



Photos by Chris Tharp and Adam Kabins and Design by Chris Waller

Senior hurler powers team

John Scognamiglio
Staff Reporter

Head coach Lacey Schanz said senior pitcher Loni Wedemeier has been one of the key players for the Bulldogs all season long.

"Loni [Wedemeier] is the heart and soul," she said. "She pitches with pure heart and pure emotion. She does everything that way."

It's not every day that a pitcher can lose a no-hit bid in one game and then come back in the game two of a doubleheader to get a key save. But it happened Saturday afternoon on the Truman softball field.

Wedemeier took the field Saturday as the Bulldogs hosted the Central Missouri State University Jennies in a key MIAA matchup. Wedemeier entered the game with a 9-2 record and went on to throw six innings of nearly perfect pitching, giving up only one walk through those six innings.

However, the seventh inning came, and the leadoff hitter for the Jennies, Kristi Furrer, started off the inning with a double, ending the no-hit bid. Furrer was on third with two outs when Megan Bax hit a double, scoring Furrer and ending the shutout bid. The next batter, Megan Hollenbach hit what would be the game-winning home run for the Jennies as they won 3-2.

Wedemeier said she thinks Central Missouri finally caught up to her in the seventh inning. "That was their third time through the lineup," she said. "They had to catch up to me all over again in game two."

Normally, that would be enough for any

pitcher, but the 'Dogs had to play one more against the Jennies. In the fourth, Wedemeier hurt the Jennies with her bat instead of her arm by hitting a solo home run to give the squad a 1-0 lead.

Wedemeier relieved Bulldog junior pitcher Ashley McDougal in the seventh and final frame. With three outs to go, the game once again was in Wedemeier's hands. Miranda Myer led off the inning with a single and then advanced to second base on a passed ball.

This time though, Wedemeier left Myer on second base. The Bulldog ace struck out the next two Jenny batters and got Furrer to ground out to end the game.

Wedemeier said she and McDougal have different throwing styles, which led to the save.

"She throws a lot more moving pitches," she said. "I like to go right at hitters. I don't like hitters to get on base."

Schanz said Wedemeier was pitching great all day Saturday.

"To my knowledge, she still pitched great when she gave up those hits," Schanz said. "She told me that they were good pitches, and they were where they were supposed to be."

Tuesday afternoon, Wedemeier took the mound against the University of Missouri-St. Louis Riverwomen in game one of a doubleheader. She then proceeded to throw seven innings of shutout softball, getting her 10th win of the season to go along with her four saves.

If this past weekend is any consideration, the fate of the 2006 Bulldog softball team might rest on the arm of Loni Wedemeier.

Athlete of the Week

Loni Wedemeier

Sport: Softball
Year: Senior
Position: Pitcher/Utility
Hometown: Clarkesville, Mo.

Wedemeier hit .526 (10-for-19) with four home runs, six RBIs and seven runs scored as the Bulldogs won five of six games last week. She also is the No. 1 starting pitcher, leading the 'Dogs with 10 wins and four saves on the season.

RECRUITING | Coaches have different methods in bringing talent to University

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to give away. Other schools lure recruits with more money, which forces the coaches to be creative. Schanz said that because her scholarships are mostly for in-state, she can't go travel like the football team.

She said other schools have the option to waive the out-of-state fee if the player is close to the school. But Truman doesn't offer that.

Although the scholarships put her at a disadvantage, Schanz uses her and assistant softball coach Elizabeth Economon's connections to bring players in. Schanz is a native of Raytown, Mo., near Kansas City, Mo., and Economon is from St. Louis.

Both played high school and club ball in the area and maintained relationships with the coaches. At least six players have come from club teams that both coaches played for.

"We have very strong connections to the biggest programs in Missouri," Schanz said.

Men's basketball coach Jack Schrader also uses his connections. After being at the University for 10 years, Schrader has developed relationships that help bring people into his program.

