



## Dogs poised for record season

The Bulldogs could finish with a record above .500 this season

BY HENRY JANSSEN  
Staff Reporter

The Truman State baseball team officially is more than halfway through its season with a 19-9 record. The Bulldogs have 20 games remaining during the regular season, and are in prime position to finish with the first season above .500 throughout program history.

Last week, the 'Dogs split a doubleheader with Quincy University and an extended 4-game weekend series with Rockhurst University, finishing the week with a 3-3 record. All six games were played in Kirksville.

The Wednesday games against Quincy showcased two different styles and paces, as the two teams combined for 36 hits and the 'Dogs lost 10-6 during the 9-inning game. The second, a 7-inning game, was 1-1 going into the bottom of the seventh when the Bulldogs walked off on senior outfielder Jarod Hahn's safety squeeze. The Bulldogs' win dur-

ing the latter half of the doubleheader snapped a 12-game win streak for Quincy and gave senior pitcher Cody Gardner his fifth win of the year. Gardner hurled 83 pitches before being pulled during the sixth inning.

Gardner said it was difficult to find a way to pull ahead during the game against Quincy. He said the extra effort Truman put forth will help during postseason games by increasing their stamina and endurance.

"[Gardner] came in and gave us a change of pace and threw really well," senior shortstop Zak Larkin said. "Quincy threw a guy out there who wasn't too shabby himself...We ended up giving him that one run that he needed. It's always nice to walk off on somebody, always a good feeling."

Two days later, the Bulldogs closed out the first game of a 4-game series against Rockhurst in a nearly identical fashion. Tru-

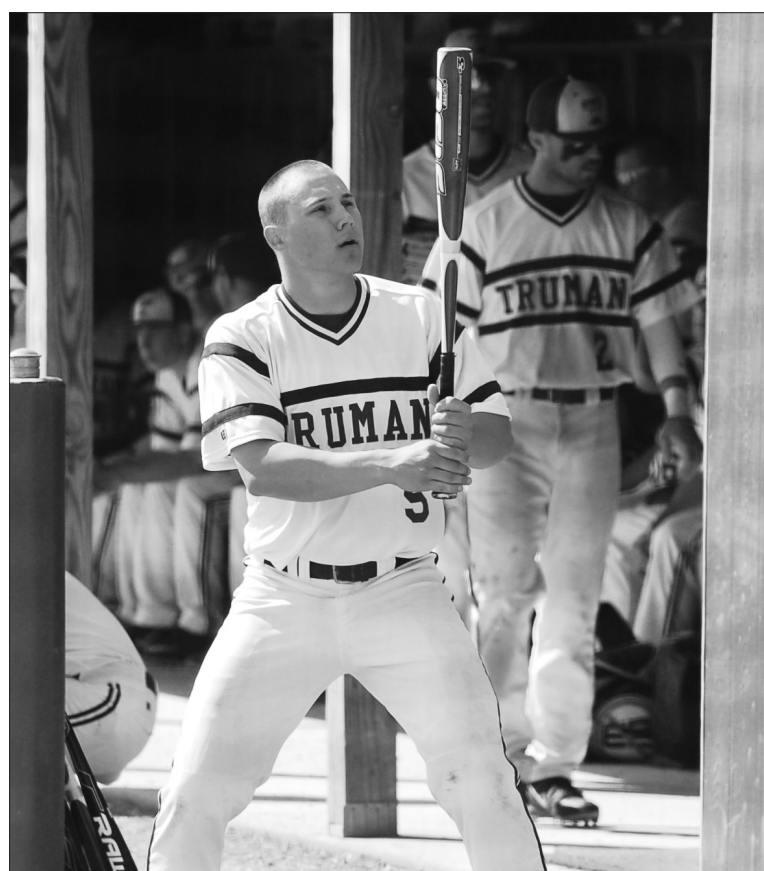
man was able to pick up a 5-4 victory during the bottom of the ninth inning when Hahn once again squeezed in the winning run. During the second game, the 'Dogs let one slip away. Truman led 6-1 going into the sixth inning, but 10 runs for Rockhurst during the sixth and seventh innings gave the Hawks an 11-6 lead they never relinquished.

"We knew they were going to be a good team," Larkin said. "They beat us last year, three out of four. We walked off again, the exact same thing happened, Hahn threw down a bunt. We were feeling good after the game one win thinking 'Hey, we're in the driver's seat, we got a chance to take the series.' We weren't able to shut the door on them [during game two]."

The Bulldogs split the next two games with Rockhurst Saturday, losing the first game 4-2 before winning 10-5 during the fourth and final game of the series. Rockhurst currently is 14-16. See **BASEBALL**, page 14

**"It's always nice to walk off on somebody, always a good feeling."**

- Senior shortstop  
Zak Larkin



Athena Geldbach/Index

**Top: The Truman State baseball team watches from the dugout. Above: Senior shortstop Zak Larkin prepares to bat. The Bulldogs faced the Rockhurst University Hawks last weekend.**

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