

SPORTS

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Twins play key team roles

BY TYLER POE
Staff Reporter

From an early age, freshmen guards Cole and Cory Myers have shared a dream of playing basketball together. The duo began playing when they were five years old in Ankeny, Iowa and have played for various club and school teams together ever since. Despite Cory tearing his ACL during his junior year, they were both named to the all-state and all-conference teams during their senior season with the Ankeny High School Hawks.

After their senior season at Ankeny, the twins announced their intentions to play college basketball. Cole said they turned down four other offers before choosing to attend Truman State. Cory said they chose Truman largely because of head coach Matt Woodley and his coaching philosophy. The twins said they were sold on Woodley and his basketball program after hearing they would be able to play together. Woodley said his selling point was the twins' humility.

"Sometimes during the recruiting process, you are able to form an instant connection with a player or players and with Cole and Cory that's exactly what happened," Woodley said. "They come from a gracious family and they are both extremely talented and humble and that is rare for two guys who have experienced as much success as they have with the game of basketball."

During their first season with the program, the Myers twins are not only playing on the same court together, they're starting together. Both have started 13 of 14 games this season and have made an immediate impact for the Bulldogs. Truman is keeping its opponents to 68.7 points per contest and a shooting percentage below 44 percent. The twins have combined for 41 of the team's 106 steals this season.

Junior Mike Carlson, the team's leading scorer, said Cole and Cory use their speed and chemistry to lead the Bulldogs this season. Carlson said the hard working brothers are nearly inseparable on and off the court and it is paying dividends for the program.

"Cole and Cory have developed into their roles nicely for us this season and they are both able to get after it on the defensive side of the ball," Carlson said. "They feed off each other so well that if they can continue to work hard and improve each year then they could provide something special for this program down the road."



Cory, left, and Cole, right, Myers chose to play in college together and ended up at Truman State. They have both seen plenty of playing time so far this season.

Sam Gorden/Index

Carlson said that while the two do commit what he calls "freshman mistakes," he thinks the pair will adapt to the speed of the game with time and experience.

Senior team captain Tom Norton said the twins' chemistry is just one of the reasons for the duo's early success at Truman. Norton said the twins have outstanding court awareness, especially

with one another and it has helped them adjust to the pressures of playing college basketball. He said Cory's strength and agility help him to adjust to contact and distribute the basketball accurately while Cole seems to have a knack for finding the basketball. He said Cory and Cole have an inner desire to win that helps them to work extremely well together. Norton said he wouldn't be surprised if the duo helped the 'Dogs become a top three contender in the MIAA throughout their careers.

Cory said he and his brother still need to make improvements this year if the Bulldogs are going to make a run during the second half of the season. While Cory leads the team in assists, he also is leading the team in turnovers. Cole said the Bulldogs need Cory to continue to improve as a player and experience different situations to develop into an efficient Div. II point guard.

On the defensive side, Cory said the Bulldogs need Cole's athleticism to shut down defenders and knock down big shots in close games down the stretch. Both players have had to adjust to the defensive philosophy of Woodley. Cory said both came into the program wanting to flood the passing lanes as much as they did in high school, but Coach Woodley preached a different defensive strategy. Woodley said the biggest challenge the two have had to overcome this season is playing a different style of defense that incorporates the guarding of the three-point line and not letting players get inside the lane or near the rim.

Overall, the brothers said they are happy to be a part of Truman's program and both said they are excited for the many seasons they will enjoy as Bulldogs. Both players said they remain fueled by their shared passion for the game of basketball and that no matter what happens they know they always have each other on and off the basketball court, something Woodley said is important for the future.

"Coaching twins is the craziest thing I have ever experienced in my 13 years of coaching," Woodley said. "They are able to do things on the basketball court that just amaze our coaching staff and they have great awareness of each other on the court. Cole and Cory have a lot to improve on, but no one is as hard on them as they are on themselves and if they fully commit themselves to this program they are both going to be highly successful."