"Another source is networking — players that have played for us, players that have gone into coaching," Schrader said. "I have had other coaches that have sent their players here that have good experiences. That works."

Schrader said he can tell what he wants by watching the player perform. He watches every student he recruits in person and on tape. He said he doesn't look for specific traits, such as three-point shooting but instead focuses on the package.

"When I watch players play, I decide if I like the way they play or not, and then I figure out why afterwards," Schrader said. "I've seen a lot of players, and there

needs to be something out there that catches my eye."

Schrader said recruiting changes from year to year, depending on what talent he sees. With senior guard Chip Sodemann entering his final year in a Bulldog uniform, Schrader knew he needed to bring in a class of guards to fill the void for years to come. He brought in three who received playing time immediately.

"Each year is different," Schrader said. "You have needs, so under that general guideline, you look for players."

Regardless of the strategy, each coach stressed the importance of bringing in talent to better the program that won't tarnish the image of the University. Schrader warned that — even though he has the desire to win — he doesn't want things to change just to make it easier to have better teams.

"I think we have a great university," Schrader said. "I think we are special. ... We are what we are, and we should be special."

SLUMP | Baseball team mired in long losing skid

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having a short memory. If you make a bad pitch and the guy hits a bomb, you got to forget it right away because the next pitch you could do the same thing."

The 'Dogs head west to Warrensburg, Mo. this weekend to play the fifth-ranked team in Div. II. Central Missouri State University has a record of 25-8. Last year, the 'Dogs were shut out in a weekend series with the Mules 7-0, 13-0 and 10-0.

Scully said he thinks the matchup against the Mules will be good for the players.

"It's a challenge this weekend, but we don't have anything to lose and everything to gain," he said.

Franz said he hopes the Mules underestimate the 'Dogs going in.

"We know going into this game, we gotta play damn near perfect to beat them," he said. "The thing that I like about this matchup, I mean, do you think Central Missouri State's looking at Truman and is worried? I guarantee you they're looking right past us, and I think that's a huge opportunity for us to go out there and play as hard as we can. ... Baseball's not played on paper. It's played on the field."

April 6 vs. Washburn	
Washburn	020 000 1 - 3
Truman	100 000 0 - 1
W - Lenherr (WU); L - Schuller (TSU)	
HR - Schmidt (WU)	
Washburn	204 000 000 - 6
Truman	100 000 000 - 1
W - Schroeder (WU); L - Foster (TSU)	
April 8 and 9 vs. Pittsburg State	
Pittsburg State	010 301 0 - 5
Truman	001 102 0 - 4
W - Reddout (PSU); L - Thomas (TSU); S - Shepard (PSU)	
HR - Brummett (PSU), Lankford (PSU); Schulte (TSU), Hall, L. (TSU)	
Pittsburg State	014 001 002 - 8
Truman	100 030 000 - 4
W - Sosna (PSU); L - Franz (TSU); S - Eckel	
HR - Brummett 2 (PSU), Deao, J. (PSU), Smith, B. (PSU); Davis, A. (TSU)	
Pittsburg State	138 100 0 - 13
Truman	200 211 0 - 6
W - Forsythe (PSU); L - Barton (TSU)	
HR - Prentice (PSU)	
Pittsburg State	002 100 111 - 6
Truman	000 002 012 - 5
W - Lamaster (PSU); L - Zaborowski (TSU); S - Shepard	

ZABOROWSKI | Senior near top of conference rankings despite team's record

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works efficiently and often catches hitters out on their front foot, flailing at the ball.

This past Sunday, on a cool, windy day at the Truman baseball field, Zaborowski allowed just two earned runs in 6.2 innings. He struck out only four, but coaxed 11 ground ball outs — most of them slow rollers.

"He battled out there today," Pittsburg State head coach Steve Bever said. "Today was a day to go the opposite way but Sean made that very difficult to do because of that tailing fastball. He had excellent location with it today."

