



Head women's basketball coach Michael Smith instructs his team mid-game Tuesday night during the Bulldogs' first round matchup against Southwest Baptist. The 'Dogs won 65-56 as Smith earned his first postseason win as the Truman head coach.

Adam Antor/Index

'Dogs find new ace

Junior softball transfer finds home on the mound with help from diverse pitch repertoire

BY TYLER POE
Staff Reporter

Junior transfer pitcher Hannah Washburn is taking her game and strikeout totals to new heights this season as one of the newest members of the Truman State women's softball team.

Last year, Washburn pitched at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa, where she posted a career 2.38 ERA during 208 innings, posting a 17-12 record. Washburn played 52 games and recorded a team-high 202 strikeouts, finishing her Indian Hills career ranked third best all-time in career strikeout-to-walk ratio. Washburn said she chose Indian Hills rather than a Div. II school straight out of high school because she wanted time to groom her game and gain valuable experience without as drastic a jump as Div. I or II would have been.

This season, Washburn has brought her pitching experience to the Bulldogs, posting a 2.08 ERA and 4-2 record during six appearances with a team-high 38 strikeouts in 33 innings. Against No. 15 Indianapolis, Washburn struck out 12 batters in a narrow 2-1 victory she said showcased what she can bring to the Bulldogs during 2013.

"My role this season is to go out and lead by example," Washburn said. "I know from playing at junior college that all hitters are good at this level so you can't overestimate anyone, but I have a lot of confidence on the mound and I love seeing batters swing right through my pitches."

Washburn said what makes her so dominant on the mound is her experience and variety of pitches. Washburn said while most pitchers have three or four quality pitches available, her arsenal of six different pitches allows her to handle any situation during the course of a game. Washburn commands a riseball, a screwball, two changeups, a curveball and her newest dropball pitch.

Washburn said her favorite pitch, her riseball, is difficult for her opponents because it has late upward movement, which causes a lot of her opponents to miss. Senior catcher Meredith Kusky said the riseball, complimented with a

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Bulldogs advance to second round

Led by McHenry's double-double, the 'Dogs triumph against SBU

BY DAVID LEMON, Assistant Sports Editor

The Bulldog women's basketball team remained undefeated at home this year, upending the Southwest Baptist University Bearcats 65-56 during the first round of the MIAA conference tournament.

Truman State went into Tuesday night's game ranked fifth in the MIAA and played its opening round conference tournament game against the 12th seeded Southwest Baptist Bearcats from Bolivar, Mo. In the MIAA tournament, the top four teams in the conference get a bye from the first round, but the fifth through 12th ranked teams must play one game to

move on to the second round of the single elimination tournament, according to TheMIAA.com.

Tuesday night started with the Bulldogs jumping out to a quick 4-0 lead against the Bearcats, but Southwest Baptist quickly quieted the crowd with a six-point run of its own and gained the lead.

The Bulldogs succeeded early on offensively by dishing the ball inside to senior forward Jennifer Conway, but defensive miscommunication led Truman to give up Bearcat points. The Bearcats missed their first three shots from the floor, and

only made one of their eight shots from beyond the arc during the first half. The beginning of the game saw many missed shots and turnovers from both sides. The first three-pointer of the game was not scored until 13 minutes into the second half.

Truman regained the lead 16-14 with six minutes to go during the first half as senior guard Becka McHenry made two free throws, giving her seven of the Bulldog's 16 points. McHenry and sophomore guard Allie Norton then sunk back-to-back

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Sports Editor calls for change

Editor argues that there's no longer an excuse for lack of spirit

BY SAM SHERMAN
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Last Friday while driving home, I fell into the endless line of Truman State students escaping Kirksville for a home-cooked meal and a break from the academic pressure. I had just left town when a car in front of me caught my eye.

The back window was covered with bumper stickers, but I didn't see any exclaiming political views or protesting bad drivers. In fact, the re-sounding theme of the driver's back windshield was college. The stickers were from schools across the Midwest, and they all looked like the type of sticker you get in the mail alongside an acceptance letter. Yet, the only sticker representing Truman, the school the driver attends, was the small green parking badge in the bottom left corner of the back windshield.

I know few people take pride in going to this University, but I really don't understand why. A large part of school pride comes from athletics. During my freshman year, I probably wouldn't have noticed the lack of a Bulldog bumper sticker, nor would I have cared.

But now, after three years of covering every sport Truman



has to offer, this lack of spirit is really getting under my skin.

It's hard to find the motivation to write about something you don't care about, so when I started working for the Index sports section, I inevitably started to care about the athletics here. Most people laugh it off when I come home from a basketball game excited about a victory, and I've endured plenty of backhanded remarks about my lack of apathy and my unnatural level of Truman sports knowledge.

Yet, this is a special time in Truman sports, and it's time the student body jumps on the bandwagon.

During my three years at Truman, I've watched student athletes excel with nobody in the stands. I watched the

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Marino excels early for 'Dogs

Senior Blake Marino's versatility provides valuable tool to team

BY DAVID LEMON
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Senior utility player Blake Marino has seen time on the field starting at shortstop, third base and designated hitter this season during all eight of this season's games.

Marino currently is batting .406 and leads the team in hits (13), doubles (3), total bases (19) and slugging percentage (.594). Last season, Marino's batting average was .250, with only three doubles the entire season and a .302 slugging percentage. Marino also has compiled an on-base percentage of .441, six runs, six RBIs and a home run.

Truman has a few other utility players that can play different positions, but head coach Dan Davis said Marino's versatility, plus his ability to produce offensively and in different defensive positions, has made him an everyday starter for the Bulldogs this season.

Marino's versatility extends beyond the field though, as he was a two-sport athlete during high school, playing baseball and basketball. He said during his final year of high school, he did not know whether he was going to pursue basketball or baseball during college.

"I didn't want to play both in college," Marino said. "I liked playing baseball more and I felt like I could get to the next level easier in baseball as opposed to

BLAKE MARINO BY THE NUMBERS

Batting Average	.406
Total Hits	13
Slugging Percentage	.594
On-Base Percentage	.441

GAMES PLAYED

8

POSITIONS PLAYED THIS SEASON

3rd Base
Shortstop
Designated Hitter

basketball, the next level being the MLB or NBA, because I can't really get above the rim in basketball."

Marino attended Clarendon College in Clarendon, Texas for two years and decided to come to Truman to finish his education. He joined the team last year, and this season, Marino said he finally feels comfortable at the plate and is getting used to Div. II competition.

Head coach Dan Davis said he has seen Marino improve from his one year of competing in Div. II with the Bulldogs. Davis said where Marino has improved the most is at the plate.

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Senior Blake Marino