

Truman basketball combined net preseason earnings 2011-2012

Paid

Paying

Men:

\$10,000 by Mizzou

\$5,000 by Indiana State

\$2,000 by Missouri State

\$1,500 to Central Christian College of the Bible [Mo.]

\$1,500 to Hannibal - LaGrange University [Mo.]

Women:

\$2,000 by Mizzou

\$750 to Lindenwood - Bellville [Ill.]

\$750 to William Penn University [Iowa]

\$750 to Central Methodist University [Mo.]

Paid **\$19,000** — Paying **\$5,250**
 Net Total = **\$13,750**

Volleyball on playoff bubble

BY TYLER POE
Staff Reporter

With two games remaining, the Bulldogs sit ninth in the NCAA South Regional Poll and squarely on the bubble with a 3-1 win against Southwest Baptist University Wednesday night at Pershing Arena.

Truman defeated the Bearcats 25-9, 25-17, 19-25, 25-19. The Bulldogs hit .296 for the match and were led by freshman Allie Brak, junior Megan Sharpe and senior Molly Sinclair. Offensively, Brak led all hitters with a double-double (14 kills, 17 digs) while Sharpe posted 13 kills. Sinclair ended her home career at Truman with 11 kills and 16 digs for the match.

During the game, freshman libero Abby Moser notched yet another career mark in her freshman campaign. The libero scored 27 digs during the match, putting her atop the record books as Truman's all-time single-season digs leader with 665 total digs. The previous mark, held by Whitney Boehler, was 653 in 2008.

The Bulldogs (19-13, 8-8 MIAA) currently are fourth in the MIAA standings, but need to leapfrog over Emporia State (eighth in the rankings) to reach the NCAA tournament. Head coach Ben Briney said the team has to go 3-0 to finish the season, and then will have to see what happens.

"All we can really worry about is us," Briney said. "We need to take care of our side of the net because that's where our struggles have been this season."

Truman will hit the road this weekend to battle with Missouri Southern and Pittsburg State. The Bulldogs will take on the MSSU Lions night at 7 p.m. Friday in Joplin, Mo. The team's road record (1-8 on the year) is the worst mark of any Truman team since 1997, when the 'Dogs recorded 12 losses on the road en route to a 21-15, 8-8 MIAA season. Junior Allyson Stellmach, who had 6 kills against Southwest Baptist, said the team can win on the road as long as it is focused mentally. Sinclair said the team just needs one thing to win this weekend.

"It's going to take focus and we have to go in and do our job," Sinclair said.

Against Missouri Southern this season, the Bulldogs rolled in four sets, 25-10, 25-17, 19-25, and 25-18 while forcing 21 errors for the match from the Lions. Thirteen kills by both Sharpe and Brak led the way for the Bulldogs in a match that took less than an hour and a half to complete. The Bulldogs swept the Pittsburg State Gorillas in their first meeting and capitalized on an efficient hitting night (.369 as a team) as the Bulldogs blasted the Gorillas 25-19, 25-21 and 25-21.

The Bulldogs split their matches with Northwest Missouri and Missouri Western during the weekend.

The team lost the five-set match against Missouri Western Saturday night. The 'Dogs hit .139 for the match and committed 32 errors. Freshman Meghan Zimmerman said the hitters struggled terminating the ball and lost long rallies that took its toll throughout the course of the long match.

"[This loss] was bad," Zimmerman said. "We couldn't get first ball kills and they just rolled over us."

The Bulldogs picked up a win during senior night Friday beating the Northwest Bearcats 3-1. Briney subbed in junior Heather Hargadine at the 19-20 mark during the fourth. Hargadine played in just the final eight points of the entire match, but accounted for four of the team's final five points to beat the Bearcats 25-21 during the fourth set.

"It's hard to explain right now," senior right side hitter Erin Burmester said. "We have to focus on the task ahead and finish the season strong and on a positive note."

'Dogs cashing in

Preseason, non-conference games see money change hands

BY BRETT MCMILLAN
Sports Editor
index.sportseditor@gmail.com

Every night, ESPN editors and producers work to get highlights of games that ended during the 11 p.m. hour ready to air on the east coast's midnight edition of SportsCenter. Nov. 2, those highlights included the Truman State mens basketball team.

Not only did Truman's game versus the University of Missouri make the late edition of SportsCenter, but it also aired throughout the world in high definition on ESPN3.com.

Exhibition games against Div. I schools offers exposure for Truman and helps cover the cost of operating two programs that had the highest operating cost per athlete in 2009-'10, according to an April 14, 2011 Index article.

The Bulldog womens basketball team also played Mizzou this year during the exhibition season.

The men also played Div. I Missouri State University and Indiana State University.

Both of Truman's basketball programs have been paid a combined \$23,000 during the 2010-'11 and '11-'12 seasons for their involvement in preseason games.

"The money that the Div. I teams pay us to come play them is very beneficial," said Matt Woodley, mens head basketball coach. "The great thing about our University and what [Athletic Director] Jerry [Wollmering] does and with Dr. [Troy] Paino is the money that we make in those Div. I games go directly to our basketball programs."

Mizzou has been the largest contributor to the Bulldog's preseason earnings during 2010 and '11, paying Truman \$10,000 for the most recent mens exhibition and \$2,000 for the womens exhibition Nov. 1.

Two years ago the Bulldog men were paid \$7,500 to play the Tigers in Columbia, Mo.

