

# TSU stumbles in quarterfinal

BY SETH WOLFMEYER  
Staff Reporter

The Truman State men's basketball team ended their season with a loss to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside during the GLVC tournament quarterfinal.

The Truman State men's basketball team ended its season with a 21-9 overall record after a loss in the GLVC quarterfinals to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

The Bulldogs traveled to St. Charles, Missouri, March 4 to compete in the GLVC tournament quarterfinal in hopes of continuing their season and avenging a February loss to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers. But the 'Dogs lost to the Rangers 77-62 in a game that remained close until the end.

Truman started the game with an early lead, but fell behind UW-Parkside during the first half and never regained the lead. The 'Dogs kept the point deficit close until the Rangers pulled away late in the second half. Parkside also won the rebounding battle, bringing down 41 boards to Truman's 27.

The game was atypical for the Bulldogs because the team made and attempted the lowest number of 3-point shots all season. Redshirt junior guard Dwight Sistrunk Jr. said the players were not hitting the long-range shots they usually take. Sistrunk said the larger arena affected the team's shooting ability, and it was difficult to adjust to how the arena affected depth perception while shooting. The majority of the Bulldog's points came from short-range instead — 3-pointers only accounted for nine of the team's 62 points.

Junior forward Billy Daniel led the team in scoring and rebounding, with 20 points and eight rebounds. Redshirt junior forward Connor Erickson scored the second-most points on the team with 10 as he played only his second game since coming back from injury. The team's graduating members, redshirt senior guard Andrew Vander Zwaag and senior guard Cole Myers, were the next leading scorers. Vander Zwaag scored nine, and Myers scored six.

Sistrunk said the Bulldogs hoped to take advantage of a few Rangers injuries, but were unable to. Sistrunk said the

Bulldogs noticed Parkside sophomore guard Kendale McCullum in a walking boot before the game and thought Parkside would not be at full strength.

"You could tell [the injuries] kind of affected them at the beginning," Sistrunk said. "They started out slow, so we tried to jump on them early, but I felt like we couldn't really get as big of a lead as we wanted to."

The game was the last for the 2015-16 Bulldogs, who finished the season with 21 wins, the fourth-highest in Truman's history. The Bulldogs' tournament appearance was also their third in a row, and second under Head Coach Chris Foster.

The team had four players make the All-GLVC teams, according to GLVC records. Junior guard Kyle Kanaskie and Myers made the All-Conference team, while Sistrunk was selected for the All-Defensive team. Redshirt junior guard Cory Myers made the All-Conference team and All-Defensive team.

Kanaskie said he is glad he was selected because the team plays in a tough conference, but said he would rather win more games and continue on in the tournament than receive individual awards. Kanaskie said the team is proud of its season, despite finishing sooner than it set out to.

"We have a lot to be proud of — we went 21-9," Kanaskie said. "Obviously it didn't finish the way we wanted to, but back-to-back-to-back 20 win seasons for the first time in school history is nothing to hang our head about."

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-Junior guard Kyle Kanaskie

The team has the opportunity to continue its success next year because most of the the players will be returning. Kanaskie said losing the graduating seniors will hurt, but the rest of the team just has to step up. Kanaskie said he could see many of the younger players playing a larger role next season.

# Hoops | Women's basketball falls to Quincy in GLVC tournament

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Following a first-round victory against the University of Missouri-St. Louis Tritons, the Bulldogs women's basketball team lost to Quincy University during the quarterfinals of the GLVC tournament.

At the game's start, the Bulldogs quickly took the lead 3-1. This, however, was the Bulldogs' only lead, because Quincy tied the game moments later. The Bulldogs fought to regain the lead and closed in on Quincy 47-52 during the game's final four minutes after a pair of free throws by senior guard Courtney Strait. Despite Truman State's efforts, however, the Quincy Hawks took home the win 62-49.

Freshman guard Mackenzie Jerks said even though the team lost, the Bulldogs fought until the end of the game and played with passion.

"During the second half, we got on a pretty good run," Jerks said. "We got pretty close, and the seniors led us all the way. I'd like to tell them all thanks for the time, work and energy. They loved the team and are really inspiring."

Jerks said the four seniors — Strait, redshirt center Michalina Tomczak and guards Kasey Gassensmith and Tawny Tucci — who are graduating have positively influenced the younger teammates and taught them what it takes to be a top team in the conference.

During the Bulldogs' effort to close the gap, Tomczak scored 11 points during the second half. Tomczak, who made 5 out of 9 field goals during 25 minutes, said this season was one of the best defensive seasons the Bulldogs have ever had. She said if the Bulldogs had done a better job defensively during the game against Quincy, the game might have turned out differently. Overall, Tomczak said the team had an impressive season.

"We got 20 wins this season, and we continued to improve the program," Tomczak said. "We made it to the tournament as the fifth seed. Our program looks good, and I know it will only get better next season."

Head Coach Amy Eagan said sloppy defense and turnovers played a role in the loss to Quincy. Eagan said the difference in the game was the amount

of free-throws taken between the two teams. The Bulldogs went 8 for 11 during the game compared to Quincy's 15 of 23. Regardless of Truman's last game, however, Eagan said she's very proud of the team's season.

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-Redshirt senior center Michalina Tomczak

Eagan led the Bulldogs to set the University's record in conference wins this year, and she said she is proud of the dedication the team showed during this season. She said each player did the work on and off the court to put themselves in a position to be successful. She said the team had a great run this season, and she said it was one of the best defensive teams to come from Truman.

"All our players gave maximum effort," Eagan said. "I would challenge all our returners to do even better next year, and for the seniors, I would like to say thank you for everything you've given us in these past few years. They definitely left this place with a legacy ... I will miss them dearly and love each one of them."

During her third season coaching at Truman, Eagan brought the team to a 20-10 record, for a combined three-year record of 58-30. Eagan said she plans to continue improving Truman's basketball program, but she said it will be hard to top this season's team, which earned the most regular season conference wins at Truman, allowed the fewest points per game of any Truman basketball team ever, and had the program's best regular season GLVC record.

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**Elementary Education:** Alexandra Angle, Kylie Apple, Amanda Barczykowski, Kimberly Barmettler, Natalie Beck, Hope Berntsen, Jaden Butzen, Jenna Canoy, Maria Caputa, Katherine Dunham, Lucille Furlong, Anna Grace, Sarah Haller, Brent Hammett, Clara Hughes, Shelby Kovack, Nicole Libbert, Stephanie Magruder, Audrey Masek, Megan O'Brien, Sadie Pafford, Isaac Pearlstone, Jennifer Preusser, Marissa Ranchel, Joseph Ringhausen, Amanda Robinson, Rebecca Ross, Zayne Tindall, Anna Welsh, Emma Westin, Hunter Wingert, Makayla Yager **English:** Dani Eschweiler, Morgan Siebert **Exercise Science:** Kelsea Dorsey, Shane Hartwig, John Jeskey, Matthew Karner, Kyle Leckrone, Laura Rethemeyer, Hannah Wehar **History/Social Science:** Christopher Camie, Kayleen Green, Cole Haugen, Ryan Hogard, Jonathan Rembold, Joshua Sander **Mathematics:** Adam Raines **Music:** Joshua Baumgartner, Jazmyrn Burnitt-Erp, Lindsey Davis, Kaitlin Fitzgerald **Spanish:** Matthew Warner **Special Education:** Zachary Hollstrom, Shelby Rhoades, Sadie Schottel, Hannah Vasilis, Alison Whelan



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