

'Dogs end season

BY HENRY JANSSEN
Staff Reporter

The Truman State men's basketball team ended its season two weeks ago, falling during the second round of the GLVC tournament to No. 9 nationally-ranked University of Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers, 73-70. The Bulldogs were not granted an at-large bid to the NCAA Division II tournament.

Truman defeated Quincy University during the first round of the tournament, and advancing to play UW-Parkside in St. Charles, Missouri marked the first time the Bulldogs played in a postseason neutral-site game since the 2005-06 season.

Senior guard Seth Jackson led the Bulldogs with 22 points on 8-19 shooting. Redshirt senior guard Isaac Gardner posted 17, and the only other Truman player in double-digits was junior guard Cole Myers with 10. Gardner and Myers led the 'Dogs with six boards apiece. Truman shot 26 of 63 from the field overall, while Parkside shot 24 of 58.

The 'Dogs trailed Parkside 32-19 at the half and were out-rebounded by 20 in as many minutes of play. Early during the second half, Truman trailed by 16 before quickly surging back to cut the lead to single digits. The 'Dogs did not attempt a single free throw during the first half, but converted 10 of their 14 tries during the second. Three of Gardner's four 3-pointers were scored in the second half, two of them during a span of five possessions during which the Bulldogs cut the UW-Parkside lead from 14 to 6.

"I think at halftime, we all kind of were a little discouraged," Gardner said. "We thought about it, and we knew Parkside was a good offensive team, and when we looked at the score they only had 32 at halftime. We felt like we were playing pretty good defense, we were just missing some shots and not getting the shots that we wanted. We kept our heads up, and trusted in our system. We knew we'd get better shots."

The Bulldogs did not lead at any point during the game. Senior guard Reed Mells helped cut the Parkside lead to 71-70 with a layup 11 seconds before the end of regulation time. During the ensuing inbound play, Myers attempted to steal the ball in the air and call Truman's last timeout before landing out of bounds but was ruled out-of-play, and the Rangers kept possession. After fouling and forcing a pair of converted free throws, the Bulldogs got one last possession with eight seconds left. Myers, who had made his two 3-point attempts of the game, got a clean shot from the corner that rimmed out as time expired.

"Honestly, I thought it was going in — I thought he got a good look," Jackson said. "I thought we ran

a good play for him. You can't really ask for a better shot than that."

During his last game, Jackson moved to first place in all-time single season scoring for Truman, passing alumnus Johnnie Wesley's record of 617, which has stood since the 1981-82 Northeast Missouri State University season. Jackson's 22 points against Parkside brought him to 623 on the year. As a team, the Bulldogs finished the season as the highest scoring team (by points-per-game) in the GLVC.

Truman's game plan against Parkside largely consisted of controlling the paint, head coach Chris Foster said.

During the only other matchup between the two teams this year, Zygimantas Riauka, a 6-foot-9-inch, 240-pound Parkside forward posted 17 points alongside 14 rebounds. During the first half of the rematch, Riauka earned 10 boards and four points, but was held to five and six, respectively, during the second half.

"We doubled him early — just to get him off balance, to get him thinking about that," Foster said. "When we stopped doubling him, I think he was still anticipating that so he was a little bit more hesitant down there."

Foster said his goal was to try to make Riauka work for his catches and keep him off balance. He said Truman applied a good amount of pressure so when Riauka caught the ball in the paint, he was expecting the double team rather than catching it and going right into his moves.

All-conference Parkside guard Jimmy Gavin, however, was not to be contained. He finished with 28 points, 21 of those achieved during the second half. Gavin led all scorers on the day.

"He's a heck of a player," Foster said. "[He has been a] big time scorer in our league for the past two years. We did a pretty good job earlier in the year, even last year, trying to key in on him. He just had it going. We pressed and played a little zone in the second half to pick the tempo up, and he shook loose for a couple threes."

Foster said Gavin is a difficult player to stop once he hits his stride. He said Gavin is a strong 3-point scorer, which makes him an especially difficult opponent, though Truman put up a good effort.

While Truman's season came to a close earlier than the team would have liked, many Bulldogs said they achieved considerable milestones this season. Jackson said Foster instilled a desire to succeed in the locker room immediately after the game.

"[Foster] was upset like the rest of us that we lost, but he emphasized that it doesn't all fall on that one game," Jackson said. "We did have a successful season."

