



Jessie Poole/Index

Junior E.J. Hicks puts up a shot against Pittsburg State University on Saturday in Pershing Arena. After starting the season 2-6, the men have won their last two games, bringing their season record to 4-6 and their conference record to 2-1. Hicks is averaging 9.8 points a game this season for the Bulldogs.

Men win two straight games

BY TYLER POE
Staff Reporter

Truman has won two straight games with a narrow 80-79 victory against the Southwest Baptist Bearcats on Wednesday night in Pershing Arena.

Freshman Mike Carlson had a game-high 21 points and sophomore Isaac Gardner connected six of seven shots from the floor to finish with 18 points. The Bulldogs eclipsed the 80-point mark for just the second time this season and shot just below their average at 43 percent from the field.

Truman led by as much as 15 during the contest and was a perfect 11 of 11 from the charity stripe during the first half, but the Bulldogs shot 47 percent (8-17) from the free-throw line during the second half and allowed the Bearcats to score 46 points in the second half behind the play of junior Kyle Sloan who hit eight of 12 three-pointers in the game and finished with 29 points to lead all scorers.

"The win wasn't pretty, but we got the job done tonight," Carlson said. "A win is a win in

this league. This win was good for us because we know we need to get better and we have seen what we can work on."

For the season, the Bulldogs are 4-6, 2-1 in the MIAA while the Bearcats dropped to 0-3 in the MIAA. Junior guard Tom Norton leads the Bulldogs in scoring with an average of 13.1 points per contest, but Carlson, junior E.J. Hicks and freshman Seth Jackson average double digit scoring as well.

Last week, the Bulldogs won their first MIAA game of the season against Pittsburg State. Jackson led the Bulldogs with 17 points and freshman Andrew Vander Zwaag hit a pair of clutch three-pointers to help the Bulldogs defeat the Gorillas 66-57 in Pershing Arena.

"It felt good to get our first win in the conference," Vander Zwaag said. "We need to make free throws under pressure and learn how to handle late-game situations and we will be fine."

Thus far, a big cause of concern for the Bulldogs in 2011 has been their inability to win games and defend consistently on the road. The Bulldogs are allowing 72

Men's basketball stats

Top scorers:

Mike Carlson	21 points
Isaac Gardner	18 points

Team shooting:

Truman State	52.1 percent
Southwest Baptist	43.1 percent

*according to trumanbulldogs.com

points a game on the road this season, allowing 82 points a game during their last two road games.

Head coach Matt Woodley said the team is buying into his style of play, but there still is plenty of time and room for improvement. The Bulldogs will be tested away from home again this weekend, as the 'Dogs travel to Topeka, Kan., to take on the Ichabods of Washburn Univer-

sity at 3:30 p.m.

Truman will have to step up its game this weekend to slow down the potent offense of the Ichabods, Norton said.

"We have got to play harder than them and get better shots than them," Norton said. "We have to play better defense."

While the Bulldogs are scoring an average of 69 points a contest, the exact same rate as a year ago under then head coach Jack Schro-

eder, they are allowing seven points fewer to their opponents in Woodley's first season as head coach.

Washburn (6-3, 1-1 MIAA) averages 73.9 points a contest and offensively are led by guards Will McNeill and Martin Mitchell. The dynamic duo have combined to score just fewer than 33 points a game this season while the team allows just 65.9 points a game - the fifth best mark in the MIAA.

Washburn also boasts the conference's fifth best scoring margin, outscoring opponents by eight points a game and shooting 45 percent from the field. Truman, who is also shooting 45 percent from the field this season, will look to capitalize on turnovers, Jackson said.

Free throws might play a crucial role in the game Saturday as well, Carlson said. Both teams are in the top five in the MIAA in free throw percentage.

Washburn ranks second in the MIAA in percentage, but Truman is second in the conference in attempts and free throws made. Carlson said the keys to winning on the road are to play smart, play tough and limit mistakes.

Women split pair of home games

BY MEREDITH KUSKY
Staff Reporter

The Truman State womens basketball team looked to beat Southwest Baptist University for the third straight year Wednesday night and that is just what they did.

With a final score of 79-54, the Bulldogs recorded their second conference win. They now are 2-1 in the MIAA and 7-1 overall.

At half time the 'Dogs were up by 13. They shot 50 percent from the free-throw line and 48.5 percent from the floor after the first 20 minutes. The 'Dogs did not make a basket until almost three minutes into the first half.

"I was happy in the second half," head coach Michael Smith said. "I thought in the first half we just kind of played with no emotion, played with no passion and it showed."

Junior guard Becka McHenry was the night's top scorer with 18 total points while freshman guard Allie Norton had 13, which she scored in less than 10 minutes during the first half.

Despite the 25-point victory, Smith wants to see improvement before the team faces Washburn on Saturday, he said.

The Bulldogs had 11 total turnovers and forced Southwest Baptist to make 22.

"We need better communication on our defense," Norton said. "I mean, we have so many offensive plays that we don't have a problem scoring, it's just our defense. We need to communicate with each other better."

Although the Bulldogs were out-rebounded during the first half, Truman finished with 31 total rebounds while

allowing the Bearcats 28.

"I thought we were playing not to lose," Smith said. "Just kind of playing with them and scoring."

The difference of one point gave the Bulldogs their first loss this season. Truman fell to Pittsburg State University 78-79 last Saturday at home.

"It would've been nice to keep that zero [losses], but we have a lot of games to play and a lot more conference games to focus on," McHenry said.

Despite the close score at the end of the game, the 'Dogs were down by 18 points at the half mark.

During the first 20 minutes of play, the Bulldogs shot 37 percent from the floor while Pittsburg State shot 55.9 percent. From the free-throw line, the team shot 55.6 percent.

Truman had eight turnovers during the first half and three during the second half. Pittsburg State scored 17 total points off Truman's 11 turnovers.

"I think we weren't prepared as well as we should've been," McHenry said.

During the first half the Bulldogs allowed Pittsburg State to score 49 points and let up 30 during the second. The 'Dogs recorded 18 total rebounds during the first half and 21 during the second.

"With this group I don't have to say a lot," Smith said. "I think it's just a matter of that they understand when they're not performing to their expectations. You just have to look them in the eye and tell them you're disappointed. I knew we'd have some fight. I was awfully proud of our final and how we finished that as far as getting to the free-throw line."

During the second half, the 'Dogs shot 46.9 percent from the floor and made 92.9 percent of their free throws.

"I think a lot of people that were in the



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Sophomore Bianca Szafarowicz guards a player from Lindenwood Belleville on Nov. 12 in Pershing Arena. Before Saturday, the women had won six straight.

stands tonight saw a little bit about this team and the character of this team," Smith said. "Whenever they get down they're not going to give up like maybe some teams have in the past, so that's good to see that from a coaching standpoint."

Sophomore forward Nicole Gloor led the team in total points with 22 while McHenry was just behind with 20.

Senior Brie Daniels scored 13 total points against the Lady Gorillas. This led

to her reaching 1,000 points throughout her college career.

"It says a lot about her as a person," Smith said. "I think it's quite an accomplishment in college basketball to be able to get 1,000 points over your career, and the best thing is that she's not done. She's got a lot of games left in the season."

The team will travel to Topeka, Ks. to face conference opponent Washburn University at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.