

Both Frisbee teams advance

TSUnami finishes first in sectionals, JujiTSU also moves on to regionals

Tyler Madsen
Staff Reporter

Traveling nearly 450 miles to Fayetteville, Ark. to play two days' worth of ultimate Frisbee might not be the typical college student's idea of a fun weekend.

But when it's playoff time for both JujiTSU and TSUnami, the trip, for what could be the final games of the season, didn't seem quite so far.

"It was a little long, but when the entire season comes down to just those games, we certainly didn't mind making the trip," sophomore Laura Halfmann said.

TSUnami, the women's team, ran by, over and around its competition during the two-day span. It had six straight wins en route to a sectional championship. JujiTSU, the men's team, won big games when it most needed to on the way to a sixth-place finish — good enough to reach the next round.

After beating Hendrix College (Ark.) 11-2 in the first game Saturday, TSUnami grabbed an 11-5 victory against St. Louis University before defeating

the University of Arkansas, the top team in the sectional, 11-8. Those wins helped the team complete pool play with a 3-0 mark, assuring it of the top spot in the medal round.

"We've had a tendency to come out sluggish on Saturday," head coach Eric Snyder said. "However, this weekend was completely different. We came out strong and played like we know how to play."

The team got a bye into the semifinals, where it matched up against rival Washington University (Mo.) Tough defense led to a 7-2 victory and a rematch against St. Louis University for the championship.

"[SLU] looked like a different team," Snyder said. "They were really fired up, and we traded points until we got a couple breaks and rolled from there."

Those breaks led to a 13-9 win, marking six straight wins and a sectional championship.

"Our whole team really came together and played at a much higher level," Halfmann said. "It was definitely the best time to have our top performance."

On the men's side, JujiTSU led off its Saturday with a shutout win against University of Tulsa (Okla.) before falling to top seed

University of Kansas 13-5.

However, the team snared an important 13-5 victory against Oklahoma State University before finishing off Missouri State University-B 13-1 to finish second in its pool. This win guaranteed a good spot for Sunday's medal round.

"We came out fired up, because we knew that we had to get it done," senior Marc Harman said. "Only seven bids move on [to regionals], so we really focused on a patient offense and really tight defense."

A 13-7 loss to Missouri State-A put the team in a hole with only two possible outcomes: win back-to-back games and advance or make the long trip home to put away the jerseys until the fall.

The first affair pitted the team against the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a 13-7 victory moved JujiTSU into another matchup against Oklahoma State for the right to advance.

"We had to beat OSU to qualify, so going into that game, we knew it was the biggest game of the whole season for us," Harman said.

The biggest game brought out the best performance from JujiTSU as an early lead carried the team to a 13-6 win.

A final 9-8 victory against Hard-



Sophomore Amanda Carron prepares to throw while competing in the ultimate Frisbee playoffs in Fayetteville, Ark. The team won and left the tournament with the sectional championship.

Sara James/Index

ing University (Ark.) late in the day solidified the six-spot for the team.

"We're not sure what our seed will be, but the next step is always a lot of fun because we get to see teams we've never seen before," Harman said.

Both JujiTSU and TSUnami will take two weekends off before traveling to Tulsa, Okla. on April 29 and 30 for the South Regionals. Should the teams perform well enough there, they will earn a trip to the 2006 Ultimate Players As-

sociation College Championships on May 26 in Columbus, Ohio.

"We're extremely excited for the way the weekend went," Snyder said. "But now it's time to move on and get ready for an even tougher weekend coming up."

Bulls rugby takes third in regionals, Bullets go winless

Josh Sisson
Staff Reporter

Louisiana State University had the size and athleticism.

Truman had everything else.

The end result was a 38-5 win for the Bulls rugby club against LSU in the first round of the West Collegiate championships this weekend.

Bulls rugby coach Bill Sexton said his team simply outplayed LSU.

"[LSU] didn't look as organized on the attack or on defense, so we were able to exploit some gaps," Sexton said. "They're a good side, but they struggled with execution and had trouble defending against us."

Senior flyhalf Sean Foley said the Truman team is used to compensating for lack of size with quickness, chemistry and grit.

"There's definitely a difference between just having 15 athletes as opposed to one team," Foley said. "That's kind of what we count on because we're not the best athletes. We sure as hell aren't the biggest, fastest people around."

The win against LSU set up a match with the top-seeded University of Wyoming.

Truman lost 32-8, but the match was closer than the score indicated. The Bulls only trailed 10-3 at the half. It remained 10-3 well into the second half before Wyoming began to pull away.

Once again, Truman ran into a size mismatch.

"Wyoming is just very big, but they're not necessarily the best rugby team," Sexton said. "They play a very physical style that's a bit frustrating."

Despite the loss, Sexton said he still was proud of how the team played — especially on the defensive side of things.

The loss ended the Bulls' chances of making the round of 16 because only two teams make the West Collegiate final.

Although it seemed as if Truman didn't have much to play for in its third-place

match with Colorado State University, the Bulls' intensity helped them hold off CSU by a 26-17 score.

Foley said it was a remarkable win, considering the circumstances.

"It's kind of deflating when you've worked so hard all season for it to come down to one game," Foley said. "Then you have to play again. It can be a drag in some of these tournaments when you don't see the potential gains, especially for the seniors. It's hard to play when you know the goal you've set for yourself is unachievable, so it's amazing we played so well."

Sexton said he was proud of the team's ability to play at a high level in spite of the disappointment.

"The letdown could've happened on Sunday against CSU, but it didn't," Sexton said. "We played hard, and nobody let

down. Clearly, everyone wanted to play for the sake of pride. That third place means something."

The Bullets rugby club also played for pride at the West Collegiate championships.

As the eighth seed, the Bullets faced the top-ranked Air Force Academy, Colo. in the first round. Truman played one of the nations best teams and lost by a 29-5 score.

Bullets player/coach junior Natalie Gerhart said her team earned some respect by the way it played.

"Air Force wasn't expecting us to hang with them at all," Gerhart said. "I was impressed with everyone's ability to do what we asked of them in practice, which was to hang with the No. 1 seed."

Gerhart said players from Air Force are mentally and physically strong.

"They have the most fit athletes of anyone in the west," Gerhart said. "They're in great shape and very disciplined, coming from the Air Force. They have a tradition of winning. That in itself helps a team's drive to be good."

Next, the Bullets took on Wayne State

College (Neb.).

Much as the Bulls were in their matches, the Bullets found themselves on the short end of an extreme disparity in size.

"It took three of our girls to tackle any one of theirs, which was just exhausting," Gerhart said. "We didn't look bad at all. We just couldn't stick those tackles."

The end result was a 44-10 loss to the Wildcats.

The Bullets finished up their tournament with a 30-0 loss to the University of Colorado on Sunday.

The previous day's matches took a lot out of Truman, and the Bullets were running on close to empty for the match with CU.

Gerhart said she thinks her team would have had better luck against CU had they matched up earlier in the tournament.

Even though the Bullets failed to post a victory at Westerns, Gerhart said she thinks the team achieved its goal for the tournament.

"Overall, I'm just really proud of the team for not counting themselves out," Gerhart said. "We hung in with every team better than they expected us to."

"... We played hard, and nobody let down. Clearly, everyone wanted to play for the sake of pride. That third place means something."

Bill Sexton
Bulls Rugby Coach

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