

SPORTS

The mighty finally have fallen

BY DEVIN GILLESPIE
Staff Reporter

Truman State volleyball suffered their first loss in two months last weekend in Pershing Arena after a winning performance just one day before.

The Bulldogs swept Saint Joseph's College Saturday evening with a dominating offensive attack. The match lasted more than an hour and 10 players registered kills.

The 'Dogs kept a lead over the Pumas, 16-9, for a majority of the match and rallied when the score was close. Truman finished the first set with a score of 25-15 after an early rally that put them ahead 8-2. Saint Joseph's came within one point during set two with the score at 17-16 before the home team rallied to take the set 25-19 before the intermission. During the third set, the Bulldogs jumped ahead 13-5 to cruise to a victory with a 25-14 finish.

Senior setter Meghan Zimmerman posted a double-double with 31 assists and 15 digs, leading the defensive stats with senior libero Abby Moser, who also had 15 digs in the contest. Senior outside hitter Allie Brak finished with a team-leading nine kills while the team hit for a combined .294 against the Pumas.

"We definitely played well as a team, especially when different players came onto the court," junior middle hitter Emilee Walters said. "We kept our intensity and drive high no matter who was on the court."

Following the win, fans had a chance to get signed autographs from the Truman volleyball team as a part of Autograph Night.

Truman had its winning streak snapped at 21 as they had their first conference loss of the season Sunday to the visiting GLVC opponent, University of Indianapolis Greyhounds.

	W	3-1	
	W	3-0	
	W	3-2	
	W	3-1	
	W	3-0	
	W	3-1	
	W	3-1	
	W	3-0	
	W	3-0	
	W	3-0	
	W	3-2	

'DOGS DURING THE STREAK



Abby Moser
Senior Libero

Moser was named the GLVC defensive player of the week four times during the streak. Moser has played in 93 sets and has averaged 5.04 digs per set this season.



Meghan Zimmerman
Senior Setter

Zimmerman was the key to kills as she averaged 10.8 assists per set this season. Zimmerman also contributed on defense with 3.57 digs per set.



Kayla Bastian
Sophomore Outside Hitter

Bastian stepped up to the plate during senior outside hitter Allie Brak's injury. Bastian has averaged 3.42 kills and 3.39 digs per set, as well as starting in every game so far this season.

	W	3-1	
	W	3-1	
	W	3-0	
	W	3-0	
	W	3-1	
	W	3-2	
	W	3-1	
	W	3-0	
	W	3-1	
	W	3-0	

The Bulldogs are determined to have a better week of practice and finish the regular season on a good note, junior defensive specialist Sidney King said.

"We did not execute the game plan as well as we practiced this week," King said. "[Indianapolis] came with a fight that we did not have in [Sunday's] match. It lit a fire under us to work that much harder this week in practice to better prepare for next weekend and the weekends to come."

Despite the blemish to their GLVC record, the Bulldogs are not losing sight of their goals of winning a conference championship this season.

"We definitely learned a lot from the loss, and have plenty to work on this week in practice," Walters said. "[Losing to Indianapolis] provided us with motivation as we continue the season. We're just focusing on moving forward and looking at Maryville and UMSL next weekend."

Briney said he thinks his team has room for improvement and some wrinkles to iron out as postseason play quickly approaches. Two games remain for the Bulldogs during the regular season schedule before the GLVC tournament begins Nov. 13 in Peoria, Illinois. Truman will remain in the No. 1 spot of the conference standings and in the top tier of the Midwest regional rankings that were released Oct. 29.

"I still don't think this team has played to its full potential, and the girls know that," Briney said. "That's our goal these last few weeks."

The Bulldogs will play at home next weekend for the final two matches of the regular season. Truman will face Maryville University 7 p.m. Friday. The University of Missouri-St. Louis will take on the 'Dogs for Senior Night at 6 p.m. Saturday in Pershing Arena.

The Greyhounds came into the match leading the GLVC East Division with a 15-9 record overall. "U-Indy" traditionally is a good defensive team and has continued that traditional style despite their lack of size compared to previous years, Truman head coach Ben Briney said.

"It's probably going to be a defensive battle with long rallies," Briney said before the match.

The teams collectively had 173 digs

during the match with constant ties and lead changes throughout the afternoon. There were 13 ties and nine lead changes during the first set alone. As Truman was up 21-20, the Greyhounds took four points in a row before the 'Dogs responded with two of their own. At 24-23, a kill by sophomore Becca Lira gave Indianapolis the win.

During the second set, Truman had the lead at 23-21 before another late four-point rally by

the Greyhounds allowed them to take the set again with a 25-23 finish.

