



Truman swimming traveled to the Bahamas. See more on page 14.

SCHOOL'S OUT, shots go in

Women take home win streak to 21

BY KIRK SCHLUETER
Staff Reporter

It was a tale of two winter breaks for the Truman State women's basketball team — after losing its first three games during the month-long layover from school, the team stormed back to win its last three, all in GLVC competition.

The Bulldogs lost close contests on the road to Pittsburg State and GLVC foe Quincy University before Christmas, and dropped another away game to Lewis just after the start of the new year. Truman rebounded with a road victory against the University of Wisconsin-Parkside before winning two straight at home by a total of nearly 50 points, bringing the 'Dogs winning streak at Pershing Arena to 21 games, the fifth-longest current home winning streak in Div. II. Truman's record is now 9-4.

Truman's winter break began Dec. 7 at Quincy, a contest the Bulldogs dropped 79-75. After trailing most of the game, the 'Dogs took a one point lead with less than two minutes remaining, but were unable to keep it, as the Lady Hawks ended the game with a 6-1 run to hand Truman a loss in its first GLVC game.

The Bulldogs lost another late game Dec. 18 at Pittsburg State. Against their old MIAA foe, the Bulldogs trailed early, but held a 61-58 lead before the Gorillas' Alexa Bordwick made a 30-foot three-pointer at the buzzer to tie the contest. Pittsburg State proved triumphant during overtime, emerging with a 75-66 victory.

If the Bulldogs' New Year's resolution was to not lose any more conference games, they were disappointed only three

days in, as the Lewis University Flyers downed Truman 98-72 for the Bulldogs' worst loss of the year. In all three losses, Truman shot several percentage points below their 41 percent field goal average for the season.

Players and coaches alike said the losses proved instrumental for the Bulldogs, emphasizing that the team must be consistent with its play. Head coach Amy Eagan noted that both GLVC teams the 'Dogs faced, Lewis and Quincy, were picked in the GLVC pre-season poll to finish first in their respective divisions, but said teams usually learn more from losses than they do from wins, and she thought the losses drove home some valuable lessons to Truman.

"We hadn't quite put two halves together," senior forward Nicole Gloor said. "Against Quincy, we didn't have a good first half, and we had to come back in the second half. It was kind of the same thing against Pitt, and then we got down on ourselves when we got into overtime. Against Lewis we didn't play our game in either half. Once we put our game together for two halves, we'll be fine and where we want to be."

Something especially important was for the Bulldogs to concentrate on communication and playing defense, junior guard Allie Norton said. She said Truman is a defense-oriented team, with defensive stops driving the offensive effort. The importance of defense was driven home during Truman's next game, a road victory against the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, a Sweet 16 team last year.

Much like the games against Quincy and
Please see WOMEN, Page 13



Calie Holden/Index
Freshman Britney Boland guards junior Allie Norton during a practice drill. The women's basketball team beat University of Wisconsin-Parkside 74-68 Jan 5.

men will rely on defense in new year

BY SAM SHERMAN
Staff Reporter

Boasting the best scoring defense and sporting the highest turnover margin in the conference, the Truman State men's basketball team is past proving their legitimacy to opponents.

With a 10-3 overall record and a 91-60 victory against McKendree University Bearcats, the Bulldogs are picking up steam heading into the meat of their conference schedule, and if it was up to junior guard Seth Jackson, it's time for the Truman campus to start taking notice.

Truman currently ranks 14th in home attendance, with only Wisconsin-Parkside — with a student population of 4,700 — and William Jewell College — whose undergraduate rates just barely top 1,000 — ranking lower.

"With our successes this year, I know it was kind of tough the first two years for us but ... we have some big games coming up," Jackson said. "I think we can give [fans] something more to watch this year."

Last Saturday, Jackson and junior point guard Reed Mells finished with 18 and 21 points respectively. Jackson tacked on 10 rebounds to his scoring totals to finish with a double-double for the day, while Mells finished with a team-high six assists. Senior forward Mike Carlson made personal history Saturday as he recorded his 1,000th career point as a Bulldog.

A road trip starting Jan. 3 to Romeoville, Ill., to face No. 22 Lewis University and continuing on Jan 5. in Kenosha, Wis., to face Wisconsin-Parkside was cold in every sense of the word. After a turnover-riddled game against Lewis ended with a 65-82 defeat, the 'Dogs hit another wall in Wisconsin. Shooting just 39 percent from the field and 25 percent from beyond the arc, the Bulldogs fell to the Wisconsin-Parkside

Bulldog Basketball Returns

Men's Senior Forward Mike Carlson scored his 1000th point on 1/11/14

He has a 46.725% Shooting Percentage

Rangers 57-78. Jackson said the two straight losses put the season into perspective for the young 'Dogs, showing the team what kind of effort the Great Lakes Valley Conference demands.

"In the past we've been very good on the road," Jackson said. "Those two losses just showed us that we had to get refocused and reorganized, come together and just kind of get back to that type of ball we were playing earlier in the year."

Now, the Bulldogs have reeled off

Men's 5 - 3 Over Break
Women's 3 - 2 Over Break

Women's Basketball continued a 21 Game home winning streak

43.4% 3 Point Percentage

two straight home wins, including its latest dismantling of a 6-5 McKendree team. Falling in behind Mells and Jackson's offensive clinic and a strong defensive presence inside, the team showed no signs of slowing down. Freshman forward Connor Erickson led the 'Dogs defensively, posting four blocks and sealing the inside lane for a majority of the second half.

Head coach Matt Woodley said the strong defensive presence inside was crucial to the team's game plan against the Bearcats.

"We thought their bigs were really good so we wanted to trap the post," Woodley said. "I just wanted to get the ball out of the post as much as we could, and it paid off for us."

The win Saturday was the program's 1,100th victory throughout a history that includes five All-Americans, nine MIAA Conference Championships and multiple NCAA tournament appearances.

Woodley said it meant a lot to him for the team to reach this milestone.

"We're a part of a storied program," Woodley said. "We've stayed pretty strong in Div. II, and it's neat to be a part of [the history]."

After a conference matchup on Thursday against the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the team will hit the road for a three-game stretch before returning to Pershing for a four-game period. During that four-game stretch, the Bulldogs will face three national top 10 teams — No. 3 Drury University, No. 8 University of Southern Indiana followed by No. 2 Bellarmine University.

Jackson said these past few games have been good for the team's long-term preparation as they start to get familiar with GLVC basketball.

"I think we have a better assessment of what we're going to be facing in the conference," Jackson said. "And I think guys know how serious we have to take these games and know what type of energy we have to bring every night."

Despite the oncoming adversity, Woodley and Jackson said the team is on the right track as they move forward, and they expect to see an increase of support as people start taking notice after big wins like the McKendree game Saturday.

"I think Saturday was a great example of a team win for us," Jackson said. "When we're all hitting on all cylinders and everybody's contributing, we're a real tough team to beat."