



Football: 2 p.m. Saturday vs. Emporia State
Soccer: 11 a.m. Saturday vs. Mercyhurst



Soccer: 3 p.m. Saturday vs. Northwest Missouri
3 p.m. Sunday vs. Central Missouri

SPORTS



Earning Silver

Women's cross country finishes second at recent meet

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Ware's death impacts two communities

Truman and Missouri Southern remember John Ware on Saturday in Joplin

Josh Sisson
Staff Reporter

The crowd roared, players celebrated, and the spirit of John Ware smiled down on Hughes Stadium in Joplin as the big offensive lineman rumbled into the end zone.

Allen Barbre, a 6-foot-4 inch 296-pound tackle from Missouri Southern State University, lined up in the shotgun and took off for the goal line in memory of his head coach.

Ware starred as an offensive lineman during his playing days and later coached the position at Truman.

Hank Janssen, who has covered Truman athletics in print and radio for the better part of 30 years, said Ware definitely would have gotten a kick out of it.

"What an honor for him, being the first touchdown of the game," Janssen said. "It was incredibly cool, knowing the intent to honor the big dude. That's the O-lineman's dream, and I'm glad it happened, even though it was at Truman's expense."

A ceremony commemorating Ware's life took place prior to the matchup between Truman and MSSU.

Truman head football coach Shannon Currier said the event united the two opponents.

"I thought it was real classy, and it showed great sportsmanship," Currier said. "Two teams that are going to battle on the field coming together before the game to honor a coach who was well respected and a true professional."

Keeth Matheny, offensive coordinator and acting head coach of MSSU, knew the ceremony would be an emotional ordeal.

"I prayed many times for strength before that event, and I'm fortunate to feel that some of them were answered," Matheny said. "Remaining composed was definitely a challenge. I was pleased with the way we honored Coach, with all the shared emotion between teams. I've never heard of such an event at any level. It was definitely a unique experience."

Janssen, who patrolled the sidelines for KRES 104.7's broadcast of the game, also was on the field during pregame.

"It was powerful, just genuine love and caring for a guy they felt love for," Janssen said. "The overriding thing is that he cared for all those kids, too."

See WARE, Page 19

Photos by Chris Tharp, Designed by Lindsay Koski/Index Both teams paid their respects to former head coach John Ware. The Bulldogs wore golden pants that Coach Ware loved, and had both teams had a JW decal on their helmets. The 1% corresponds to Ware's life motto.

Bulldogs roughed up on Saturday afternoon

Josh Sisson
Staff Reporter

Two football teams pulled out all the stops Saturday in an effort to honor their fallen coach.

The pregame ceremony in remembrance of the late John Ware, Truman's former head coach, set an emotional tone that carried over to the matchup between Truman and Missouri Southern State University.

Still, the 'Dogs were hit by some trick plays and fell 41-17 and 1-5 on the season.

On Missouri Southern's first position, facing a fourth-and-seven at the Truman 24-

yard line, the Lions surprised the 'Dogs with a fake field goal. MSSU place kicker Shane McBride scampered all the way down to the three, setting up first-and-goal to go. The Lions eventually had to settle for a real field goal anyway and took a 3-0 lead. Head coach Shannon Currier said his team knows what to do in the event of a fake.

"I wouldn't say it caught us off guard," Currier said. "We have been faked out, and we've actually worked against that and changed up some of the responsibilities after the South Dakota game ... I think we're solid in our coverage there. We just didn't get off blocks and make the tackle."

A belated holding call also hurt the 'Dogs on the play. A Missouri Southern blocker held a Truman defender at the 20, but the official didn't throw the flag until the Lions gained enough yardage for the first down.

Things didn't get better on Truman's next possession. Senior running back Jerard Levenson fumbled the ball, giving MSSU first-and-goal once again. An MSSU offensive lineman reported as an eligible receiver and rolled into the end zone on the very next play, giving the 'Dogs 10 points in 17 seconds.

The 'Dogs used some trickery of their own to get back in the contest. On fourth-and-eight Truman ran a fake punt. Senior

kicker Mark Kamphoefner found junior wide receiver Ryan Bonner for a 29-yard pass play to keep the drive alive. Levenson eventually hit pay dirt from three yards out, cutting the deficit to three.

The Lions returned fire on their next drive with a 13-yard touchdown pass from Adam Hinspeter to Colin Bado, regaining the 10-point advantage at 17-7 with 3:28 left in the first.

The 'Dogs held serve, however, marching 65 yards for a touchdown of their own. Freshman quarterback Michael Long connected with junior wide receiver James Perry on an eight-yard

strike, pulling to within three again.

Long gave Perry most of the credit for his first collegiate touchdown pass.

"J.P. did most of the work on that one," Long said. "It still felt pretty good, though, after the rough start."

Freshman defensive lineman Richard Schroeder sacked Hinspeter to force the Lions three-and-out on their next possession, and the 'Dogs took over at midfield. Truman tried some more razzle-dazzle, faking yet another punt, but the Lions sniffed it out. Sophomore running back Mike Patnode took the snap and pitched to Kamphoefner, who

See FOOTBALL, Page 19

Bell Game brings crowds

Since 1937, two high school teams have battled for the bell

Conor Nicholl and Kyle Hill
Index Staff

Brent Paalhar couldn't stop smiling.

