

Bulldog's best of 2013-2014

BY SAM SHERMAN
Staff Reporter

Every school year I've covered Truman State sports, it seems like seasons teeming with potential are marred by heartbreaking results — that is, every year but this one.

I didn't give this year's athletic success much thought until I walked into men's basketball head coach Matt Woodley's office and he asked me if I thought students knew how big of a year it was for Bulldog basketball.

I told him I didn't think so, referencing the lack of attendance at games and lack of Bulldogs sports awareness around campus. But that got me thinking — this really has been the best shape I've ever seen Truman Athletics in.

So I went back to the drawing board, coming up with my Year's Best awards. Sit back and reflect about what a phenomenal year it's been for the Bulldogs, and start paying attention before it's too late. The 2013-14 year was everything a Truman fan could want but mark my words — the Bulldogs are just getting started.

Play of the Year: Junior point guard Reed Mells' buzzer-beater to beat Bellarmine

Coming off a thrilling overtime victory against the No. 15 University of Southern Indiana just two days prior, the Bulldogs had one more test to close out the toughest weekend of their season. Bellarmine University came into the game unranked, something that hadn't happened to the Knights since 2010, yet boasted an impressive resume including a dismantling of the No. 3 Drury Panthers — the reigning national champions.

The whole game was close, and with eight seconds remaining the score was tied at 90. Mells brought the ball down the floor and stopped at the three-point line. The



COMMENTARY
Sam Sherman

ball was knocked loose for a brief second, preventing a pass to senior Mike Carlson, forward and leading scorer. A one-dribble crossover to the left gave Mells all the space he needed as he drained the 17-footer with one second left on the clock — securing the weekend sweep for the Bulldogs and announcing to the world that Truman basketball was a force to be reckoned with.

Team of the Year: Softball

There are so many teams I could name for this award, and no one would bat an eye. However, even though the softball season isn't finished yet, a quick look at season will show you why the Truman softball team was the best on campus this year.

Following a disappointing 29-18 season last year, the 'Dogs returned to the field with a massive chip on their shoulder and a dynamite roster. The team leads the GLVC for nearly every offensive category. The Bulldogs lead the GLVC in team batting average (.340), slugging percentage (.500), on-base percentage (.409), runs scored (246), hits (390) and RBIs (214). Junior third baseman Cate Simon and senior right fielder Kelsey Bollman are the two best statistical hitters in the conference, and 5 of the top 15 GLVC hitters wear purple and white.

The offensive stats alone earn this award, but for arguments' sake, let's talk defense. The Bulldogs' sophomore pitching duo of Kindra Henze and Kelsea Dorsey combine for a conference-best 1.21 ERA and .183 opponents' batting average. To top it off, the team leads the conference for fielding percentage (.971) and least amount of errors (32).

The Bulldogs' senior day is at noon this Saturday against No. 5 University of Missouri-St. Louis. Do yourself a favor and see what this team is all about — you won't regret it.

Coach of the Year: Amy Eagan, women's basketball

The women's basketball team was my second choice for team of the year because of its incredible run to the national tournament, but add that this was head coach Amy Eagan's first season at the helm of the program and it's easy to see why Eagan earns this one.

When former head coach Michael Smith jumped ship right after a breakout season for the 'Dogs, it looked like the Bulldogs already had reached their peak. Yet Eagan, a member of the Truman Athletics Hall of Fame as a player, proved me wrong. The Bulldogs finished the season 22-7, and capped everything off with the best postseason run since Eagan starred for the team during the 1998-99 season.

What sets Eagan apart isn't just the numbers. Right off the bat, it became apparent Eagan had an incredible mind for basketball. Many times this season the team found themselves on the ropes — only to be brought back to life by a small tweak in the game plan or a rousing timeout speech. Not to say the 'Dogs aren't talented, because they undoubtedly are, but I think Eagan's presence will ensure Bulldog success for many years to come.

Player of the Year: Mike Carlson, men's basketball

I haven't graduated yet, but I know one of my fondest memories as a sports writer for the Index will be getting the opportunity to cover senior forward Mike Carlson's meteoric rise to one of the nation's best basketball players.

Carlson had a few performances this season that were absolutely mind-blowing, most notably his 48-point clinic against Missouri University of Science and Technology during January. He's all-conference, all-region, conference player of the year and the sixth All-American in the program's history. His 575 points this season is the second highest total throughout school history and he finished his career ranked eighth for total points scored — during just three seasons of play.

He was the 'Dogs' go-to guy. Whatever they needed out of him, he gave ten-fold. There were nights Carlson lit up the entire floor with his play, but other times he played a quiet role. I remember a few times this season thinking Mike was having a slow night, only to check the box score and see he led the team for multiple statistical categories.

