

# Transitioning to success

Junior guard and transfer Amy Briggs has added her energy and smooth shot to the high-octane Bulldog offense

BY TYLER POE, Staff Reporter

During her first season with the Truman State basketball team, junior guard Amy Briggs quickly has become a key part of the Bulldog offense that thrives thanks in part to Briggs' on-court speed and dependable shooting from three-point range.

Briggs, who transferred from Johnson County Community College this year, has brought her All-American skills from beyond the arc to the 2012 Bulldogs after a junior college career during which she led the National Junior College Athletics Association in three-point baskets made.

During her sophomore year, Briggs made 98 three-pointers as the Lady Cavaliers finished ninth in the NJCAA championship tournament, with Briggs named to the All-Tournament first team. During her two seasons with Johnson County, Briggs averaged nine points and four assists per game as a point guard and shot 41 percent from three-point range to finish as the program's all-time leader of made three-pointers with 173.

Briggs said she enjoyed the passion and commitment to basketball at Johnson County and the winning tradition there, as well as the great players and coaches who helped her to develop her game for the Div. II level.

This season Briggs has averaged similar numbers to her junior college days with a scoring average of 9.6 points per contest and 4.2 assists per game while shooting 41 percent from three-point range. Through six games Briggs has already notched a double-double with 11 points and 10 assists against Harris Stowe State and is on pace to make 54 three-pointers this season.

Briggs said her biggest asset isn't her three point shot, but her ability to quickly get up and down the court. By getting out in transition as fast as possible she said she puts herself in the best possible position to take an open three-pointer. Briggs said during transitions is often the best time to take a three, and once her presence as a shooter is established, it opens up the court for her teammates.

In addition to her speed and consistency from beyond the arc, senior guard Becca McHenry said Briggs brings a consistent threat to drive into the lane along with an infectious energy that helps the team out on



Anna Grace/Index

Junior guard Amy Briggs brings the ball down the court during the Bulldogs' 67-49 win against Rockhurst University. Since her transfer from Johnson County Community College, Briggs has remained a key offensive player for the 'Dogs.

the fast break in transition

McHenry, who Briggs said she considers a role model, said Briggs is a great competitor who brings a lot of energy and consistency off the bench for the Bulldogs this season.

"Amy comes off the bench and is always finding the open player in transition and able to make open jump shots when we need her to, and that has been a huge reason for our success on offense this season," McHenry said.

Junior Nicole Gloor, who is second on the team in scoring behind McHenry, said Briggs' major contribution is her winning attitude on and off the basketball court. Gloor said even though Briggs hails from a junior college, the talent on the Johnson County roster each year is comparable to talent found at the Div. I level.

On the defensive side of the ball,

Briggs said she still continues to improve and adjust to head coach Michael Smith's brand of defense, which she said is quite different from her days at junior college. But, she said, she is buying into Coach Smith's philosophy.

Briggs said at the end of the day she is going to help her team win because of her focus and effort above anything else, but making shots from beyond the arc helps.



Ashley Jost/Index

Hall of Fame inductees sit as they're honored by the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in the Student Union Building on Wednesday night. Three of the nine inductees had a connection to Truman State.

## Missouri Hall of Fame inducts nine

BY ASHLEY JOST

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Nine northern Missouri residents were inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame during an enshrinement ceremony last night in the Student Union Building, three of which had ties with Truman State.

The inductees included Dr. John Bailey from Kirksville, Shane Cavanah from Marceline, Bill Clark from Columbia, Gary "Skip" Grossnickle from Kirksville, Gerald "Shag" Grossnickle from Kirksville, Darold Knowles from Brunswick, Ben Pitney from Hannibal, Bob Roberts from Cairo and former Truman State football coach, Russ Sloan.

During the ceremony, each inductee was acknowledged for their contribution to athletics across the state and the country, and then had the chance to speak about their accomplishments to the more than 400 family and friends in the audience.

The backgrounds for each of the inductees ranged from professional baseball to conservation work.

"A lot of people would agree that this is the highest honor, athletic-wise, and being recognized as a Missouri Hall of Famer is certainly a great benefit," Marty Willadsen, operations and administrations coordinator for the Hall of Fame organization, said.

Willadsen said each inductee is going to have a plaque with their picture on it displayed in the Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mo.

The Truman affiliates enshrined included Bailey, who has worked as the University's sports physician since 1997, according to the press release from the Hall of Fame. Pitney, according to the official press



Ashley Jost/Index

Two former football players exchange greetings during the Missouri Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremony.

release, coached basketball at the University for 23 years, in addition to coaching high school basketball and working as the athletic director for Hannibal-LaGrange College.