Surrounded by his teammates and standing outside of his locker room at 10:30 p.m. last Friday night, Paalhar had just finished playing all 48 minutes of one of the hardest football games of his life.

Paalhar, the senior quarterback and defensive back for Brookfield High School, had just led his Bulldogs to a 14-13 win against the Marceline Tigers in the last Bell Game of his high school career.

"I am really pumped up," he said. "There's no other feeling in the world than winning the Bell Game. We have taken so much crap the last four years from Marceline, and we wanted to respect tonight. It was all about Blue Pride and gaining respect tonight."

The annual Bell Game, the fifth-longest-running high school football rivalry in the country, was played last weekend in front of an estimated 6,000 fans at Brookfield's Burlington Field.

It began in 1922 as a home-and-home series on Armistice Day and Thanksgiving Day, according to the book Linn County Football: A History.

In 1937, the contest became the Bell Game when the Brookfield Fire Department donated a brass fire engine bell to the winner. The next season, Brookfield blanked Marceline 26-0 in the first Bell Game.



Ross Houston/Index Brookfield High School player Dustin White rings the Bell, while Jesse Mitchell looks on. Brookfield won the game 14-13.

After Friday's victory, the entire series is equal, as both teams have identical 34-34-1 records. Brookfield has captured the last six Bell Games.

Two years ago, the Bell Game nearly came to an end as the Missouri State High School Activities Association realigned the districts. Previously, Marceline had been in Class 2, but with less than 300 students, they fell to Class 1 and out of Brookfield's class.

The future of the Bell Game

lay in doubt. Seemingly, the very fabric of the town had been ripped apart.

"It was devastating," Brookfield wide receiver/defensive back Sean O'Toole said. "Everyone was upset. There were a lot of unhappy people."

Both towns started an effort to try and restart the game. Citizens had community meetings, and wrote letters to Congressman, and MSHSAA, and the governor of Missouri.

Finally, Brookfield had to for-

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feit its conference game against North Shelby High School to play Marceline. The game program from last season screamed: "Bell Game 2004: THE GAME THAT WON'T DIE!"

"It was truly a grassroots effort," said Bob Brinkley, Brookfield high school principal. "We tried to follow the channels to play this game. The competition is a very healthy, sportsmanlike rivalry. The Bell Game is part of our culture."

After this year, the districts and conferences will be realigned and both towns will have to start the process again.

The entire cheerleading team looked shocked when asked where the school and town would be without the Bell Game.

"Oh my God!," they all shouted at once.

"I would not like football anymore," junior cheerleader Alex Moore said. "There would be no more Friday Night Fever. This game is the highlight of the season. I'm getting goosebumps just talking about it."

Brookfield head coach Shane Cavanaugh echoed similar sentiments.

"If you find someone who played high school football 25 years ago, the Bell Game is all they would talk about," he said. "I played in my first Bell Game in 1959 and I'm still talking about it. It's a rallying point for the towns."

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Volleyball's Statistical Leaders Last week		
Kills/Game	Sarah Shearman	5.43
Attack Pct.	Sarah Shearman	.557
Digs/Game	Eli Medina	4.57
Assists/Game	Christine Wagener	8.67
Service Aces	Dana Hanselmann	5

Lindsay Koski/Index

'Dogs increase MIAA win streak

John Scognamiglio
Staff Reporter

The score now stands: Truman women's volleyball 37, MIAA 0.

The Bulldogs extended their conference winning streak to 37 matches with three victories this past weekend, postseason included.

The long weekend began with a contest against Southwest Baptist. The 'Dogs easily sailed to victory in all three games by scores of 30-12, 30-19 and 30-13. The team held the Bearcats to a hitting percentage of .036, dominating the offense for the match.

Junior outside hitter Sarah Shearman led the team with 13 kills in the match. Junior opposite hitter Kelsey Wackerman added a double-double with 11 kills and 14 assists. Freshman middle hitter Dana Hanselmann came off the bench to add five kills on the night too.

Head coach Jason Skoch said the bench played a good role in the match.

"We had some goals, and we

achieved them," he said. "I wanted multiple people to contribute. Dana did great in the middle because I put her in earlier than I wanted."

Hanselmann said she was in there to do the job Skoch had wanted her to do.

"[The bench was] probably going to get more playing time, and I figured I should go in and give it my all," she said.

Southwest Baptist University head coach Leslie Howe said she knew the Bulldogs were going to rely heavily on Shearman and Wackerman during the contest.

"Obviously, they are two of the best hitters in the conference," she said. "Nobody can stop them."

Friday evening, the Bulldogs entertained Missouri Southern at Pershing Arena. The squad dominated the action in game one, breezing its way to a 30-15 victory. A seesaw battle took place in game two as the 'Dogs captured the win with a monstrous kill from junior outside hitter Alex Baker, winning the contest 30-27.

The team had its back against See VOLLEYBALL, Page 19