 29, Truman received two votes.

During week six of Jan. 8, 2008 Truman received 30 votes. During the following week Truman received four votes.

"[Winning all of our games up to this point] is a test of the players that we have currently in the program and how much our hard work has paid off from our preseason all the way up until this point," Smith said. "As far as understanding that if we do work hard that usually good things will happen from it, and I think our kids are really starting to believe that."

Before the womens basketball squad battled Rockhurst, the 'Dogs faced No. 24 Quincy University [Ill.]. The Bulldogs won with a final score of 79-69. Before beating Quincy, the last time a Truman womens

basketball squad defeated a ranked team was in March 2008 when they beat then No. 22 Emporia State University.

Against the Quincy Hawks, McHenry put up 19 total points while Norton recorded 16. The 'Dogs shot 78.6 percent from the free throw line and 44.3 percent from the floor.

"I think our offense feeds off our defense and I think that comes down to work ethic when we step on the floor," Smith said. "We didn't expect to win in the past, we hadn't really had that mentality. I think our kids are starting to believe that mentality. I put this group on the floor for a reason because I believe in them."

At the third home game of the season on Nov. 19th, the Bulldogs finished on top against Central Methodist University [Mo.] 108-55. Truman shot 60.6 percent from the floor while Central Methodist shot 35.1 percent. Senior guard Jenny Dorman led the team in total points with 19. Junior forward Jennifer Conway led the team in rebounds with seven.

The 'Dogs will host Pittsburg State University 1 p.m. Saturday.

SWIMMING | Women finish second at Phoenix Fall Classic in Chicago, Ill.

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 record, an accomplishment he said was his personal pinnacle of swimming.

"[Setting a record] is still just a thrill every time you do it," Simek said. "Whether it's somebody else's or my own, it's still just a really good accomplishment. I could have gotten first or eighth in my heat, but when I beat my own time, for me that's the important part."

Other performers for the men were freshman Etienne Thro, who took fifth in the 100-meter fly, junior Tony Hernandez, who placed sixth in the 200-meter breaststroke and sophomore Eric Mikolajczyk, who was seventh in the 200-meter freestyle.

The swimmers get back in the pool Jan. 14 at home against the Missouri State

Bears, who defeated them earlier this season. Simek said this second meet has the chance to be nothing like the first.

"My own opinion, I think we're ahead of where I thought we would be," Simek said. "I give a ton of credit to [head coach] Ed [Pretre] and [assistant coach] Kerry [Smith] on that, and pushing us to where we need to be, and that prepares us very well. [Against Missouri State] we'll be coming off our training trip instead of being tired, and I think we'll have a mindset of, we're tapering toward conference and there are only a few weeks left instead of thinking, 'Oh my god, this is Missouri State, they're gonna kill us.' We're gonna have to go into it with a good mindset."

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 — Pete Kendall head coach

SHERMAN | Holiday season is most wonderful time of the year for fans of professional and collegiate athletics

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 and the commitment of shirtless fans everywhere is tested. Christmas Eve is headlined by the Oakland-Kansas City rivalry, while the Bears face off against the perfect Packers on Christmas Day. Is it possible to ask for anything more?

Christmas Day also will mark the first day of the newly resurrected NBA season. Highlighting the

Christmas Day games is a 2011 NBA Championship rematch as LeBron James and the Heat take their talents to Dallas to seek revenge on Dirk and the Mavericks. I'll be the first to tell you the NBA lockout was a blissful few months, but there isn't much better than watching the Heat faces as the Mavs receive their championship rings. Another solid matchup scheduled for Christmas Day

is the battle between the Lakers and Celtics, which always proves to be good television. The end of the NBA lockout truly was a holiday miracle, if you consider narcissistic freak athletes finally getting more money on top of their multi-million dollar contracts a miracle.

The holiday season means Santa hats and holiday parties, big hits and trophies. Holiday sports

bring families and complete strangers together to cheer for their respective teams, they show kids that sometimes the best presents are ones given to you in the form of last-minute Hail Marys and they give even the biggest Grinch a reason to be happy.

With all the drama that has happened during the past few months in college and professional sports,

it would be fitting to say holiday sports are one of the best gifts fans will receive this season. Sure, physical presents are nice, but the only presents I need are a Notre Dame bowl win, a non-SEC school in the national championship and a good quarterback under center for the Chiefs.

Unfortunately, even Santa's elves aren't good enough to guarantee those.



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