

'Dogs split two in Tennessee

BY AUSTIN WERTHS
Staff Reporter

The men's basketball team's 2014-15 season officially began Nov. 14 with a win against Lake Superior University.

The 'Dogs competed again Nov. 15 and suffered their first loss of the season to Trevecca Nazarene University.

Jumping out to an early lead against Lake Superior, the Bulldogs did not look back and led the majority of the game. The Bulldogs scored the first six points, all coming off steals. Senior guards Seth Jackson and Reed Mells made it obvious that the defensive battle was going to favor the Bulldogs.

Mells led the offensive game, scoring a total of 25 points, with 10 field goals and four free throws made. Redshirt senior guard Isaac Gardner and junior guard Cole Myers tallied 11 points each. Jackson contributed with nine points and two steals to carry the Bulldogs to their first victory of the season 82-65 against Lake Superior State.

Pre-season preparation was effective in hopes to win the conference tournament and get ready for a run at the NCAA tournament.

"It is necessary for me to push guys and make sure we bring intensity and energy to every practice every day," senior center Patrick Burmester said. "After last season we know we have the talent to compete against every team in this league."

Friday night the Bulldogs set the tone and they think they are an NCAA tournament-caliber team.

A 76-74 loss to Trevecca Nazarene Saturday in Nashville served as the Bulldogs' first heartbreaker of the season. However, there were some positives to take away from the game. Jackson put up 27 points during the 28 minutes he spent on the court.

"I was mainly just trying to be aggressive — I saw where I had opportunities to score and took advantage of them," Jackson said.

The Bulldogs had a four-point lead over Trevecca Nazarene going into halftime. Trevecca Nazarene

made 23 of their 35 free throws. Truman led the majority of the game and midway through the second half had a seven-point lead. This lead gradually decreased as Nazarene pulled within one point with only three minutes of play left.

"In the second game we for once were not playing with a lot of energy on defense that we had in the previous game," junior guard Andrew Vander Zwaag said.

The Bulldogs were not able to close out the victory and fell down by four with less than a minute of play. To get the ball back, the Bulldogs fouled Trevecca Nazarene, but they were strong from the free throw line and continued to pull away, leaving little opportunity for the Bulldogs to gain back the lead.

Burmester said he thinks he needs to be a leader on the court.

"I feel like it is my obligation as a senior to make sure the team — veterans and young guys — do not become complacent just because we had a good

year last year," Burmester said.

With high hopes this season to get back to the NCAA tournament, which would mark Truman's first appearance since the 2005-06 season, the seniors look to make an immediate impact.

"My individual goals fall second to our team goals this year," Jackson said. "As a player I know I must play well to contribute to our success, but the team winning is the ultimate and most important goal."

Making appearances on the court since his freshman year, Jackson consistently has been an offensive power for the 'Dogs. With his field goal percentage on the rise since his freshman year, Jackson said he plans to continue to better himself as a scorer and an all-around contributor.

The Bulldogs will be back in action Nov. 23 as they take on Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. This game will be the last game before the Bulldogs enter the KWC Thanksgiving Classic.



Athena Geldbach/Index
Redshirt senior guard Isaac Gardner practices his jump shot Tuesday during practice in Pershing Arena. Gardner scored six points during the last game.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, Nov. 20

Women's Volleyball 11 a.m.
vs. McKendree — First Round
Allendale, Mich.

Friday, Nov. 21

Women's Basketball 5 p.m.
at Trevecca Nazarene
Nashville, Tenn.

Women's Swimming 9 a.m.
at Northwestern TYR Cup
Evanston, Ill.

Men's Swimming 9 a.m.
at Northwestern TYR Cup
Evanston, Ill.

Women's Volleyball 4 p.m.
NCAA — Second Round
Allendale, Mich.

Saturday, Nov. 22

Wrestling 9 a.m.
at Coe College Open
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Women's Basketball Noon
vs. Kentucky Wesleyan
Nashville, Tenn.

Men's Cross Country 10:30 a.m.
NCAA Midwest Regional
Evanston, Ill.

Women's Cross Country
11:45 a.m.
NCAA Midwest Regional
Evanston, Ill.

Women's Swimming 9 a.m.
at Northwestern TYR Cup
Evanston, Ill.

Men's Swimming 9 a.m.
at Northwestern TYR Cup
Evanston, Ill.

Women's Volleyball 6 p.m.
NCAA — Regional
Championship
Allendale, Mich.

See all the results of last week's games online at tmn.truman.edu

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