

'Dogs beat Bearcats

The men's basketball team picks up a crucial win against SBU

BY DAVID LEMON
Assistant Sports Editor
index.sportseditor@gmail.com

After losing the last four games, the men's basketball team returned to Pershing Arena Thursday night and defeated Southwest Baptist University 72-60 during "Think Pink Night."

Garbed in pink socks to support awareness for breast cancer research, the Bulldogs started the game trading points with the Bearcats, but quickly picked up steam, leading 34-18 at the half. During the first half, junior forward Mike Carlson claimed 16 of those points and finished the evening with a total of 24, playing all 40 minutes of the game.

Coming out of halftime was a different story as the Bearcats started the second half with a 10-2 run in their favor scoring those 10 points throughout a 2:37 span. Carlson said the Bulldogs came out flatfooted while Southwest Baptist came out with a lot of energy.

"We played really well in the first half, and luckily we had a big enough lead to where we could kind of weather that storm," Carlson said. "As soon as we calmed ourselves down and got ourselves into the game, Coach [Matt Woodley] took a really good timeout and kind of got us all back in there saying 'Okay, that was their run, but now it's time to play.'"

After the timeout, the 'Dogs controlled the rest of the game allowing the second-best three-point shooting team in the MIAA to make three of its 21 total shots from beyond the arc. Southwest Baptist, who beat the Bulldogs two weeks



Senior guard Matt Patterson looks to drive the lane Thursday during the Bulldogs' "Think Pink" game against the Southwest Baptist University Bearcats. The 'Dogs won 72-60.

ago, cut it close with less than five minutes to play, lessening Truman's lead to seven, but Truman sunk all 11 of their free throws during the remaining minutes of the game to put the Bearcats out of reach.

Other contributors to last week's game were junior center Marek Bush, who had 14 rebounds, junior guard Isaac Gardner, who made three shots behind the arc and connected on his first two-pointer of the season, and sophomore guard Seth Jackson, who finished with nine points.

The win snapped the Bulldogs' four-game losing streak

and Woodley said this was a crucial win, because Truman still has a chance to make the MIAA conference tournament.

"This time of year, you have to be desperate," Woodley said. "That was a game that we needed to have and we practiced the way we played so that was the one reason I was really excited."

With a full week off from practices, Woodley said the win might be just as important as the practices themselves, but this weekend they had good practices.

"I think our guys really needed that win," Woodley said. "They needed some-

thing to feel good about ... We've practiced well — like a veteran team should practice, even though we're not a veteran team."

Woodley had the team practice during the weekend between games. They took Monday off and went back to work Tuesday preparing for tonight's game. The Bulldogs will be looking to avenge an early season loss tonight against Lindenwood University, who beat the 'Dogs earlier this season.

The men's basketball game against the Lions will begin at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Pershing Arena.

'Dogs lose before regionals

The wrestling team looks toward the postseason after a loss to McKendree University

BY CORY WEEKES
Staff Reporter

Although the Truman State wrestling team came up short during the last regular season dual against McKendree University last weekend, the team's top wrestlers hope to continue winning as they head into the regional tournament this Saturday.

After suffering a tough loss to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville last week, the Bulldogs looked to hone their technique against McKendree last Friday. Not only was the McKendree dual the team's last of the season, but for team leaders juniors Colton Schmitz and Ryan Maus, it was a final chance to sharpen their skills before attempting to qualify for the national tournament.

The 'Dogs fell behind early after McKendree opened up the competition with two straight victories. However, following two major wins from Ryan and senior Alex Maus and an 8-3 victory by Schmitz, the Bulldogs temporarily found themselves ahead. Despite their efforts, the 'Dogs lost the final four matches, finishing the season with a combined 6-6 dual record overall.

While Schmitz continually has wrestled at a high level this season, he felt his team should have done much better against McKendree, he said.

"I think overall, all of us would agree that we came out flat and uninspired against [McKendree]," Schmitz said. "We didn't really wrestle to our potential, but with regionals a week away, I think it's safe to say that everybody is going to be much more focused."

After the loss, Ryan said the team took the weekend off to recover and mentally prepare for the team's final week of practice before the regional tournament in Ashland, Ohio.

"I think we were just showing how worn down we were," Ryan said. "It's a long season and this weekend off was really good for us, I think. It gave us a chance to relax and put our minds at ease before this week."

Ryan and Schmitz both have experience with this chance to relax for the national tournament. For the past two seasons, Schmitz has accompanied Ryan to the national tournament as his training partner and motivator before matches. This season represents a new opportunity for Schmitz who currently holds the team's best record at 26-8.

"I have been having a good year but I know that I will have to wrestle my absolute best to get into one of the four openings at my weight class," Schmitz said.

While Schmitz hasn't gone to the national tournament, Ryan said he is confident his teammate will have what it takes because Schmitz has spent time and effort in and out of the gym.

"It would be great for [Schmitz] to make nationals with me," Ryan said. "For two years he has unselfishly practiced and drilled with me for that tournament and the moral support of having a teammate with me would be great."

With the regional tournament nearing, head coach Dave Schutter said he feels his guys hold a good position to make things happen against tough competition.

"I don't think these guys just went out there and overlooked McKendree," Schutter said. "I think they just approached it as a chance to practice. All of them will have to be on their A-game. Even Ryan needs to be sharp. You have to be top four at regionals to make nationals. If everyone does what they are capable of, you never know what can happen."

