

'Dogs swept by UCM

BY TYLER SIGRIST
Staff Reporter

The Truman baseball team's recent struggles continued as they hosted the second ranked team in the nation, the University of Central Missouri on March 9-10 for the 2012 home opener. The 'Dogs fell to the Mules in both double-headers played during the weekend, bringing their overall season record to 1-11.

Bulldog starters gave up 14 earned runs during the four games throughout the two days, while the offense was only able to score 12 runs, eight of which came during game four.

"We showed up a little flat in the first three games," head coach Dan Davis said. "We didn't take advantage of being able to take down a top five team in the country. But I think this was a great weekend for us. I think we played our best baseball in game four and it's a sign of what were going to do the rest of the year."

Senior Tyler Stefan started the home opener for Truman. Stefan gave up one earned run from six hits and three walks during the five and one-third innings that he pitched. In the beginning, game one looked like it was going to be a defensive struggle, tied at one after the first five innings.

During the top of the sixth, junior Chase Graskewicz singled with two on and one out to give UCM an insurance run and put them up 3-1 heading into the last inning of play. The Mules' offense increased with a surge during the top of the seventh, scoring 11 runs, leading to a 13-1 win.

"Our bullpen hasn't done very well so far and that's the bottom line," Davis said. "We've got to come in and throw strikes and they just haven't done that so far. And, unfortunately, most of those runs were unearned because our defense let a ground ball get through our legs."

Game two also started out as a tight pitchers duel, remaining scoreless through three. Junior Logan Siegler was on the hill for the Bulldogs and gave up only one hit during the first three innings before giving up two earned runs to the Mules throughout the fourth and the fifth.

UCM started senior Kyle Jackson, a former pitcher for the University of Kentucky. Jackson threw six scoreless innings, giving up just three hits and no walks before the Mule bullpen took control and finished the 6-0, nine-inning shutout.

"Logan did pretty good," Davis said. "They're a good hitting club, they put the ball in play, very rarely struck out, fouled off pitches, and that ups the pitch count. They got to a ton of three-two counts while we were on the mound and that really gasses you as a pitcher. They do a good job of making you labor and take advantage of mistakes."

During game three, freshman Bret Gerstner took the mound for the first three and two-thirds innings. He gave up three earned runs from six hits and from what Davis said were an uncharacteristic six walks. He also received little defensive help from the infield as they made four errors that led to five



Jessie Poole/Index

Sophomore Will Nader throws during practice Tuesday. Nader went 3-11 during Truman's weekend series against the No. 2 Mules.

unearned runs.

The Bulldog offense was halted by solid pitching from the other side. Sophomore Kurtis Schuyler went five of the seven innings, gave up five hits, walked one, struck out four and gave up only one run as the Mules cruised to a 10-1 victory.

"It wasn't the best game that I have pitched," Gerstner said. "But I use every chance that I get out on the mound against good hitters to get better."

The last game proved to be the only one of the weekend that was close and could have gone either way. After putting up two runs from four hits against UCM starter junior Aaron Baker during the first, UCM answered plating one in the second and two more during the top half of the third. During the latter half of the inning, freshman Jarod Haun singled to center field and that set up a two-run homerun from freshman Paul Trenhaile that pushed the Bulldogs ahead 4-3.

During the seventh, down 7-3 with the bases loaded, UCM sophomore Kevin Gratza hit a grand slam to tie the game for the Mules and send the contest into extra innings where UCM emerged triumphant 10-8.

Davis said he took optimistic lessons

away from the series' final game.

"Our approach, our attitude and enthusiasm have made us excited because the way we played in game four, that is the group that we were waiting to see," Davis said.

Freshman Paul McMahon went six and a third and got a no decision. Sophomore Chris Allard picked up the loss.

"I was pretty impressed with our guys on the weekend," Davis said. "We put balls in play that they just made great plays on. ... We had some quality at bats and against pitching staffs that aren't the best in the conference that translates into runs down the road."

Gerstner echoed Davis's sentiment that the weekend could be a good launching point for Truman's season.

"As a whole, our team is right on the border of breaking out," Gerstner said. "We have a lot of talent and have a very good team. We just have to put everything together. We showed flashes of that this weekend."

Truman will get back on the diamond Friday at home against Washburn University.

Men add three from Iowa

Truman mens basketball recruits freshmen for 2012-2013 season

BY TYLER POE
Staff Reporter

Next year the Truman State mens basketball team will welcome three new recruits to the program from Iowa.

Ankeny High School's twin guards Cole and Cory Myers will join the club during the fall along with Waukee High School's Chad Gutschenritter. Truman's head coach Matt Woodley coached Gutschenritter at Waukee High before leaving to join the Bulldogs squad during 2011.

Cole and Cory Myers are listed at 6'1" and averaged 12 and 10 points a game, respectively, for the Hawks this year. MIAA Freshman of the Year Seth Jackson said the twins will be able to compete for time and play multiple positions right away next season. Jackson has seen the recruits play and said he is excited for the possibilities next season.

Cole Myers recently was named to the Class 4-A all-state second team by the Des Moines Register as well as the coaches' Central Conference first team. Cole is ranked 9th in the state of Iowa individually and led the Hawks with 52 made 3-point attempts and 60 steals.