The men's basketball team's success this season was an incredible all-around effort. The way head coach Matt Woodley has turned this program around has been inspiring, but he'll be the first to tell you it wouldn't have happened without Carlson.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, April 26

Baseball Noon & 3 p.m.
vs. Rockhurst
Kansas City, Mo.

Softball Noon & 2 p.m.
vs. UMSL
Kirksville, Mo.

Men & Women's Track and Field

True Blue Open
Jacksonville, Ill.

Sunday, April 27

Softball Noon & 2 p.m.
vs. Maryville
Kirksville, Mo.

Baseball Noon & 3 p.m.

vs. Rockhurst
Kansas City, Mo.

Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Men & Women's Track and Field
Drake Relays
Des Moines, Iowa

Saturday & Sunday

Women's Golf
at GLVC Championships
Waterloo, Ill.

See all the results of last week's games online at <http://tmn.truman.edu/>

INDEX

Classifieds

660-785-4319

tsu.indexads@gmail.com

For Rent

Rent: Kirksville Rentals has 1 and 2 bedroom houses and duplexes available for May-August 2014. All units are close to TSU. Call Mike LaBeth at 660.216.7144 or Jeff Behrmann 660.626.7598 or Heritage House Realty, Inc 660.665.5638.

Rent: 1 BR apartment one block from TSU. Be the first to live in a completely remodeled, modern space, with pottery barn paint scheme. Hardwoods, all new appliances including dw, wd. Central air. Won't last. 319-530-7393

Rent: 3 BR perfect for 2 or 3. Modern, remodeled with all appliances including dw, and w/d in laundry room. Hardwoods. Central air. \$650. 816 S. Sixth close to TSU. KPM 665-6380.

Rent: Large 3-4 bedroom apartment with Full Kitchen, dishwasher and clothes washer/dryer. Water/Trash provided. No Pets. \$480 per month. Available June 2014. contact 660-341-1324 or email: sanfordrentals@outlook.com

Rent: 1 Bedroom Apartment approx. 2 blocks from TSU. ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED. No Pets. \$325 per month. Available Aug 2014. contact 660-341-1324 or e-mail sanfordrentals@outlook.com

Rent: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7 bedroom houses and apts for rent for the 2014-15 school year. Newly renovated houses with multiple bathrooms and kitchens. Locally owned and operated. Most places are pet friendly without monthly fees. Call today. Houses are going fast. Northeastmissouriproperties.com 660.216.1794

Rent: 4, 5, 6, & 7 bedroom houses available for the 2014-15 school year. Pet friendly and close to campus. Well maintained houses. Don't wait, call today. Ask for David 660.216.1292

Rent: 5 bedroom house with 2 kitchens and 2 bathrooms. Close to downtown, covered front porch and large back yard. This is our last 5 bedroom so call for the reduced price. 660.216.1794

Rent: Many 3 and 4 bedroom houses still available. Don't miss out before they are gone. Pet friendly homes. These are all well kept homes and locally owned. Call Jerry at 660.216.1794 or David at 660.216.1292

For Rent

Rent: Wagner Enterprises rental properties are available for 2014-15 lease. New units with one to four bedrooms are all within two blocks of campus! Complete with washer/dryer in each, all electric, central heat and air, private parking and maintenance staff. For more information, call 660-341-5538 or visit www.wespaces.net

Rent: Property Concepts LLC is now leasing for May and August of 2014. Studios, 1 bedroom, and 2 bedroom units available. Apartments starting at \$330 with heat, water, trash, electric, free Wi Fi included. 2 blocks from campus. On site laundry, 24 hour maintenance. Pet friendly units available. Close to downtown. 660 627 1400. www.kirksvilleapartments.com. Text 660-216-5004.

Rent: Two and three bedroom apartments in the St. James, Boardwalk, Water Works, and New York Apartments. All units very close to campus. Call Four Horizons Realty at (660) 665-3400 or email at 4horizonsrealty@cablone.net.

Rent: 2 BR 1 Bath, Close to walking path TSU and KCOM. Large living room, hardwood floors throughout, great yard, large covered deck in back and enclosed sun porch in the front. 2 car garage with auto openers. Refrigerator, dishwasher/disposal, gas stove, washer and dryer. Available May 2014 660.988.5175 jim@kirksvillereental.com www.kirksvillereental.com

Rent: 2 BR 1 Bath house, close to Truman Farm, big covered front deck with great view. Detached garage. Living room, eat in kitchen, Dishwasher/Disposal, Washer/Dryer, Central Heat A/C Available May 2014 660.988.5175 jim@kirksvillereental.com www.kirksvillereental.com

Rent: Two remodeled 1-bedroom efficiency apartments total electric with stove and refrigerator, water/trash furnished. Close to TSU. Off street parking. Available Aug 1, one at \$260/month, one at \$285/month, plus electric. First month rent half price. Call or Text 660-216-1952 Broker/Owner.)