The regional tournament will kick off this Saturday in Ashland, Ohio, followed by the National tournament held in Birmingham, Ala.

McCarroll breaks own shotput record

BY KIRK SCHLUETER
Staff Reporter

It took six years for alumna Ashley Colon's school record in the weight throw to fall before senior thrower Rachel McCarroll broke it Feb. 9. It only took one week for the record to fall again.

McCarroll, the MIAA Track and Field Athlete of the Week last week, broke her own school record with a throw of 59-04.00 in the event, good enough to finish third at the Missouri Collegiate Challenge last Friday. McCarroll's record was the highlight of Truman's final meet before the MIAA Track and Field Championships Feb. 22 to 24 in Warrensburg, Mo.

Throwers coach Leslie Hardesty, who has worked with McCarroll throughout her collegiate career and was at Truman when Colon set the old record, said watching the record fall was a special experience.

"I know it's a goal [McCarroll] has had since her freshman year," Hardesty said. "When she threw 50 feet her freshman year, she said [the record] was something she was going to go for before she graduated. It's kind of nice watching somebody

set a goal and then work hard to achieve it."

Despite her record-breaking ways, Hardesty said she doesn't think McCarroll is done improving, either. She is the reigning MIAA champion in the weight throw and is looking to defend that title this weekend. Additionally, she currently is 11th in the country in the weight throw and if that stays constant, she should earn a bid to the National Indoor Championships. McCarroll said she is striving only to improve her distance at the conference meet, and if she does that, her place won't matter as much.

"[Going to the national meet] is something you want to strive for," she said. "You see that as a freshman, people going to national meets, and that's something you want to do."

Other top finishers Friday for the Bulldogs were junior Katie Hirsch and freshman Lauren Westen, who finished first and second respectively in the 1000 meter run. On the men's side, junior Matt Schaefer placed second in the 600 meter run, senior Ryan Peterson took fourth in the 400 meter dash, and in the 4x400 meter relay, he nabbed a

third place finish.

Head coach Tim Schwegler said the team focused on the meet as one last preparation for the upcoming conference meet. He said he was pleased with how the team performed in that regard, even if the results were not as high as at some of Truman's other meets. For instance, he said, Peterson was placed in a slow heat for the 400 meter run and easily won it, but didn't run a fast time because he had no one to push him while the heat after him had several fast runners in it.

"Overall we did what we needed to do," Schwegler said. "Every week doesn't go ideal, but overall I was pretty happy."

Hirsch, who led the 1000 meter run from start to finish, said one highlight of her day was taking home the one-two finish in the race with Westen. Junior Abby Palm also finished fourth in the event for Truman.

"I could hear the overhead announcer announcing [Westen's] name, so it was exciting to have her come in right behind me and share that with her," Hirsch said.

The team's focus now is on the conference meet. For athletes

whose times or distances are not good enough to advance to the national meet, this will be the conclusion of their indoor season, and afterward they will begin transitioning for the outdoor season. But no one is thinking ahead that far, Hirsch said.

Instead, the Bulldogs are excited for the challenge posed by a super-competitive MIAA meet.

"When you go to the conference meet, the goal is always to get a personal best or score at the meet," Schwegler said. "I think this is the toughest conference in Div. II and I don't think too many people would argue with me. It's really, really competitive, so the points are going to be few and far between."

At this point, Schwegler said, he has prepared his team as best he can. There have been multiple personal bests the last several meets, and he said that usually gets athletes excited, so they are trying to keep that momentum going into this weekend at Warrensburg.

"You lead them to water, and they get to drink," he said. "In a track meet there's always highs and lows, and you hope you have a lot of highs and not too many lows."

Top Bulldog



Hannah Washburn
junior pitcher, softball

During the Bulldogs' six-game tournament in Huntsville, Ala. this weekend, Washburn pitched a total of 20.2 innings for the 'Dogs, allowing two earned runs total. Against No. 15 Indianapolis, Washburn pitched a complete game, allowing only one earned run during the Bulldogs' 2-1 victory.

Mark your calendar

Women's Basketball

5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21
Pershing Arena

Coming off a win at home a week ago, the Bulldogs matchup against Lindenwood University.

Men's Basketball

7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21
Pershing Arena

Winning their last game, the 'Dogs host Lindenwood on Senior Night.

Indoor Track and Field

Feb. 22 to 24
Warrensburg, Mo.

The men and women compete in the MIAA Conference Tournament.

Softball

10 a.m. and noon, Saturday, Feb. 23
Rochester, Minn.

Softball continues tournament play facing Upper Iowa State University and Sioux Falls in Minnesota.

Baseball

1 p.m., Friday, Feb. 22
Tahlequah, Okla.

The men finish a weekend against Northeastern State University.

Women's Basketball

1:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23
Jefferson City, Mo.

The women travel down 63 to take on Lincoln University.

Men's Basketball

3:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23
Jefferson City, Mo.

Men's basketball continues MIAA play facing Lincoln University as they fight to make the MIAA tournament.

Wrestling

Feb. 23 to 24
Ashland, Ohio

The Bulldogs travel to the NCAA Div. II Super 2 Regional.

Baseball

12 and 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23
Tahlequah, Okla.

The men travel to play Northeastern State University in a weekend series.