



Lindsey Gillam/Index

Left, sophomore Daniel Jewett bats against the Ichabods during Saturday's game. Center, senior Devon Myers waits behind the plate for the Bulldogs. On the right, junior Logan Siegler throws during Saturday's game. The Bulldogs are 2-14 for the year, with a 1-11 record during conference play.

'Dogs can't overcome poor hitting

Truman struggles at the plate during a weekend series against Washburn

BY TYLER SIGRIST
Staff Reporter

A combination of timely hitting and shut-down pitching allowed the Washburn University Ichabods (8-7) to take three of four games from the Bulldogs (2-14) during a series last weekend.

Each game was decided by three or less runs and featured solid pitching.

Senior catcher Devon Myers said the team's lack of offense was to blame for the three losses — not the pitching.

"We can definitely improve on our general approach at the plate because we obviously are going to need to score more runs if we want to win games," Myers said.

Washburn emerged triumphant during Sunday's game thanks to its senior pitcher Tyler Bean who, after giving up three runs in the second inning, retired 11 of the next 15 batters he faced. Bean helped himself out as well with a go-ahead solo home run.

During game three of the series, Truman was helped to victory by the arm of freshman Bret Gerstner, who threw a complete game shut-out to give the 'Dogs a 3-0 win.

"I'd say overall this year, I've been throwing pretty well," Gerstner said. "As far as adjusting from last week to this week, it was just keeping my confidence and knowing I can still pitch well if I just believed in myself."

Two underclassmen, freshman Paul Trenhaile and sophomore Daniel Jewett, had three RBIs with two outs during the game.

"I'll tell you what, the future looks bright, offensively," head

coach Dan Davis said. "And even pitching-wise because they've started to show up and pitch pretty good. I think [Gerstner] is good enough to dominate here. He's got three pitches that he throws well and can throw for a strike, and plus he competes like crazy."

Saturday's game was the most offensive of the series, as Washburn rode senior John Calhoun's two home runs to a 5-1 lead in the second inning and never looked back.

"I thought [junior pitcher Logan Siegler] pitched okay," Davis said. "He battled after the second inning but, the first couple of innings, he left some pitches up and they took advantage of him."

Once again, Washburn's pitching helped down the Bulldogs, as senior Kerry Schachenmeyer threw six innings of five-hit ball and Ichabod reliever AJ Green picked up the first of what would be his two saves during the series.

Siegler threw a complete game for the 'Dogs, giving up 11 hits, walking one and striking out seven.

The first game of the series was a classic pitchers' duel, as Washburn's junior Brett Ash threw a six-hit complete game shutout to lead the Ichabods to a 1-0 victory.

"I think Ash did what he wanted to with our hitters," Davis said. "That's what number one guys do. He's a very good pitcher. He never gave us anything and he got a lot tougher when we had guys on base. He did his job. You have got to tip your hat to him."

The Bulldogs left seven men on base during the contest and were unable to get a hit with runners in scoring position.

The Bulldogs will now go on the road for six games to Emporia State University and Lincoln University.

Pitcher remains upbeat after loss

BY TYLER POE
Staff Reporter

Pitchers' duels — tightly contested games where the outcome rides on a pitcher's arm instead of a hitter's bat — are a baseball hallmark.

During each of these clashes, one pitcher must come away with a bitter taste in his mouth. Senior pitcher Tyler Stefan discovered this firsthand Friday, when he was on the losing end of a 1-0 game against Washburn junior pitcher Brett Ash.

The loss overshadowed Stefan's seven strikeouts and five hits allowed during eight innings, dropping his record to 0-4 for the year. Stefan totaled 104 pitches during his time on the mound, allowing his only earned run during the top of the fifth inning after committing a costly balk, which advanced Washburn's Josh Wilder to third before being driven in on a groundout by Washburn's John Calhoun.

Staring at a winless conference record, one in which his teammates have driven in just four total runs during four games pitched, Stefan said he still has complete faith in his teammates.

"I absolutely hate losing, but I always have confidence in all of our players," Stefan said. "If you don't have that mindset, you won't be successful."

