THE MIAA TOURNAMENT GAME: Truman State University Bulldogs (NCAA Division II/Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association) at Missouri Western State College Griffons (NCAA Division II/MIAA)

Date: Monday, Feb. 25, 2002
Time: 7 p.m. (CST)
Location: St. Joseph, Mo.

BROADCAST: KRES 104.7 FM in Moberly, Mo., Sports Director Brad Boyer will do play-by-play, with commentary from Kevin White, Truman Assistant Director of Athletics, for the home games and Hank Janssen doing commentary on the road. The pregame show begins approximately 15 minutes before the game.

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TRUMAN (14-12, 7-11 IN THE MIAA): After missing the conference tournament last year for the first time in three years, the Bulldogs will make a return to the MIAA postseason, thanks to a 62-61 come-from-behind win on Saturday over Missouri Southern. Truman, the No. 8 seed for the tournament, has now won three in a row after suffering through a seven-game losing streak.

To advance in the conference tourney, the ’Dogs will have to pull off an upset of current No. 1-ranked Missouri Western. Just 12 days ago, Truman came close, falling 77-75 at St. Joseph in a game that saw the ’Dogs lead by three with 2:37 to play.

The ’Dogs are making their sixth trip to the MIAA postseason tournament in school history.

TRUMAN PROBABLE STARTERS
22-Wendi Sobaski, Sr., G, 5-7 (11.4 ppg, 2.6 rpg)
34-Annie Westhoff, So., F, 6-0 (8.8 pg, 4.2 rpg)
35-Jennifer Perkins, Sr., C, 6-1 (17.8 ppg, 8.6 rpg)
13-Robyn Gerber, Sr., G, (3.4 ppg, 1.4 rpg)
10-Jessy Fletcher, Sr., F, 5-11 (5.9 ppg, 5.5 rpg)

MISSOURI WESTERN PROBABLE STARTERS
4-JoAnna Stuelke, Sr., C, 6-2 (10.0 ppg, 5.4 rpg)
12-Krista Small, Sr., G, 6-0 (11.5 ppg, 5.0 rpg)
21-Carlii Holland, Jr., G, 5-3 (10.9 ppg, 2.1 rpg)
23-Lakesha Jones, Sr., G, 5-10 (10.7 ppg, 5.0 rpg)
30-Rebecca Patton, Sr., F, 5-10 (6.7 ppg, 4.1 rpg)

TRUMAN VS. MISSOURI SOUTHERN: The Bulldogs secured a berth in the MIAA postseason tournament by virtue of a 62-61 comeback win on Saturday over Missouri Southern. Sobaski hit two free throws with 11 seconds to play, and MSSC missed its last-second shot.

Two of the Bulldogs started in their first game as a collegiate player, as they were on the floor for the first 2:30 of the contest. The Lady Lions were held scoreless over the first 2:30, but MSSC used a 14-0 run, helped by seven Bulldog turnovers and six MSSC steals. The Lady Lions would extend the margin to as wide as 13 points in the first half, but a 14-5 Truman run made it 27-23 with 2:05 to play before the break. After six consecutive made free throws by junior Jennifer
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Fisher (Fordland, Mo./Marshfield) and Sobaski, the 'Dogs were back within one and trailed 38-33 at halftime.

The Lady Lions maintained the lead throughout the early part of the second half, but the 'Dogs took a 10-point lead with 6:18 left to play on a three-pointer from Emily Turnbull. Neither team led by more than three points the rest of the way.

Truman trailed 61-58 when Perkins rebounded a MSSC miss and led the MIAA with 2.69 three-point field goals per school to defeat the Griffons.

CMSU, by virtue of a 72-69 win on Jan. 5, is the only other home victory over Southwest Baptist in the regular season finale. Missouri-Rolla, MWSC escaped with a 65-62 victory, before earning a 60-40 win last week at Missouri Southern and a 55-52 home victory over Southwest Baptist in the regular season finale. CMSU, by virtue of a 72-69 win on Jan. 5, is the only other school to defeat the Griffons.