The last Truman inductees were the 1969, '70 and '71 football teams, which were coached by Sloan.

More than two dozen members of the football teams and their families were there to accept the award. During those three years, the Bulldogs had three consecutive Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association conference championships.

Sloan said he is proud of all of the accomplishments of all of the players he coached, saying they were winners when they were athletes, and they're "still winners now."

"The University should be very proud," Sloan said about the teams.

Grossnickle was inducted for the time he's spent as a conservationist. He said he's credited with having wild turkeys released in Adair County during the 1960s. During

1967, the area had its first open turkey season, he said, and then shortly after all 114 Missouri counties were open to wild turkey hunting.

Shag, who is 97-years-old, was inducted with his son, Skip, who earned All-American honors in football and basketball.

Of the inductees not from Kirksville included Knowles, a record-holding professional baseball pitcher, who won three consecutive World Series titles for the Oakland Athletics from 1972-74. Knowles was honored during the night for being the only player to pitch in all seven games of a World Series from 1973 against the New York Mets.

Athletic director Jerry Wollmering said he's glad the organization chose to have its event in Northeast Missouri to bring some recognition to the organization and awareness and appreciation to the talent and commitment of those being inducted into the area.

Additional reporting by Caroline Hamera and Matt Langley.

## Wrestling wins early matches

BY CORY WEEKES

Staff Reporter

The Truman State wrestling team came out ahead last night as they traveled to Oskaloosa, Iowa to face the William Penn University Statesmen.

The 'Dogs won the dual 29-11 to improve their dual record to 3-0.

Seven wrestlers came out of the dual with wins. Junior Ryan Maus and senior Alex Maus both won by technical fall, with Ryan winning 16-0 and Alex winning 11-3.

Other winners for the Bulldogs include freshmen J.J. Dorell, Chase Wrisinger, Nate Helmig and juniors Colton Schmitz and Helmut Rentschler.

The team doesn't return to the mat until Jan. 11 when they face off against the Lindenwood Lions.

The Bulldogs continued their strong start to the season this past weekend against nationally ranked competition.

After defeating a NAIA No. 4 Missouri Valley College team 25-18 Nov. 29 the Bulldogs placed fifth of 13 teams at the Simpson College Invitational during the weekend, a tournament that included both Div. I and Div. II teams.

During their first home dual of the season last Thursday in Pershing Arena, the Bulldogs defeated the Missouri Valley Vikings for the first time since 1998. The Bulldogs jumped to an early 16-0 lead after opening wins from sophomore Jabez Zinabu, junior Daniel Karlskin and sophomore Nick Shea who won by way of pinfall at the 2:28 mark. However, the Bulldogs went on to lose the following two matches, including the feature bout of the night, during which Ryan Maus lost to the Vikings' Jake Ekster, who is ranked 4th nationally in the NAIA.

Despite seeing their lead dwindle, the Bulldogs, led by Schmitz, were able to score more points and take the victory. Schmitz defeated Missouri Valley's Gian Traverso 4-2 after a narrow third-period escape.

Schmitz said he is glad to see the team continue its success,

and that Thursday's win was huge for the team's confidence.

"They're a tough team with a lot of scholarships," Schmitz said. "We hadn't beaten them in a long time. We have younger guys stepping up and our newcomers are definitely making big contributions."

Head coach David Schutter said the win was huge for his team.

"We showed up and wrestled with a lot of heart," Schutter said. "They are ranked number 4th in NAIA and have a strong program."

Following the home dual victory, the Bulldogs traveled to Indianola, Iowa where they placed third in the Simpson Invitational on Saturday.

Ryan Maus finished second in the 149-pound weight class, while Schmitz and sophomore Nate Seiler both finished third.

After not surrendering a point through his first two matches, Alex Maus said he felt a tweak in his wrist and decided to withdraw to be healthy for the 'Dogs' dual against William Penn Wednesday.

While the Bulldogs fell short of winning the Simpson College Invitational, Schutter said finishing fifth was a good result because of the caliber of teams in the event.

Although the wrestling program continues to rediscover success during the early part of this season, Schutter said he thinks a change in practice facility has been an instrumental part of boosting his team's morale and performance.

"We are no longer practicing in Greenwood," Schutter said. "We are in Pershing, and back into a successful practice system. It makes a huge difference."

Before this season, the team had spent multiple years relegated to practicing at the local Greenwood School where Schutter said it was tough to implement an adequately structured practice program.

"Ever since we moved to Greenwood, it was a lot of adversity for us," Schutter said. "We kind of fell off the map there, but it has been good to be back."