

Quincy trips up Truman with fourth quarter rally

Despite holding on to a 19-6 lead going into the fourth quarter against Quincy University, the Bulldog football team could not stifle Quincy's late game rally. The Bulldogs fell to the Hawks Saturday 23-19.

COURTNEY STRAIT
Assistant Sports Editor

The Truman State football team lost its final away game of the season against the Quincy University Hawks 23-19. Rolling into the fourth quarter with a 19-6 Truman lead, the Hawks rallied to score 17 unanswered points to defeat the Bulldogs and leave them with a 4-5 record on the season. The matchup was nationally broadcast on the American Sports Network as part of its NCAA Div. II Showcase series.

On the defensive side of the ball, the 'Dogs gave up only 6 points to the Hawks during the first three quarters of the game. Senior defensive lineman Dominic Greenlee said this initial success was because of great physicality from the big men up front. He said the defensive line did a great job putting pressure on Quincy, the linebackers played with their eyes up all game and the defensive backs played with great effort.

During the fourth quarter, however, it was a very different looking game. The Bulldog defense allowed 17 points during the final quarter — one passing touchdown, one rushing touchdown and a field goal. Similar to junior wide receiver Derek Hammann on the offensive side, Greenlee said the defense lacked execution when the team needed it most.

Greenlee said the Truman defenders have not lost their drive to succeed, though the Bulldogs faced their fifth loss of the season on Saturday.

"The defense learned that no matter what it looks like, no matter the score, no matter the opponent and no matter what Truman's record is, we're still going to play our game," Greenlee said.

Greenlee said the team plans to work on performing to its full potential during the entirety of each game. He said the defense has been giving effort through every play, but can improve on finishing each play.

Offensively, the Quincy defense held the Bulldogs to only 39 yards on the ground and 145 yards in the air. Hammann said the Bulldogs' lack of execution on offense led to their struggles on the ground. He said as players, it's critical they focus on what is under their own control and perform plays to the best of their abilities. He said the offense did not do this during every play on Saturday.

Hammann said even the slightest mistake made by one player can cause trouble in executing plays.

"If 10 out of 11 [players] do their job on any given play, [we] will be unsuccessful — or at least not as successful as it could have been," Hammann said. "It takes all 11 of us doing our jobs to get to where we want to go."

Although Hammann said Truman's running backs were stifled during the Quincy game, he said the team found weaknesses it can work to improve going into its matchup Saturday against Saint Joseph's College. Hammann said the offense will improve by watching film from the Quincy game, and improving one-on-one matchups and individual assignments.

Going into the game this week, Hammann said he is confident the offensive players will take what they learned and apply it to the next game.

"You win and lose as a team," Hammann said. "So in order to win we all have to learn from our mistakes and execute our jobs better this upcoming week."

"No matter the score, no matter the opponent and no matter what Truman's record is, we're still going to play our game."

-Senior Defensive Lineman Dominic Greenlee

Senior offensive lineman Brad Hardin said he agreed with Hammann — Truman's offense did not complete its assignments like the coaching staff wanted. Hardin said the offense needs to get back to the basics and back to their style of play by executing and playing fast.

Hardin said after what seemed like spending all season on the road, the team is very excited to be back in Kirksville. He said the team gets a chance to end the season on a high note with its final two games of the season at home against talented opponents.

The Bulldogs' next game is 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9 at Stokes Stadium. Truman will have a chance to improve its record to .500 on the season against the Saint Joseph's

A Royal season



By Henry Janssen
Staff Reporter

An estimated 300,000-800,000 people attended the Kansas City Royals' World Series victory parade Tuesday. No one needs a more specific head count than that. Though that statistic won't go down in the endless chronicles of baseball referendum, the Royals' accomplishments this season definitely will. During the past few postseasons, particularly during late October 2015, it's been said Kansas City is a "baseball town." Until Sunday night's Game Five and its aftermath in the city's Power and Light District, this was as arguable as the phrase itself.

Now, watching hundreds of thousands of fans in the street united by something as simple as a baseball team, what seemed like a long-lost ideal about the value of sports was once again found through the Kansas City fanbase. All of these people were united by a single passion. On that day, none of them were any different from each other — they were all simply Royals.