Jackson said Foster thanked his players and told them how appreciative he was for all their hard work. Jackson said Foster expressed his faith in them, and how grateful he was of the faith his players instilled in him.



Athena Geldbach/Index

Top, redshirt sophomore guard Cory Myers takes the jump ball against a Quincy University player during the first round of the GLVC tournament. Above, senior guard Seth Jackson eyes a defender from Quincy as he takes the ball down the court. The 'Dogs fell during the second round of the GLVC tournament to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside March 5 with a score of 73-70.

Truman ball wins big on the road

BY SARAH HICKS
Staff Reporter

During midterm break, the baseball team played nine games on the road. The team took advantage of time off classes to focus its energy on playing ball. During days the team did not have a game, players were practicing with a championship win in mind.

Zak Larkin, senior shortstop and second baseman, said head coach Dan Davis emphasizes the importance of early season wins.

"Coach Davis has been stressing to play our game and to win every pitch," Larkin said. "If we play to our potential then we have a great opportunity to go into Evansville, Indiana, and beat the defending national champions."

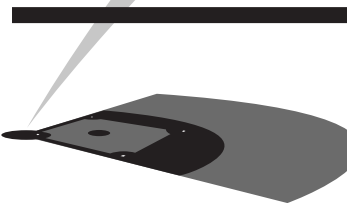
The team faced five opponents before they took on the University of Southern Indiana during March 14-16.

The first series played was against University of Illinois-Springfield March 7-8. The team had not played a game since early February, so the Bulldogs were determined to have a strong performance during the four-game series. Brendan Trimble, freshman third and second baseman, said the team had a resilient pitching and batting game against the University of Illinois during the first day of the series.

"I thought that we played great," said Trimble. "Our team seemed to really click as a group even though it was only our second series of the year."

Senior outfielder Jared Hahn and senior first baseman Paul Trenhaile scored runs during the first inning. With two runs

Bulldog batters



Dave Gambino

Batting Avg: .481

Home runs: 2

Slugging %: .741



Paul Trenhaile

Batting Avg: .463

Home runs: 2

Slugging %: .704

already earned at the top of the first, Truman's momentum carried them to victory.

During the second day in the series against Illinois, the team continued to play with a championship mentality. Hahn said pitchers sophomore Alex Hoffman and redshirt freshman Kent Frantz both pitched well.

"The first game on Sunday we should have won, [but] Springfield came back and won it in extras," Hahn said. "That didn't stop us because [game] two we came out and played really well and took 3-4 from Springfield."

The Bulldogs won three out of the four games against Illinois-Springfield. Truman won 5-2 during its first game and 7-4 during the second Saturday. Then Truman fell 5-4

during the first game the next day, but bounced back with a 7-0 win during the second game.

After the weekend, the team remained on the road and traveled down Highway 63 to play the University of Missouri in an exhibition game. Even though the Bulldogs lost 10-2, the players gained significant experience from the Div. I competition, Larkin said.

"The score definitely did not reflect how we played," Larkin said. "I believe we showed that we can play with anybody. We did a lot of things well, the results just weren't there at the end."

The men continued to practice after Tuesday, as they did not have another

game until March 14 when the 'Dogs began GLVC play against the University of Southern Indiana. The Bulldogs were confident they would play well against the defending national champions in four games.

Trying to keep the team assured, Trimble said Davis kept the message to his team simple.

"Coach Davis continued to remind us to play the game of baseball, not the name on the jersey," Trimble said.

As the first game went underway, the team took Davis' words to heart and played the game, Trimble said. After three days of rain and with the outfield mostly mud, Truman came out with a 7-5 victory Saturday. The Bulldogs proved they could play the then-No. 6 ranked team in the country in the worst conditions and come out victorious.

Freshman outfielder Adam Gregorich said this game showed the resilience of the Bulldogs, especially because Truman overcame a 2-0 Southern Indiana lead during the first inning.

"Coming into the game, we knew that we would have to play hard and not lose focus throughout the entire nine innings to give ourselves a chance to win," Gregorich said.

Truman played two more games against the Screaming Eagles Sunday and won them with a final score of 14-5 and 7-1. Truman took the series 10-7 after Monday.

The 'Dogs will host McKendree University this weekend at Bulldog Baseball Park this Saturday and Sunday. Truman will face the Bearcats twice on both days, with the first pitch set to be thrown at noon Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

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