Rent: One remodeled 1-bedroom apartment. Total electric. Stove, refrigerator, off street parking. Close to Truman. For \$270/month plus utilities. Available Aug. 1. First month rent half price. Call or Text 660-216-1952 Broker/Owner.

For Rent

Rent: Quaint 2 bedroom house in peaceful neighborhood. Single car garage, W/D hook up, and newly remodeled sunroom near campus. Large back yard, \$525 monthly. Available in March 2014. Contact 660-216-8779.

Rent: Roomy 1 bedroom apartment, heat, water, & trash service provided. Washer and dryer included. Close to TSU, \$360 monthly. Available June 2014. Contact 660-216-8779.

Rent: Comfy 1 bedroom apartment, heat, water, & trash service provided, \$330 monthly. Near TSU. Available May 2014. Contact 660-216-8779.

Rent: Newer, well maintained, duplex apartment near downtown. 3 bedroom, 2 walk-in closets, washer, dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator, range, central air, garbage disposal, and outside storage included. May and Aug availability. Call (660)665-2796 M-F 8-5.

Rent: 3BR house, available now. Add'l living room upstairs. Four blocks from campus. Central air, dishwasher, washer, dryer included. Call 660-349-8636.

Rent: House available at corner of Franklin and Scott, can be rented for 7 or 9 people or can be rented as 3 apartment. I furnish water and trash and you pay elec. 660-341-1805

Rent: 2 bedroom and 3 bedroom apartment on Scott St. with washer and dryer. I furnish water and trash. 660-341-1805

Rent: Available June 1, 2014 \$900/month 711 Wiles Lane 3 bedroom/2 bath duplex 2 car garage, screened-in back porch, central air/heat, washer/dryer, and lawn maintenance 660-341-8538.

Rent: Available June 1, 2014 \$900/month 711 Wiles Lane 3 bedroom/2 bath duplex 2 car garage, screened-in back porch, central air/heat, washer/dryer, and lawn maintenance 660-341-8538.

Rent: 3 BR house located 2 blocks west of Pershing Bldg at 608 West Patterson St. laundry, carport, AC, new bamboo floors throughout, small pets okay, lower utilities due to provided infrared heater, shed for storage, \$600/mo call 988-0646. Available May 2014

For Rent

Rent: Available June 1, 2014 \$500/month 505 W. George Street 2 bedroom/1 bath home, fenced-in backyard, deck, storage shed, washer/dryer & lawn maintenance included 660-341-8538.

Rent: 4 bedroom 2 bath Apt Available May or August. Stove, Refrigerator, Dishwasher, Washer and Dryer. 660-341-7524

Rent: Looking for roommates to share a 7 bedroom house on 5th street, call 660-341-1805

Rent: Heritage House Rentals has 1, 2, & 3 bedroom apt, duplexes & townhouses well maintained available for May-August 2014. Close to TSU. Pet friendly. Call Ken Read 660-626-5488 or Heritage House Rentals, LLC 660-665-2787 or visit heritagehouse-rentalsllc.com.

Rent: Vista Heights has 1 & 2 bedroom apartments remodeled & well maintained available now for 2014-15 year. Located ¼ mile from TSU. Water & trash included. Pet friendly. Call Donna 660-665-9224 or Ken Read 660-626-5488 or vistaheightspts.com

Rent: Ken Read has 1, 2, & 3 bedroom well maintained apt ½ mile from TSU. Water & trash included. Pet friendly. Call Ken Read 660-626-5488 or Heritage House Rentals, LLC 660-665-2787 or visit heritagehouse-rentalsllc.com.

Rent: Available August 1, 2014 \$800/month 112 E. Buchanan 4 bedroom/2 bath - charming home, covered front porch, central air/heat, washer/dryer, and lawn maintenance 660-341-8538.

For sale: 2 bedroom, 1 bath home, 3 blocks from Truman State University. This home is located at 807 E Orchard and there are photos that can be viewed on www.zillow.com. Asking \$75K, please call 660-627-0231 for private viewing.

Rent: Newer, well maintained, 3 bedroom, duplex apartment near downtown. 2 bath, 2 walk in closets. Washer/dryer refrigerator, range, central air, off street parking. Garbage disposal. Dishwasher. Available 8/1/14 660 341 7656.

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