The third set had three lead changes and 13 ties, with neither team maintaining a lead that extended past five points. A four-point rally by Indianapolis tied the match at 20 before a series of side-outs began. The Greyhounds continued to fight off Truman's set point until the contest was tied at 33. After the Bulldogs committed an attack error to put Indianapolis

up by one, Lira landed her second set-winning kill of the afternoon to finish the sweep. Indianapolis had three players finish with double-digit kills in the contest.

Brak led the team with 11 kills and grabbed 14 of the team's 42 digs against the Greyhounds. Sophomore outside hitter Kayla Bastian and Zimmerman ended the day with double-doubles. Bastian had 10 kills and 10 digs while Zimmerman totaled 35 assists with 10 digs.

'Dogs rush to decisive victory

BY HENRY JANSSEN
Staff Reporter

The Bulldogs broke a streak of back-to-back GLVC losses by defeating Southwest Baptist University 52-7 in Bolivar, Missouri, Saturday. Truman State had a 24-0 lead at the half — something the Bulldogs had difficulty doing during their last two games versus Indianapolis University and William Jewell College. The 'Dogs move to 5-3 overall and 4-2 in the GLVC, while the Southwest Baptist Bearcats fell to 2-7 with a 1-7 conference mark.

Senior running back Garrett White continued his senior season with a career-high rushing performance of 229 yards. Sixty-nine of them came from the Bulldogs' opening drive, during which they scored on a two-yard rushing touchdown by red-shirt freshman running back Vince Garcia. White is 6th in career rushing all-time as a Bulldog with 2,663 yards.

"He'd be the first to tell you, we really controlled the line of scrimmage," head coach Gregg Nesbitt said. "Our line played lights out."

Nesbitt demonstrated his knowledge of his senior running back, as White expressed similar selfless sentiment.

"Hitting 1,000 yards is really the goal of every running back and honestly, the offensive line gets just as excited about

it because they do most of the work," White said. "I'd say they deserve most of the credit. The receivers blocking down the field accounted for a lot of those yards as well, and it really takes every man doing his job in order for me to get those yards."

White eclipsed the 1,000-yard rushing mark this season, making him the first Bulldog to do so since alumnus Jerard Levenson during 2003. Until Saturday, Levenson was the most recent Bulldog to record more than 200 rushing yards during a game, rushing for 204 yards against Washburn University that same year. White went on to tally four touchdowns during the game.

The Bulldogs had good control of the ball during the first half, possessing the ball for more than 19 minutes out of the first 30.

"There's a lot of meaningless stats, but there are some that really have great meaning," Nesbitt said.

Nesbitt said Indianapolis, Quincy and Truman are at the top of the heap for possession time. Truman's defense is in the top three with the least amount of snaps defended, so that had been a hidden statistic for the team — a key to the team's success up until the Indianapolis game where they flipped the script and really controlled the ball Nesbitt said.



GARRETT WHITE

Senior running back Garrett White earned GLVC Offensive Player of the Week after he broke the conference single-game rushing record on Saturday with 229 yards against Southwest Baptist University. White currently has 1,000 yards for the season, becoming the first Bulldog since 2003 to reach this milestone.

The Bulldogs held Southwest Baptist to minus-1 yards, rushing during the first half. Total yardage midway through the game was 244 yards to 57 in Truman's favor. Defensively, senior defensive end Nic Abbate tied the career Bulldog tackles-for-loss record with 37.5.

Nesbitt said he thinks the bye-week, which took place the weekend before traveling to Bolivar, really helped the 'Dogs.

"The kids were well-rested and really well prepared," Nesbitt said. "I wanted to rest their bodies. We took a couple of days off."

The lopsided scoreboard gave the Bulldogs an opportunity to get some of their younger players out on the field. Redshirt freshman running back Scott Schwend recorded his first career touchdown on a set up by sophomore wide receiver Derek Hammann's return kick.

"I think the older guys, especially at my position, like Garrett White, they've just been people you can watch and really learn from," Schwend said. "I've been able to learn how to run the ball more effectively just by watching him in practice, and watching film of him play games. ... Hopefully what I've learned from guys like Garrett will carry on into the next years and we'll just keep the tradition going from learning from the older guys."

The Bulldogs will meet for their Senior Day matchup 1 p.m. Saturday at Stokes Stadium against Quincy — a team that has won four straight games.

Nesbitt said Senior Day always is an emotional day for the whole team. Nesbitt said this year especially will be tough since he recruited all of the graduating seniors himself because it was a one-man recruitment show his first year.