

MEN | The Bulldogs come home to try and break a four-game losing streak against the Southern Baptist University Bearcats

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Bulldogs at seven healthy players. Junior forward Mike Carlson said the injuries have forced others on the team to step up and fill the injured players roles.

"I think some guys have really stepped up for us when they needed to," Carlson said. "Especially Marek [Bush], [he's] been huge for us, and [freshman forward] Jaylon [Jones] has been playing well for us too. ... They've responded well to having to play through a little bit of adversity."

Injury wasn't the only factor in the Bulldogs' 72-56 loss Saturday to Northeastern State University. Woodley said the 'Dogs caught the Riverhawks at the wrong time during the season, as Northeastern was coming off a tough loss earlier that week.

"I just thought we got beat by a much better basketball team," Woodley said. "They were ready to play, and they were upset that they lost on Thursday to Lindenwood and we kind of caught the back end of that long road trip and caught their wrath, so to speak."

The Riverhawks' finished the game with a 54 percent field goal percentage, while the 'Dogs shot 37 percent and 27 percent from beyond the arc. Jackson and junior forward Mike Carlson led the team in points, both finishing with 13 while Bush finished with a team-high eight rebounds.

The Bulldogs are in a tough position as they approach the postseason because of the losing streak. If the season ended today, the Bulldogs would make the conference tournament, but Woodley said despite the injuries, the team has to respond to the adversity positively if they expect to achieve success.

"[We're] very disappointed that we ended up losing both games, and we just have to continue to battle," Woodley said. "We have five games left that we're guaranteed so we have to be excited to play."

Carlson said the losses have been detrimental to team confidence, but that the 'Dogs have to continue to remain positive as they approach the end of the season.

"We're trying to keep our heads up and keep our eyes on the prize, which is making the conference tournament, making a little run," Carlson said. "We know that with the injuries it's going to be tough, but we also know that one of the strengths of our team is our depth."

The Bulldogs will be returning to Pershing Arena at 7:30 tonight, as they look to avenge their last loss to the Southwest Baptist Bearcats.

Carlson said a need for revenge will play a key role in Thursday's matchup.

"I expect a win," Carlson said. "There's not one guy in our locker room who doesn't want to beat them really bad."



Anna Grace/Index
Sophomore guard Seth Jackson drives the lane at practice Monday. Jackson topped the Bulldog roster during last Thursday's game against Pittsburg State, finishing with a team-high 20 points.

SCHMITZ | Wrestler sits out last season and gets stronger to become a top competitor for Truman

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self away from any injury." While several factors went into his decision to sit out his junior year, which included a surplus of wrestlers at his weight class as well as his desire to get stronger, it would appear during 2013 as if Schmitz didn't waste his season off.

While he spent most of his first two seasons wrestling at the 141-pound weight class, Schmitz said he started 2013 at a new 157-pound weight class with a renewed sense of focus. By moving up in weight, Schmitz said he has been allowed the opportunity to take advantage of a heightened level of fitness as well as strength during his matchups.

"I like to wrestle my style," Schmitz said. "I think I lean on strength pretty heavily. I'm not the most technically sound guy, but I just try and keep the other guy close and make them work for everything."

Senior wrestler Alex Maus said much of Schmitz's game comes from his ability

to execute his wrestling plans, and use his strength to get into his opponent's head.

"Colton stays in really good position always," Maus said. "Honestly, he frustrates a lot of guys with his strength. He is pretty fun to watch out there."

Despite his record, Schmitz said he feels he still has a lot to prove during the closing weeks of the 2013 season. During last Saturday's MIAA conference championships, while Schmitz placed highest of anyone on the team, finishing third in his weight class, he suffered a tough loss to the nation's second ranked wrestler, an opponent he has competed against twice this season. Schmitz, who lost the match by one point, said he feels he has a chip on his shoulder heading into the Regional tournament later this month.

"I lost to the Kearney redshirt-freshman again for the second time this season," Schmitz said. "He is a top guy in the nation. While it's nice to see that I am right there with those guys, my goal is to compete at the

national level."

Before Schmitz can compete at Nationals, however, he must first place among the top four in his weight class at the regional tournament. Head coach Dave Schutter said he sees true potential in Schmitz this year.

"He just had so much heart and belief in himself," Schutter said. "His work ethic is his strongest asset. Before the season started, [Colton] knew if he wanted to go to Nationals, wrestling at 157 in 2013 was going to be his best shot."

Schmitz will lead the Bulldogs into Lebanon, Ill. this Friday to compete against McKendree University in what will be their final tune-up before the regional tournament to determine whether or not he will satisfy his goal to compete nationally.

"He gets us fired up," Maus said. "He is our leader, and I think he has it in him to beat some really tough opponents, and surprise a lot of people."

The Bulldogs will face McKendree University this Friday at 7 p.m.

'DOGS | Women come off first back-to-back losses of season

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it was just a really tough game," Norton said. "It was hard to get it into the post which made our offense difficult because they were doubling a lot. These two losses, though, were not ideal, but they gave us a lot of fire back and we're ready to finish this regular season out strong."

Going into tonight's game against Southern Baptist University, the Bulldogs look to bounce back from the weekend and extend their home winning streak to 12. Truman recently played SBU two weeks ago in Bolivar, Mo., and came out on top 64-50.

Tip-off for tonight's "Think Pink" game is at 5:30 p.m. in Pershing Arena.

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