Stefan said there is no point during a game when he doesn't believe his offense can come through. His confidence on and off the mound is proof. After Stefan allowed his only earned run in the top of the fifth, he said he still felt his team could score enough to get a win for him. Instead, the 'Dogs put up another zero in the run column.

Senior shortstop Steven Rose, who was 1-3 at the plate Friday, said the team's struggles with

consistency are tremendously frustrating, but the team is working hard to improve.

"Every time our pitchers give ourselves chances to win and we don't help them out it sucks," Rose said. "Consistency comes down to everyone being on the same page and I think we are just now on our way to getting consistent!"

With the loss, Stefan improved his career-best ERA to 5.40 for the season.

Junior pitcher Logan Siegler said Stefan's work ethic has made all the difference this season compared to others. Rose said Stefan saw time out of the bullpen his first few seasons, but has taken a bigger leadership role this year.

Siegler said Stefan constantly works on his pitching, practicing the little things like mechanics, and has become a lot better, particularly with efficiency, making better pitches in specific counts. He said Stefan works quickly and maintains a rhythm while on the mound.

"Tyler doesn't dwell on any particular pitch and that is what has helped him to become the pitcher he is now," Siegler said. "He just looks to make the next pitch and he is good at making adjustments after the first turn through the lineup."

Even after the loss, Siegler said Stefan still was confident in his teammates and ready to work hard the next day. For most players, motivation comes from within, but for Stefan it is a little different. Stefan said that while he is fueled by his inner competitiveness, it is his team that motivates him to perform his best.

"I don't care what the opposing pitcher is doing, I focus on pounding the zone, and making my opponents beat themselves," Stefan said. "At the end of the day, my goals are the same as my teammates' — to win."



STEFAN

Stefan on the mound

Overall record: 0-4

ERA: 5.40

Innings: 20.0

Walks: 6

Strikeouts: 15

Earned Runs: 12

Support: 4 runs

Bulldog netters can't handle Fort Hays

BY GARRETT FRITCH
Staff Reporter

This weekend, the Truman State womens tennis team traveled to Fort Hays State. The Bulldogs lost to the Tigers 7-2. Junior Maggi Schutte and freshman Kati Austin were the only players to win their matches during the weekend.

There were several factors involved in the Bulldogs' weak weekend showing. Head coach Pete Kendall said he thought it was the Ft. Hays State program's improvement from last year to this year that affected the Bull-

dogs' performance the most.

"Hays is much improved over what they ever have been, by three positions," Kendall said. "They have new girls at one two and three [and all are] good players, so players that have played in the top half are now playing in the bottom half. They've improved and we're relatively the same as we have been."

Kendall said he talked to the players about taking Ft. Hays State more seriously this year. After discussing the matches with the players, he was not too upset about how the team played.

"We didn't play particularly bad," Kendall said. "I'm sure we can play better, especially at two or three positions. We lost all of our doubles, which was somewhat surprising to me, but I'm sure we can play better if we get the opportunity in the conference meet."

The Bulldog tennis players echoed Kendall's thoughts, saying Ft. Hays was improved from last year, but the team definitely has a shot to beat them.

Austin said the wind also played a major factor in how the Bulldogs performed during the weekend.

"I think personally I hit better in the wind, while others don't hit as well in the wind," Austin said. "I think at the beginning it was definitely challenging and it's something to adapt to. As your match goes on you definitely have to learn from the mistakes you've made ... I think ultimately the other team adapted better than we did."

Returning from Midterm Break also might have caused the Bulldogs to not perform as well as expected. The Bulldogs only had five practices before the semester's first dual meet.

"I missed practice on Wednes-

day, so I only got two and a half practices this week," senior Ellen Russell said. "And after the long bus ride it didn't help much either. It was our first meet and we were all coming back from [Midterm Break]. Plus, they're a really good team, so it's not like we rolled over to a bad team. Their No. 1 from last year plays four this year so they have an all new one through three."

The Bulldogs have a busy slate next week as they play Lewis University on March 23, travel to the University of Missouri-St. Louis on March 25, and face Rockhurst University at home March 28.