That sheer release of energy, of relief, by long-awaited fans of a small-market team was more enthusiastic than many similar parades recently. From the Wild Card game against the Oakland Athletics last year to Sunday's Game Five, Royals fans have been blessed with more than their fair share of exciting postseason wins. Not in a long time, perhaps since the Diamondbacks defeated the Yankees during 2001, has a team seemed more magical and deserving than this one.

A decade ago, many young Royals fans, including myself, thought the idea of a title this soon was laughable — that it would be years before that prospect might again be reasonable. General Manager Dayton Moore and Royals owner David Glass assembled a remarkably talented team before anyone realized they had done so. Outfielder Alex Gordon, first basemen Eric Hosmer and third baseman Mike Moustakas were drafted during consecutive years. Moore traded away a potential playoff run during 2010 by getting rid of Zack Greinke, 2009 Cy Young Award recipient, in exchange for outfielder Lorenzo Cain and shortstop Alcides Escobar. Not enough can be said about the decisions made by the Royals' front office — they definitely worked out. Fans endured this — whether the Royals averaged the sixth-least regular season attendance last year or not, there have been few worries about the team's potential relocation. Because of what now looks like one of the smartest decades of baseball oversight, a 30-year World Series drought is no more.

There is something to be said about title droughts, something that was uncovered during the parade Tuesday afternoon. Some teams and their fans are content with winning a single title after what seems like an eternity without one. They can die happy, remembering that one historic year when everything came together perfectly at the most crucial time. The Royals and their most dedicated fans have quite a bit in common — they are predominantly too young to remember the team's last title, overly ambitious about their chances, and when they think about the game itself, a childlike twinkle comes into their eye. These fans expect deep playoff runs for years to come and, seemingly, so do the players.

While Kansas City might not have been a "baseball town" a decade ago, last year or even two weeks ago, it is likely a term that will linger as long as the current lineup is around.

ing you on from the stands. Athletes commit so much time to running the same drills on repeat until the coach is pleased, and running through the inbound plays, fast breaks or routine offensive schemes. Working out in a gym for hours on end can get old — but in the end, it's worth it.

It's a great time to be a Bulldog and to support the teams who are labeled gym rats or workaholics because of the amount of time they spend between Pershing's purple bleachers. Truman is firing on all cylinders for this winter season, and I urge you to stay connected with our teams in the gym and on the mats. It may be easier to curl up in your bed and watch Netflix, but remember there is plenty of excitement happening within the warm walls of Pershing Arena. The gym might seem like a boring place during school hours, but with a full set of bleachers and passionate fans, it's the place to be at any given time.

Reporter encourages winter sport support



By Sam Stewart
Staff Reporter

Beware, Truman State students — the winter sports are coming.

As the indoor teams push through the end of fall and enter November, it's time to start leaving the cold weather outside and enter the world of winter sports. One of these sports is basketball, which endures quite possibly the longest season of any sport on campus. With the preseason starting during the first week of September and the regular season ending during March, the Bulldog ball players are very busy for approximately seven months of the year.

As a track and field athlete, I can attest to the incredibly long season that awaits us athletes and fans. Personally, I will be trapped inside a gym throwing

heavy objects onto a gym floor instead of throwing them in the open air. Playing basketball during high school, I loved being stuck inside a gym — it used to be a dream come true. As the leaves fell, I yearned for the sound of a ball bouncing on the hardwood and the squeaking of new basketball shoes on the floor. Though I am now a spectator inside Pershing Arena instead of a player, I still enjoy watching our Bulldogs hash it out against GLVC foes. As the season changes, I urge fans not to lose the spark we had for supporting Truman's outdoor sports.

With winter approaching, the college basketball season less than two weeks away, the NBA tipping off and the Bulldogs in full action, it's an exciting time for basketball fans because of the many games and practices that will take place.

Sure, winter is the time for holidays and breaks from class, but as break approaches, we should shift our eyes from the Thanksgiving leftovers to the basketball court.

So don't lose focus on athletics even though it requires a chilly walk to Pershing Arena for the next few months. Watching winter sports is one of the easiest things to do when you're looking for entertainment on campus — and it doesn't require a long drive through the Kirksville snow. The men's basketball team was picked second in the GLVC West preseason rankings and the women's team was ranked third. I think both teams are geared up for another successful season with some exciting players. Now is the time for us to show up in force and support our teams, which have spent countless hours inside the gym.

For these tireless athletes, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing family, friends and fans cheer-

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