The mens games against Indiana State and Missouri State of the Missouri Valley conference paid Truman

\$5,000 and \$2,000 dollars respectively.

Last season under head coach Jack Schrader the men played a Div. I exhibition game against the University of Missouri-Kansas City, which paid \$4,000. Last year, the women were paid \$1,500 dollars to play a game last year in which they upset Western Illinois University.

Wollmering said there currently is a contract in place for the women to make \$2,700 next year when they play Missouri State.

"Most of [the money] really covers travel expenses for those trips," Wollmering said. "The Mizzou game is the one you obviously make some profit on after you deduct your travel."

Woodley said he does not necessarily want to face three straight Div. I schools to start the season like the Bulldogs did this year, but he and Wollmering both said there is value in exhibitions against large schools.

Div. I schools are not the only schools paying for play. Truman pays schools to come to Pershing Arena during the preseason. The mens program will pay

\$1,500 to Central Christian College of the Bible [Mo.] and Hannibal-LaGrange University [Mo.] The women will pay three opponents \$750 this season starting Saturday with Lindenwood-Belleveille [Ill.].

"We use it as a confidence boost, and an opportunity to work on some things that we might need to work on as a team that we might not get the chance to work on playing a Mizzou, or a Missouri State, or an Indiana State," mens sophomore guard Pat Sodemann said.

Money can even change hands between schools within the same division. Fellow Div. II school Abilene Christian University [Texas] of the Lone Star Conference will pay the Truman mens team \$2,000 and will pay for 16 hotel rooms this weekend when the Bulldogs travel to Texas to participate in the ACU Wildcat Classic.

"I think [playing Div. I opponents] is neat," Wollmering said. "I think that it gets a lot of attention. I think it is good for the fans. Again a lot of people say, 'Hey I saw Truman in high def last night.' We're not going to be on high def during the regular season. I think it is just a neat conversation piece obviously."

Athletes informed about NCAA rules and responsibilities

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

As the leaves fall and the weather becomes colder, Truman State's winter sports teams begin their respective seasons. The beginning of a new season means those involved with winter sports recently attended the meeting hosted by Associate Athletics Director Linda Anderson at the beginning of each sports season to make sure players and coaches go about their seasons by the book. Which, as shown by recent scandals at USC and Boise State along with countless others, is sometimes more important than the sport itself.

The book of NCAA Div. II regulations provides a wide umbrella of answers to current problems college athletics face. Derived from years of situations, the book covers seemingly everything regarding an athlete's contact with boosters, coaches, gifts and money. Head football coach Gregg Nesbitt, whose team went to Anderson's meeting before their season started, said there's a reason why just one text covers so many different situations.

"[The rules] are constantly changing,"

Nesbitt said. "It's also written in a manner that's vague and thick, with an intent, and difficult to interpret. You could read it one way ... and somebody else could read it [differently]."

When players have questions, Nesbitt refers them to Anderson, the person responsible for interpreting the rules and answering they are aware of them. Anderson said a major focus of the rules for Div. II athletes is gambling.

"Athletes and employees can't gamble on athletic events that are sponsored by the NCAA," Anderson said. "For an event to be gambling, there needs to be an entry fee and registration, and there needs to be a prize at the end."

A major question surrounding these rules is fantasy sports and whether NCAA Div. II players can participate in the popular online game.

In the NCAA Div. II handbook, the rules state staff members and players cannot participate in sports gambling or assist in any way by providing information about sports on the amateur, college or professional level.

The 321-page document outlines a lot of different rules regarding what players can and cannot do. As for the Div. II level, Nesbitt said it is not likely to encounter the rule breaking usually in the national

headlines.

"The spirit of the major infractions stem from someone at a major university trying to gain a competitive edge," Nesbitt said.

Another common infraction is players receiving improper benefits. By NCAA standards this includes any benefit for student-athletes or their friends and relatives that is not generally available to students at the university and their families.

This rule was highlighted this summer by Boise State [Idaho.] University's athletics program in the football, tennis and track and field team's were caught receiving benefits and violating recruiting rules, according to espn.go.com. The football program had 63 players receiving a total of \$4,934 in improper benefits.

The defense for most infractions by players is a lack of knowledge regarding the situation. Sophomore soccer player Dylan Carter said athletes were required to attend a meeting at the beginning of the school year to be educated about the rules. He said some of them are hard to understand on a moral level.

"I don't really understand why [some of the situations outlined in the meeting] are so bad," Carter said.

Nesbitt said he thinks it is up to the institution to explain the rules and consequences, but the players ultimately are responsible for their actions.

"If you're going to do something bad, you're going to do something bad," Nesbitt said. "I don't know how a coach, administrator, professor or parent is going to keep you from misbehaving or doing something inappropriate. I think from my perspective, [the school's role] is to communicate what's a violation and what's not a violation."

The rulebook also forbids benefits for incoming freshmen. In the case of Boise State, the athletic program was reprimanded by the NCAA when coaches had recruits stay with players during campus visits, according to ESPN. In Division II, the providing of housing and meals is only permissible on the prospective player's official visit to campus.

Nesbitt said the regulations constantly are evolving to cover all possible situations and infractions, on its website but the NCAA has a mission statement regarding the reason the rules are so extensive which reads, "Commitment to fair play is a bedrock principle of the NCAA. The NCAA upholds that principle by enforcing membership-created rules that ensure equitable competition and protect the well-being of student-athletes at all member institutions."