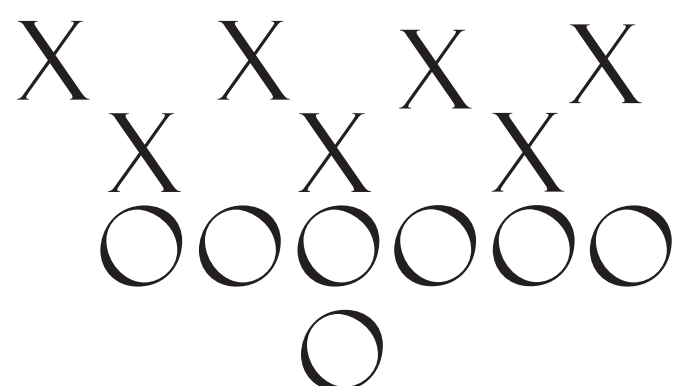


SPORTS



Check out the new Bulldog
football recruits
Next edition 15

Thursday, February 14, 2013

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Anna Grace/Index

Junior wrestler Colton Schmitz practices Tuesday against junior Ryan Maus. Schmitz has emerged as the most successful Bulldog wrestler this season, accumulating a 22-7 record with six wins by pinfall as he eyes the national tournament.

Schmitz rebounds after redshirt season

BY CORY WEEKES, Staff Reporter

With his family and hometown crowd cheering behind him, junior wrestler Colton Schmitz has compiled a 25-8 record during 2013 — the best on the team — solidifying himself as Truman State wrestling's top Dog.

Schmitz, a Kirksville native, said he has been wrestling in his hometown since his father introduced him to wrestling when he was five years old. Since joining the Bulldogs during 2009, Schmitz has amassed a total record of 62-31. After going just 18-14 during his first season with team, the grappler improved to 22-10 during his sophomore season.

Despite his rising success, Schmitz decided to redshirt during his third season, sitting out the entire year to train and develop his skills. While the timing of his redshirt might have been unorthodox, Schmitz said it was a decision that has worked to his benefit during the 2013 season.

"The break allowed me to refocus," Schmitz said. "I was able to get stronger, and more importantly, I kept my

Please see SCHMITZ, Page 17



Anna Grace/Index

Junior Colton Schmitz practices a move Tuesday against junior wrestler Ryan Maus. Schmitz came back this season after a redshirt season last year.

'Dogs drop two straight

After four straight wins, the women drop two on the road to Pitt State and Northeastern

BY DAVID LEMON
Assistant Sports Editor

The women's basketball team went into the past weekend with a four-game winning streak and ranked No. 19 in Div. II. The Pittsburg State University Gorillas and Northeastern State University Riverhawks both looked past the ranking defeating Truman State on their respective home courts.

The Bulldogs began a three-day, two-game road trip Feb. 7 with a matchup against Pittsburg State, who is now 8-2 at home this season. The Gorillas came out strong during the first 20 minutes and put the Bulldogs behind by 15 points going into the half. The biggest obstacle to overcome for the Bulldogs was 6'6" senior center Lauren Brown who scored 19 points and compiled six blocks.

Truman's 5'7" senior guard Becca McHenry ended with 11 rebounds along with 10 points of her own, achieving her first double-double of the season. McHenry said there was one thing the Bulldogs did well, though.

"The only reason I got boards, I guess, is that the forwards did a great job of boxing out, so they deserve all the credit," McHenry said. "This left the easy [rebounds] for us guards to get."

Even with the Bulldogs rebounding well, the offense made fewer than a quarter of the total field goals attempted, even though they have averaged almost 44 percent from the field through 21 games this season. As for their three-point percentage, the 'Dogs only made one of 11 attempts during the first half.

With the 15-point loss against the Gorillas, head coach Michael Smith said he still thinks the team has the ability to be the best team in the MIAA.

"It's amazing how we're two different teams," Smith said. "Meaning that whenever we play together and we follow the game plan, we're one of the best teams in the country as we obviously have proven that. And when we get away from the plan, for whatever reason that is ... we see an outcome like Pittsburg State."

After the loss to the Gorillas, the Bulldogs lost 46-44 to the Northeastern State Riverhawks, who are undefeated at home this season. The Riverhawks converted a four-point play to go up 45-44 and later made one free throw. McHenry could not get the ball to go in the basket with one final attempt and the women lost their second straight game for the first time this season.

Freshman guard Allie Norton matched her career high, scoring 20 points for Truman and connecting on four of seven from beyond the arc. McHenry scored 10 points and was one rebound away from her second straight double-double. The Bulldogs kept Northeastern State's leading scorer, senior Taylor Lewis to 3-11 from the field, but Norton said the defense of the Riverhawks, which kept Truman to 30 percent from the field, held tough.

"I wouldn't say we had many issues, but

Please see 'DOGS, Page 17

Men extend losing streak to four games

The Bulldogs fight injuries and fatigue as they fall to 7-14 for the season

BY SAM SHERMAN
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The Truman State men's basketball team extended its losing streak to four games this weekend, falling to the Pittsburg State University Gorillas and the Northeastern State University Riverhawks as the 'Dogs fight to stay relevant in the MIAA postseason discussion.

Head coach Matt Woodley said Thursday's game was hard-fought for the Bulldogs, but the team's inconsistency once again plagued a struggling Truman roster.

"I thought we played well," Woodley said. "We took a seven-point lead in the second half and had some opportunities down the stretch to win the game. Again, we continue to just have too many breakdowns when it really matters the most."

The 'Dogs allowed a 10-2 run in the middle of the second half and couldn't recover, coming within two points before the Gorillas hit two clutch free throws to give Pitt State the 79-75 conference victory.

Sophomore guard Seth Jackson paced the Bulldog offense as he finished with 20 points and was one of four Bulldogs to finish in double digits. Junior center Marek Bush led the team in rebounds with nine, one rebound short of a double-double as he finished with 10 points.

Woodley said the Bulldogs' roster is fighting injuries as the team approaches its last five games of the regular season. Sophomore forward Tyler Anderson, a key player for the 'Dogs who averaged 20 minutes a game this season, is done for the season after a back injury, and Woodley said he's not sure Anderson will be ready to play by next season.

Senior guards Tom Norton and Matt Patterson are both playing with leg injuries, Woodley said, leaving the

Please see MEN, Page 17



Anna Grace/Index

Junior guard Isaac Gardner takes a shot at practice Monday as head coach Matt Woodley watches on. The Bulldogs lost both games last weekend and have lost four straight.