

# Gardner breaks scoring record

Sophomore passes three-point mark that stood for 23 years

BY SAM SHERMAN  
Sports Editor  
index.sportseditor@gmail.com

With multiple Div. I basketball coaching positions under his belt, head coach Matt Woodley has had the opportunity to coach some of the best basketball players in the country. However, in one category, he said sophomore guard Isaac Gardner trumps them all.

"[Gardner] is the best shooter I've ever coached, and it's very impressive," Woodley said.

Gardner made headlines last week by breaking the Truman State single-game record for three-pointers when he went 10 of 14 beyond the arc against Hannibal-LaGrange on the way to a 76-73 Bulldog win against the Trojans. Woodley said Gardner's been known for his shooting ability long before he broke the record.

"[The record-breaking performance] didn't surprise me, he does this in practice all the time," he said. "When he misses, it almost shocks me. ... Two of his four misses literally went to the bottom of the net and came back out, that's how much he's locked in."

Despite his performance that night, Gardner said he had no idea he had broken the record until junior guard Tom Norton approached him immediately following the game.

"I didn't believe him, and then coach came in and he said that too," Gardner said.

Gardner has led the Bulldogs in three-point percentage this season, shooting .444 from beyond the arc. His 9.5 points a game is good enough for third on the team behind Norton and freshman guard Seth Jackson, despite being fifth on the team in average minutes a game with 23.9.



Lindsey Gillam/Index

Sophomore guard Isaac Gardner dribbles the ball against Emporia State Jan. 28. After sitting out the first part of the season with an injury, Gardner is averaging 9.5 points a game for Truman and is shooting nearly .500 from three-point range.

During his freshman season, Gardner averaged just 16.8 minutes a game along with 6.8 points. Gardner said that this year, Woodley's system and his experience have allowed him to flourish.

"A year of experience helps, and I just feel more confidence in my offense," he said. "Coach has given me the complete green light just to shoot whenever, so that really helps my confidence a lot."

On the court and the box score, Gardner has proven him-

self to be one of the Bulldog leaders, though sophomore guard Justin Strickland said he chooses to lead more with his attitude and playing ability rather than with his voice.

"Isaac is more of a quiet leader, like he never talks on the court," Strickland said. "Anything could happen on the court, and he just keeps doing his job....He leads by example. ... If we need a tough shot, he'll hit it, or if we need a rebound he'll go get the rebound. We pick up off of it just as if somebody was

yelling."

Gardner's sophomore season will soon come to a close and Woodley said he's excited to see what the future will bring, because Gardner had been recovering from a broken collarbone at the beginning of this season.

If he remains healthy and develops other aspects of his game, Woodley said the best of his prized shooter is yet to come.

"I can't wait to see him these next two years growing into a young man and then just evol-

ving as a basketball player," Woodley said. "He could go down as one of the best shooters ever in the history of this school, which I think he will. I just want him to be a complete player."

Gardner said his goals for the offseason include putting on muscle weight and getting in better physical shape. He said he also wants the team to grow closer during the offseason.

"[I want to] just continue helping the team in any way I can," he said.



Rose Sparks/Index

Junior Maggi Schutte hits a forehand during tennis practice Wednesday. Schutte went undefeated last weekend.

## 'Dogs win six flights, lose two at tournament

BY GARRETT FRITCH  
Staff Reporter

The Truman State women's tennis team began its spring season during the weekend at the Principia Tournament in Elsah, Ill. Although Truman's one and two players went 1-2 for the weekend, the 'Dogs' three through eight players won their flights during the weekend and all four of Truman's doubles teams won their flights.

Going undefeated at this weekend's tournament was not rare for the Bulldogs. Freshmen Kim Birenbaum, Kati Austin, Kelsey Porter, sophomore Jessie Gennuso and junior Maggi Schutte did not lose a match in their singles flights. The doubles teams of Birenbaum and Schutte, Porter and Gennuso, and Hawkins and Austin did not lose a match during the weekend.

"The matches we lost were all pretty close," said head coach Pete Kendall about his team's performance the weekend.

Not all the 'Dogs were successful during the weekend. Senior Dagmar Velez lost to Jane Brown of the University of Illinois Springfield 7-5, 6-7, 12-10. Senior Jennifer Hawkins lost two close sets 7-5, 6-4 in her only loss of the weekend, and senior Ellen

Russell also lost a close match 6-3, 3-6, 10-8.

"Everybody was ready to go and fired up to play and we (played) well," Kendall said. "It's hard to do much better than we did this weekend."

For the women, it was their first time on the courts this spring.

"We've been practicing in Pershing all winter," Schutte said. "I wasn't expecting myself to pull out as many wins as I did or my team to do as well as we did because we were practicing in Pershing [Building]."

The multi-surface floor in Pershing provides different speed and spin to the ball than the hard courts the Bulldogs practice on when the weather is nice. Those courts are the same style the Bulldogs play their matches on, so the success the 'Dogs showed on the hard courts this early in the season is a good sign.

For Schutte, the success this weekend was especially fulfilling. The Principia Tournament was her first this season after she sat out the fall season with an injury.

"I'm beyond happy to be back and healthy and with the team and traveling," Schutte said. "I'm excited to see what this season brings."

Schutte returning to the team from her injury is going to be a big

help to the Bulldogs' lineup, Kendall said.

"We know we have better a team this year than we did last year because we have more depth," Kendall said. "We have Maggi back plus a couple freshmen in the lineup. It really pays to have Maggi back in the lineup. She's a nice, solid player, and she actually played [number] one [singles] for us when she came here."

This weekend was also the first time Schutte and Birenbaum had played in competition as a doubles team.

"It was a lot of fun," Birenbaum said. "Maggi and I are friends off the court so it's kind of different playing with her. We have fun, but we know how to be serious too."

After the successful weekend there are high expectations for the women's team.

"We have a lot of depth so I think we'll go further than we have in past years," Birenbaum said.

The improvements made during practice and at home the new additions to the lineup will be on display March 19 when the women face the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

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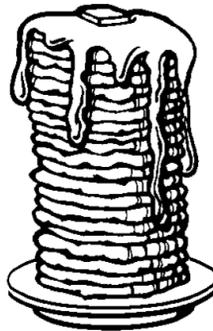
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