BULLDOGS AMONG MIAA STATISTICAL LEADERS: Perkins leads the MIAA in defensive rebounds (5.92 pg) and is second in rebounding (8.6 rpg). She is second in scoring (17.8 ppg), field goal percentage (.512) and blocked shots (1.54 bpg). She is also second in rebounding (8.6 rpg). She is second in scoring (17.8 ppg), field goal percentage (.512) and blocked shots (1.54 bpg). She is also second in rebounding (8.6 rpg). She is second in scoring (17.8 ppg), field goal percentage (.512) and blocked shots (1.54 bpg).

Sobaski leads the MIAA with 2.69 three-point field goals per game, and is third in three-point field goal percentage (.405), while ranking tied for 14th among conference scoring leaders (11.4 ppg).

Fisher is sixth among MIAA rebounding leaders (6.6 rpg) and is fifth in defensive rebounds (4.85 pg).

Fletcher is 10th in free throw percentage (.765).

SERIES RECORDS: Missouri Western leads the series with Truman 34-12, and has won the last four meetings. Truman's last win came on Feb. 9, 2000, 58-54 in St. Joseph.

COACHES' RECORDS: Truman's John Sloop is in his second season with the Bulldogs and as a head coach. He is no stranger to Truman though, having served as the assistant coach for the men's team the previous five seasons. Last year, he guided the team to a 9-18 record and is now 23-30 (.434) for his career.

Dave Slifer is in his seventh season as head coach of the Lady Griffons and has guided them to a 158-51 record during that time. He is 337-81 in his 13th year as a collegiate head coach.

ABOUT MISSOURI WESTERN (24-2, 16-2 MIAA): The Griffons captured the MIAA championship by posting a 16-2 record in the MIAA this season, but MWSC has been challenged of late. While they're 13-0 at home this year, including 9-0 in league play, the Griffons have seen their last two home decisions come down to the wire. In fact, five of MWSC's last seven overall have been decided by three or less. They lost 64-63 at Northwest Missouri on Feb. 4, before picking up an 82-73 home win over Emporia on Feb. 6. The Griffons needed overtime to win 80-77 at Pittsburg State and returned home to beat Truman 77-75 on Feb. 13. At Missouri-Rolla, MWSC escaped with a 65-62 victory, before earning a 60-40 win last week at Missouri Southern and a 55-52 home victory over Southwest Baptist in the regular season finale. CMSU, by virtue of a 72-69 win on Jan. 5, is the only other school to defeat the Griffons.

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Five MWSC players average double figures in scoring, led by junior center Nicole Lindsey, who averages 19.1 points and 8.1 rebounds. However, Lindsey has been bothered by a foot injury and doesn’t figure to play. She had missed three weeks, before returning to play 10 minutes vs. Missouri Southern. After scoring seven points and grabbing four rebounds, Lindsey left with a re-aggravation of the injury.

With Lindsey out, senior guard Krista Small leads the Griffons with 11.5 points per game, followed by Carliss Holland at 10.9 points. Small is third in the MIAA with 2.23 steals per game, and is second with a three-point field goal percentage of 41.0 percent. Small also ranks tied for third in the league with 2.27 threes made per game. Holland is second in the MIAA with 6.08 assists per game and is eighth with a 79.4 free throw percentage.

Senior JoAnna Stuelke is filling in for the injured Lindsey, averaging 10.0 points and 5.4 rebounds.

Guard Michelle Parlett leads the conference with a 45.6 percentage from three-point range.

TRUMAN VS. MISSOURI WESTERN (JAN. 16, 2002): The Bulldogs battled through five tied scores and eight lead changes in the first half, and left the scored tied at 33 apiece at halftime in their 72-57 loss to top-ranked Missouri Western earlier this season on Jan. 16. The first 10 minutes of the second half went much the same way with the Bulldogs tying the score four times, the last coming with 11:05 remaining in the game. The Lady Griffons proceeded to go on a 16-2 run from there, and expanded their lead to 15 points by the three-minute mark. MWSC made 6-of-7 free throws down the stretch to take home the win. The ‘Dogs held the MIAA’s leading scorer at the time, Nicole Lindsey, to 16 points, five off of her 21.0 per game average. Perkins had her eighth double-double of the year with a team-high 16 points and 10 rebounds.