The Hawks squad finished ranked No. 2 in the state in basketball according to Rivals.com — 84th nationally — and finished with a 25-1 record for the season before losing during the final four of the state playoffs. Woodley said the twins will bring the toughness the program needs to move forward with a winning attitude.

"Both of the twins are former football players, so they know a thing or two about toughness and about winning as well," Woodley said.

Woodley's former team, the Waukee Warriors, finished 17-7 and lost during the second round of the tournament to eventual champion Iowa City West. Gutschenritter led the Warriors this season in points and assists, averaging 12 points and five assists a game.

"Chad is a phenomenal passer whose prior experience in Woodley's defensive scheme will help our team immensely," Carlson said. "We are all excited to see what he can bring to our team."

Junior guard Tom Norton, who helped the recruits at Truman's training camp last summer, said the Myers twins and Gutschenritter played well together.

"We have a lot of potential," Carlson said. "If these guys can get integrated quickly there is no telling what we can do as a complete team."

Gutschenritter and the Myers twins should become comfortable early, as the three are no strangers to each other and actually have been Bulldogs together once before. When they were fifth graders, Cole and Cory Myers played for an AAU team that traveled to Ohio for a tournament where Gutschenritter was a guest player for that squad which, according to the Des Moines Register, was named the Bulldogs.

Young bats provide spark for Bulldogs

BY SAM SHERMAN
Sports Editor

Index.sportseditor@gmail.com

The Bulldogs softball team has seen success at the plate this season. With six underclassmen with 25 at-bats or more, the 'Dogs have posted a .329 team batting average, which is the best in the conference. The team also leads the conference in slugging percentage, on base percentage and runs scored.

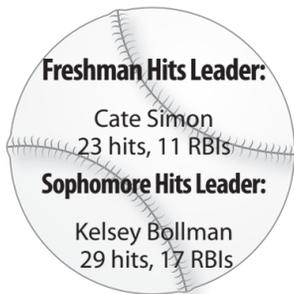
The team's young roster, which generally is seen as a disadvantage, has been a crucial component of the Bulldogs' success at the plate. Truman finished last season with a .287 batting average on their way to a 20-28 record. This season, underclassmen have accounted for more than half the at-bats of the team, and

of the six underclassmen with 25 at-bats or more, all are batting more than .300.

Head coach Erin Brown said she was expecting the four freshmen on the team to contribute to the team's offensive play when they were recruited.

"Most of [the freshmen] played at a competitive level with their summer select teams and when we recruited them, that's something we really saw in them," Brown said.

The sophomore class is led offensively by second baseman Kelsey Bollman, who finished her freshman season with a .372 batting average and an all-MIAA second team nod. This season, Bollman has posted a .357 average so far with three homeruns and 14 RBIs.



Sophomore shortstop Corey Niblett emerged this season as a solid bat in the lineup as well. She is hitting .300 with five RBIs.

In the freshman class, third baseman Cate Simon has been the anchor at the plate. Simon is hitting

.422 with four homeruns and nine RBIs, while freshman utility player Elizabeth Leath has hit .393 with a team-high nine doubles.

Simon said it wasn't difficult for her and her freshman counterparts to become used to the rigors of college softball.

"I don't think it was hard for any of us because we've all played such competitive ball for so long that we jumped right in and we knew what was coming," she said. "I expected the freshmen to definitely come in and play a big role."

Brown said the upperclassmen have had a crucial impact on the younger players' success.

"They certainly lead them in many ways, not specifically with offense, but just what it's like to be part of a college team and what

our expectations are," Brown said. "Something that I try to tell them is that when they leave, they should leave the program better than when they came in. Our upperclassmen have done an excellent job at that."

Despite big bats, Brown said the team has struggled defensively this season. She said having a younger team might be a part of those struggles, as the younger players aren't used to having the amount of pressure college softball puts on players defensively.

Simon said Brown has expected excellence from not only the younger players, but the whole team.

"I wouldn't say [she puts] pressure [on us]," Simon said. "It wasn't as much of a pressure situation, but more of just, 'I know what you're capable of, so go out and do it'"

WWW.TRUMANRENTALS.COM

Providing affordable student housing for more than 25 years.

Boardwalk • Waterworks • Park Place • States Avenue • St. James Place • New York Avenue

Four Horizons Realty
703 N. Marion St.
Kirksville, MO 63501
660-665-RENT

www.4horizonsrealty.com

Franklin Street Apartment Rentals

Great Locations, Competitive Rates
Current Summer and Fall Availability

606 South Franklin-House

- across the street from Truman Admissions Office
- 5 bedroom house, three bathrooms, living room, kitchen
- Private parking, lawn care and snow removal provided
- Central air and heat. No Smoking

404 South Franklin-Apartments Available

- Two blocks from Truman & ATSU campus
 - Several one and two bedroom apartments
 - Two efficiency apartments
 - Penthouse two bedroom, two bathroom apartment
 - Private parking
 - UTILITIES PAID: Trash, water, sewer, lawn care and snow removal (FREE UTILITIES APPROXIMATE VALUE \$1025/YEAR)
- Smoke Free Building

CONTACT: 660-349-0344 or 9224

rentfrank11@gmail.com
www.rentfrank.com