

# Women fall to Washburn

BY JONNY BROWN  
Staff Reporter

Despite cutting the lead to seven points with two minutes remaining, the Truman womens basketball team was unable to beat two ranked teams in a week, losing 67-59 to No. 11 Washburn.

Head coach Michael Smith said he was disappointed about the way the 'Dogs played during the first half, but he was proud of the way they came back in the second.

"[We were a] completely different team the second half," Smith said. "We didn't execute our game plan at all in the first half."

Reigning MIAA Player of the Week, junior Becka McHenry, battled illness prior to the game and was only able to play 25 minutes. The Bulldogs' leading scorer from the bench, junior Nicole Gloor, left the game after five minutes with a shoulder injury. Smith said this was something the Dogs recovered from during the second half.

"We were a little depleted in the first half," Smith said. "Second half, our kids fought and I'm very proud of our efforts."

Senior Brie Daniels scored 18 points for the Bulldogs while pulling down a team-high six rebounds. The 'Dogs gave up 43 points during the first half but outscored the Lady Blues by eight during the second. Smith said not having their two leading scorers really hurt the team and there was no shame in losing to a Washburn team who only has one loss in conference, which was to the Bulldogs before Christmas.

"[Washburn is] a ball club full of superstars," Smith said. "We're a ball club full of young kids who have to work hard together. We don't have any superstars, just a bunch of kids who are buying into what we are trying to do here."

Truman saw more success Saturday

as they defeated No. 17 Emporia State 78-60. The win was the Bulldogs' third against ranked teams this season. After a layup from Gloor with seven minutes remaining during the first half, the 'Dogs took the lead and never let up. The victory in Pershing Arena marked the first time the 'Dogs had defeated the Hornets at home in more than 10 years.

"It was a great win against a really good Emporia team," Smith said. "More importantly, it was an important win for our team, for their confidence."

After blowing a 13-point lead last week at Pitt State, Smith said the 'Dogs came out looking to avenge that defeat. He said this win proved the 'Dogs can be as good as anyone.

"The loss at Pitt State left a nasty taste in our mouths," Smith said. "Our kids are finally starting to understand they can play with not only the best teams in the conference but in the country."

McHenry credited the win to the whole roster putting a complete game together. She had 12 points and eight assists in Saturday's win.

"Every time we've beaten a ranked team, we've played all 40 minutes and played as a team," McHenry said. "Everyone did their part and that led to our success."

Junior Jennifer Conway led the Bulldogs with a double-double, 17 points and 11 rebounds. Smith said Conway played with a lot more confidence during the game against Emporia. Conway said in preparing for this game the Bulldogs did nothing outside their usual routine.

"It's the same secret for every game, ranked opponent or not: Hard work and attention to detail," Conway said.

With this win, Smith said he thinks many teams will no longer make the mistake of underestimating the Bulldogs. It's a mistake teams have made for



Jessie Poole/Index

Junior forward Megan Sharpe puts up a shot against No. 11 Washburn University Wednesday night in Pershing Arena as senior Brie Daniels looks on.

too long, Smith said. He said he thinks the Bulldogs have much more to give during the rest of the season.

"Every team that now plays us has a

concern about us and is realizing that we're no longer in the cellar," Smith said. "We're still learning and growing as a team and finding out how good we are."

# Men split pair of home games

BY TYLER POE  
Staff Reporter

The Truman State mens basketball team lost in Pershing Arena on Wednesday night to Washburn University 45-66.

A balanced attack, a 2-1-2 zone press by Washburn and costly turnovers by the Bulldogs led to the run-away victory for the Ichabods.

The Ichabods have forced an average of nearly 17 turnovers a game this season and sophomore guard Isaac Gardner said the turnover margin was the difference in the contest Wednesday.

"We have to come with a lot more energy and enthusiasm," Gardner said. "We had a big play to end the half, but came out slow on defense and flat offensively in the second."

The Ichabods (13-6, 9-4 MIAA) led the Bulldogs (6-15, 4-10 MIAA) 32-29 at the half and a 14-4 surge to start the second half proved to be too great an obstacle for the Bulldogs to overcome.

Truman was led by Gardner's 14 points off the bench. The sophomore shot 50 percent from three-point range. He said the Ichabods' press wasn't intense, but the Bulldogs didn't handle it well. The Bulldogs committed 29 turnovers and were 8-26 from behind the arc.

Moving forward, Gardner said the 'Dogs needs to shake off the loss, learn a few things and put together a win streak to keep their hopes for the postseason alive.

During action Saturday, the Bulldogs outlasted the Emporia State Hornets in a 77-70 overtime thriller that featured seven lead changes throughout the contest. Freshman Seth Jackson led the team in scoring for the seventh time this season, but fouled out just before the end of regulation. During overtime, junior guard Tom Norton had a five-point play to send the 'Dogs home with their first win in Pershing Arena since Dec. 7 when they defeated Southwest Baptist University 80-79.

After the game, Norton said he was happy the Bulldogs came away with the win.

Head coach Matt Woodley said Norton's five-point play is only the second he's witnessed during his career as a head coach. Woodley said the Hornets were unable to overcome the lead Truman built with Norton's play, which gave them a 70-63 lead with 1:50 remaining.

Woodley said the Bulldogs' defensive strategy was the difference in the contest.

"We made [Emporia State] one-dimensional," Woodley said. "It's just like in football. If you make a

team pass the ball all game long then the numbers will tilt in your favor."

Woodley's plan worked as the Hornets made 11 threes during the game, but attempted 34 three-point shots. Woodley said his mantra this season has been to get a better shot than the opponent, and this was accomplished against the Hornets.

Throughout the contest, the Bulldogs connected on 34 of 48 attempts from the charity stripe and shot 75 percent from the floor during overtime. The Bulldogs' 34 made free throws were the most by any team in the program's history during the last 23 years.

With seven games left until the season's conclusion, Woodley said his team must take care of the basketball and get the most out of each possession if the Bulldogs want to make the MIAA conference tournament in Kansas City, Mo.

During the win against Emporia State, the Bulldogs tallied just 13 turnovers in 225 minutes of basketball and committed no turnovers in the overtime period. Norton said the team has been working hard at taking care of the ball and grinding out the clock each possession during practice. He said his team wants to make the opponent work for every opportunity on offense and de-



Lindsey Gillam/Index

Sophomore center Marek Bush blocks a shot Saturday in Pershing Arena in a game against the Emporia State Hornets.

fense. Besides Norton, the other Bulldog starters have little experience on the court headed toward the end of the regular season, but Woodley said his young squad has bought into his system and fans will see results now and in the future.

"I'm so proud of these young

guys," Woodley said. "These guys have really committed to this program and they have a legitimate chance to be great in the future."

The Bulldogs will resume play against Southwest Baptist University Saturday in Bolivar, Mo.

## THE RANKINGS

A QUICK LOOK AT THE BULLDOGS' STANDINGS AS OF WED. NIGHT



**Mens Basketball**  
6-15  
9th in MIAA



**Womens Basketball**  
11-8  
6th in MIAA



**Mens Swimming**  
1-5  
conference does not rank



**Wrestling**  
2-10  
conference does not rank



**Womens Swimming**  
2-3  
conference does not rank

## UPCOMING SEASONS



**Mens Tennis**  
First match:  
Feb. 4  
at Grinnell, Iowa



**Womens Tennis**  
First match:  
Feb. 17  
at Elsah, Ill.



**Baseball**  
First game:  
Feb. 25  
at Rolla, Mo.



**Softball**  
First match:  
Feb. 17  
at Decatur, Ala.