TRUMAN VS. MISSOURI WESTERN (FEB. 13, 2002): Through four lead changes and five tied scores, the Bulldogs and Lady Griffons battled in the first half of Wednesday night’s game. The ‘Dogs took a two-point lead at the seven-minute mark of the first half on a jumper by sophomore forward Annie Westhoff (Webster Groves, Mo.) after sophomore guard Keagan Thalin (Glenview, Ill./Glenbrook North) had tied the score with a two-point shot of her own seconds earlier. Junior forward Jennifer Fisher (Fordland, Mo./Marshfield) hit a three-pointer and a jumper in the last minute-and-a-half of the first period to tie the score for the fifth time of the half, but the Lady Griffons made a layup with 29 seconds remaining to send the ‘Dogs to the locker room with just two-point deficit, 32-30.

After the break, MWSC scored first to take a four-point lead, but senior center Jennifer Perkins put up the next five points to give the Bulldogs a 36-34 margin at 18:28. The Lady Griffons quickly tied the score but then saw the ‘Dogs take a five-point lead on a layup by Westhoff and a three-pointer by Wendi Sobaski.

Missouri Western regained a slim lead with 13:48 to go, but Perkins again kept the Bulldogs going, tying the score on a jumper at 12:07 and again at 10:13 with her first career three-point bucket. Thalin put the ‘Dogs ahead again after making two free shots following Perkins’ long range shot, but it was a brief lead as MWSC hit a trey to regain the lead for the next few minutes. Sobaski tied the score with a three-pointer at 7:04 and the Bulldogs again took the lead with 5:17 left to play on a bucket by Perkins. Truman had a three-point lead with 2:37 left to play but was held scoreless for the remainder of the game as the Lady Griffons added a layup and 3-of-4 free-throw shooting to seal the victory.

BITS ON BULLDOGS ...

3-KELLI FLOYD, FR., G (KIRKSVILLE, MO.): Floyd charted a new career-high and her first double-digit scoring game with 10 points vs. Pittsburg State on Feb. 16, along with new career highs with 4-of-8 shooting from the field and two

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three pointers ... had four rebounds vs. Kentucky State and Missouri-Rolla on Jan. 23 ... made her first three-pointer vs. Greenville ... had five assists vs. Park ... had a career-high three steals vs. Missouri-Rolla on Jan. 23 ... had career-highs with a 4-for-4 performance from the line in 73-64 win over Northwest Missouri on Jan. 9 and 74-55 win over Missouri-Rolla on Feb. 20 ... made both shots and all three free throws vs. Central Missouri on Jan. 7.

Career G FG-A 3Pt-A FT-A RB AK S Pts
Thalin 26 22-69 10-35 31-47 39 45 0 10 85

4-KEAGAN THALIN, SO., G (GLENVIEW, ILL./GLENBROOK SOUTH): Thalin missed the first two games of the season with a broken hand ... earned her first career-start in 73-64 win over Northwest Missouri and started six total games to date ... had five rebounds in three games ... had a new career-high with two three-pointers in the league opener vs. SBU ... had career highs with 5-of-11 field goals vs. Missouri-Rolla on Jan. 23 ... also made two threes in first PSU three-pointers in the league opener vs. SBU ... had career highs with 5-of-11 date ... had five rebounds in three games ... had a new career-high with two missed the first two games of the season with a broken hand ... earned her first three thefts vs. No. 2 MWSC.

Metropolitan State and Kentucky State ... had two blocks vs. Graceland ... had Southern ... tied her career-highs with 8-of-10 free throw shooting vs. highs of 11 rebounds vs. Lincoln & in the regular season finale vs. Missouri Southern ... tied her career high with 17 points vs. Southwest Baptist on Jan. 30, and had a new personal season-high with 8-of-10 free throw shooting vs. Metropolitan State and Kentucky State ... had two blocks vs. Graceland ... had three thefts vs. No. 2 MWSC.

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TRUMAN VS. MISSOURI SOUTHERN
Feb. 23, 2002, 1:30 pm in Kirksville, Mo.