Sophomore Ryan Ward, right, grapples with his opponent during a home dual Friday Jan. 11 against Lindenwood. The Bulldogs lost the dual 23-15 before beating Benedictine

Kate Linman/Index

'Dogs defeat Ravens

Men split semester's opening matches with injured squad

BY CORY WEEKES
Staff Reporter

An injury-plagued Truman State Wrestling team opened the spring semester with duals against Lindenwood University and Benedictine College Jan. 11 and 13.

Despite wins from team leaders Juniors Colton Schmitz, and Ryan Maus, sophomores Alec Rentschler, Nate Seiler and Ryan Ward, the Bulldogs dropped their conference opening dual by a score of 23-15 against Lindenwood.

After a strong start to the season, Friday's loss represented a

slight downturn in performance by the team due in large part to the loss of a couple key starters, particularly at the 174-pound weight class. In wrestling, when players are injured, other members of the team most likely have to add or drop weight to fill in the gaps. This process is one that head coach Dave Schutter said can be difficult to overcome.

"It was our first competition with guys wrestling at new weights, and it showed in our performance," Schutter said. "Missing guys in the lineup hurt us on Friday. If we are at full strength I think we would have had a much better showing."

Schmitz, who leads the team with an overall record of 17-3, was among the grapplers forced to change weight classes due to inju-

ries to other teammates. Despite the change, Schmitz said he expects to continue performing at a high level throughout the next couple of weeks regardless of weight class. While he acknowledged that he is more comfortable at the 174-pound weight class, Schmitz said consistency in training has kept him afloat, regardless of his weight.

Senior Alex Maus, who has missed playing time due to wrist injuries, was back in action Friday. Despite losing a close match, Maus said he feels better with each day, and he thinks the team is prepared to compete with injuries.

"I think we are doing pretty well overall," Maus said. "We may have a couple of guys out due to injuries, but I think we will con-

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Sprinter eyes national event

BY KIRK SCHLUETER
Staff Reporter

Senior sprinter Ryan Peterson took first in the 600 yard run at the MIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships last year. However, if he has his way he'll be running a different race at the meet this season.

Peterson is attempting to transition to the 400 meter run despite his success in the 600 yard. While the 600 yard run is a conference event, it isn't an event at the national meet while the 400 meter is. Peterson hasn't previously run the 400 meter, but his history of hard work in practice has his teammates and coaches convinced he can perform at the highest level.

"I haven't seen a person through-out my track experience who works

as hard as him," freshman sprinter Dominic Kacich said. "Every practice and every race, he treats it 100 percent. And I think that's why he's so successful as a runner."

Although he didn't run the 400 meter at the Bulldogs' season-opening meet at Iowa State Dec. 7, Peterson still saw success, taking home first place in the 600 yard run with a time of 1:11.85, a personal best.

"Any time you start the season a step above where you were last year, it's always good," Peterson said.

Assistant track coach Tim Schwegler said Peterson's win was notable given both the quality of the runners he was facing and the fact that he didn't start the race as fast as he would have

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Primetime for sports

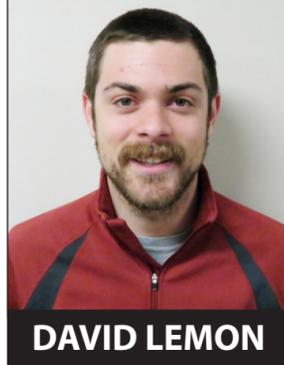
Assistant Sports Editor urges fans to witness history in the making

BY DAVID LEMON
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Most sports fans have a love for the game, which currently is producing the most memorable experiences the world has seen for a very long time. If you aren't following the happenings in all of sports, you don't love the game. That is, you don't love the game as much as I do.

We are witnessing quite possibly the greatest sports era this world has produced and I'm sure multitudes of people don't even realize what is right under their noses. Last year, and now 2013, showcased and are going to showcase some of

Commentary



DAVID LEMON

the most talented athletes and teams the world has ever seen.

I can promise you that many sports enthusiasts have said

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