Mo. Southern
TOT 3-PT
FGA FG-A FT-A Ref PB TP A TO BK S MIN
Messick, Lacey * 2-5 0-0 4-8 2 5 8 0 0 0 0 18
Harrell, Wyketha * 3-7 0-0 5-3 6 1 4 0 4 22
Hurt, Jean * 5-11 0-1 2-2 1 4 13 3 3 0 1 31
Rzeszut, Jacque * 6-13 0-0 5-2 1 5 2 2 2 3 0 4 35
Callahan, Jayme * 3-9 1-4 3-2 7 8 0 0 2 40
Deen, Katie 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Gariss, Katie 1-5 0-0 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 23
Christiansen, Paige 1-5 0-0 2 2 4 2 0 1 18
Jones, Krystle 3-6 0-0 1 2 6 0 1 0 12
TEAM 8 22 22 8 8 22 17 17 0 1200
TOTALS 24-61 5-14 14-14 35 22 64 14 17 0 1200

TOT-FG Game: 39.3% 3pt-FG Game: 35.7% FThrow Game: 57.1%

Fletcher, Jessy * 2-4 0-0 7-8 11 3 11 3 2 0 0 36
Westhoff, Annie * 4-10 0-3 2-2 0 1 10 1 2 0 0 21
Perkins, Jennifer * 5-8 0-1 0-1 4 10 1 4 0 0 0 26
Gerber, Robyn * 2-9 0-3 0-0 1 4 3 2 0 0 0 15
Sobaski, Wendi * 3-4 0-0 1-1 1 1 15 0 1 0 0 33
Floyd, Kelli 0-3 0-0 1-2 3 1 1 2 2 0 0 22
Thalin, Keagan 0-1 0-0 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 8
Turnbull, Emily 1-3 1-1 0-1 0 0 3 1 2 0 0 10
Fisher, Jennifer 3-7 0-2 2-2 6 3 8 4 4 1 1 29
TEAM 8 22 22 8 8 22 17 17 0 1200
TOTALS 20-49 4-14 18-23 38 13 62 16 20 1 1200

TOT-FG Game: 40.8% 3pt-FG Game: 28.6% FThrow Game: 78.3%

Dropped Out: North Dakota State (23)

Others Receiving Votes: West Liberty State 47; Cameron 40; Glenville State 34; North Dakota State 34; Shippensburg 34; California (PA) 20; Washburn 20; West Alabama 15; Central Washington 14; Central Missouri 11; Fort Valley State 10; Michigan Tech 9; USC-Aiken 9; Assumption 8; Northwest Missouri 7; Union 7; Hillsdale 3; Catawba 2; Florida Tech 2; Holy Family 1; North Carolina Central 1.
13-ROBYN GERBER, SR., G (AFFTON, MO./LUTHERAN SOUTH):
Started all 21 games she has played in, but has missed five games
with a back problem ... had a personal season-high of seven points
vs. Quincy ... had a team season-high with six assists in Washburn
win ... also made the game-winning shot at the buzzer in 55-53 win
over WU ... made 3-of-6 free throws vs. Metro State.

Career G FG-A 3Pt-A FT-A RB A BK S Pts
Gerber 92 174-435 26-89 104-149 204 199 1 94 478

22-WENDI SOBASKI, SR., G (PACKWOOD, IOWA/PEKIN):
Has started every game after missing last season while recovering from
knee surgery ... leads the team with 70 three-pointers ... became
school career record-holder for three-pointers (now with 267) during her junior season ... has scored in double figures in 17 games this year and led the team with 19 points vs. Kentucky State and 15 points each vs. Missouri-Rolla on Jan. 23 and Missouri Southern on Feb. 23 ... was 5-of-9 from long range vs. Greenville ... made at least two treys in 22 of 26 games this year ... made all six technical free throws vs. Kentucky State ... ranks sixth among Truman career scoring leaders with 1,347 points ... is now third in games played at Truman with 110 and is fourth in consecutive games played with 85 ... played in her 100th career game vs. Missouri-Rolla on Jan. 23.

Career G FG-A 3Pt-A FT-A RB A BK S Pts
Sobaski 110 419-1,039 267-687 242-312 370 161 2 106 1,347

23-EMILY TURNBULL, SO., G (TOULON, ILL./STARK COUNTY):
Started five games ... made a career-high 2-of-2 three-pointers vs.
Graceland ... second on the team with 58 assists ... had six rebounds
vs. Southwest Baptist on Jan. 30 ... was 4-of-4 from the line against
Quincy ... was 2-for-2 from the field with one three-pointer vs.
Northwest Missouri on Feb. 5.

Career G FG-A 3Pt-A FT-A RB A BK S Pts
Turnbull 52 37-135 16-65 50-75 95 112 2 27 140

24-ANNIE WESTHOFF, SO., F (WEBSTER GROVES, MO.):
Earned her first start of the season in 55-53 win over Washburn and started
the last nine games as well ... led the team with a career-high 19
points vs. Northwest Missouri on Feb. 6 ... also led the team with 16
points in the second Central Missouri matchup, including going 7-of-
9 from the line ... ranks third on the team in scoring (8.8 ppg) ... had career-highs with 8-of-11 free throws against Kentucky State ... had nine rebounds vs. KSU ... has eight double-figure scoring efforts
this year ... has two games with four assists ... had a team season-
high of four steals vs. Quincy.

Career G FG-A 3Pt-A FT-A RB A BK S Pts
Westhoff 52 186-464 14-73 91-141 244 78 7 59 478

35-JENNIFER PERKINS, SR., C (FT. DODGE, IOWA/ST. EDMOND):
Perkins was named the MIAA’s fourth woman athlete of the week
after averaging 19.0 points and 4.0 rebounds and assists in victories
over Lincoln and Park ... also named MIAA player of the week after averaging 23.7 points over a three-game span that included
27- and 25-point efforts in wins over Northwest Missouri and
Emporia, respectively ... scored 34 points vs. Metropolitan State, one
off of her career high, and had 30 points vs. Park ... has scored in
double figures in 10 of 26 games this year ... has 11 double-doubles
for the season, most recently with 10 points and 10 rebounds vs.
Missouri Southern on Feb. 23 ... third on the team with 48 assists
and added a career-high five assists vs. Park ... led the team in scoring
in 18 games and has led or tied for the lead in rebounding 17
times this year ... is now fifth among Truman career points leaders
with 1,453 ... fourth all-time in rebounding at Truman with 761
points ... is fourth among Truman career field goals made (609) and second in consecutive games played (77now, seven double-figure scoring efforts for her
career, along with 25 double-doubles, 20 games with more than 20
points and three games with more than 30 points.

Career G FG-A 3Pt-A FT-A RB A BK S Pts
Perkins 109 609-1190 2-25 233-319 761 115 106 77 1,453

40-JENNIFER FISHER, JR., F (FORDLAND, MO./MARSHFIELD):
Now ranked 21st on the Truman career scoring list with 634 points
... started 11 consecutive games to start the season and a total of
12 for the year ... had her best game of the year with 18 points in
77-75 loss to No. 2 Missouri Western on Feb. 13 ... had double-doubles
vs. Metropolitan State (Colo.) (10 pts., 12 rebs.); Kansas State (12
pts., 10 rebs.); in the MIAA opener vs. SBU (14 pts., 10 rebs.)
and vs. Missouri-Rolla on Feb. 20 (16 pts., 14 rebs.) ... led the team
with seven rebounds vs. Washburn on Feb. 2 ... was 4-of-6 from long
range and had five assists in first Pittsburg State meeting, and was
4-of-7 from beyond the arc in the second PSU matchup ... had two
blocks and 12 defensive rebounds vs. Metro State ... moved into sec-
ond all time at Truman with 59 blocked shots after swatting two
balls vs. ESU on Feb. 9 and one vs. Missouri Southern on Feb. 23 ...
and is seventh among Bulldog career three-point leaders (75).

Career G FG-A 3Pt-A FT-A RB A BK S Pts
Fisher 61 216-560 75-215 127-152 531 164 59 88 634