Unfortunately, the Bulldog offense couldn't score for their ace, and Zaborowski, although second in the conference with a 2.21 ERA and fourth in fewest walks allowed per nine innings (1.96), fell to 1-5 on the season.

Still, his presence is felt when he takes the ball.

"He gives us a chance to win every time he pitches," senior designated hitter Randy Beilsmith said.

Zaborowski, similar to Maddux, also is an excellent hitting pitcher. When he's not toting the rubber every weekend, the senior mans first base and hits third in the Bulldog lineup. He's been the most consistent offensive source for the 6-24 Bulldogs (1-17 MIAA), batting a team high .360, including a .400 mark in conference that has multiple Major League draft picks.

This past weekend, facing a Gorillas staff that routinely throws high 80s and low 90s, Zaborowski batted .556 (6-for-11) and ex-

tended his hitting streak to six games.

Two years ago, though, it seemed Zaborowski would never come to Truman. Zaborowski wasn't pitching and had converted from third base to first for Des Moines Area Community College (Iowa), a team stacked with Div. I signees.

Although Zaborowski hit .325 and earned second team All-Region, he wasn't actively pursued by many schools, including several MIAA programs and his father's alma mater, Winona State University (Minn.)

One day, though, Scully drove to Centerville, Iowa, for personal reasons and ran into friend John Smith, DMACC's head baseball coach.

"He told me he still had a first baseman that had made second team All-Region who hadn't signed yet," Scully said. "I knew from playing and coaching in the league that second team All-Region was pretty darn good."

That "pretty darn good" first baseman turned out to be Zaborowski. A few phone calls and a quick reference check later and Zaborowski had signed with the Bulldogs.

"I never saw Sean play," Scully said.

Last year, Zaborowski played first and hit what Scully called "a disappointing .310." He didn't see much time on the mound either, throwing only eight shutout innings in relief work.

During the summer, though, Zaborowski threw often for his team in a collegiate wood bat league in Minnesota, honing his arsenal of pitches. Pitches that included his circle changeup that he started throwing to his dad in his

family's backyard when he was younger.

"My dad taught me the circle change because he didn't want me throwing curveballs when I was younger ... I really worked at keeping my changeup down and throwing everything consistently in the zone," he said. "I don't like to walk people."

And in the fall, the Bulldogs pitching rotation was understaffed and Zaborowski found himself in the rotation — with a goal from his head coach.

"He told me I could become an All-Conference player," Zaborowski said. "That was motivation for me to work harder and be the best player I could possibly be."

During the fall and winter, Scully and Zaborowski worked on being a more patient hitter and eliminating a hole in his swing.

Zaborowski had a tendency to rotate off his front foot a little too early, allowing his bat to drag through and miss part of the strike zone, causing him to pull a lot of balls to second base and right field.

"He's now got more weight transfer to the lower half of his body that allows him to use his hands more and stay through the ball," Scully said. "This allows him to keep the barrel of the bat through the zone longer and hit the outside pitch."

Zaborowski hit .313 (10-for-32) and collected a 2.40 ERA in non-conference play, but like Maddux — whose worse career month in April — heated up as the season progressed, hitting .381 in his last 10 games and throwing two complete games in his last three starts.

STREAK | Team's win-loss record defies numbers

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Overall, this team actually is one of the better teams of the Scully era. Compared to past seasons, the pitching staff has been better with a 5.63 ERA.

Entering the season, the top mark by a 'Dogs staff in the new millennium was 2002's 7.06 ERA.

Offensively and defensively, the team ranks in the middle of Scully's teams.

But defense — especially defense in key situations — creates the drastic separation between 2006 and the past five years.

2006 has yielded a key phrase: situational defense matters. The purple and white has yielded an inordinate amount of unearned runs — or runs scored by the opposition off Bulldog errors and miscues.

Twenty-nine percent of the runs allowed are unearned. Only one other MIAA team averages more than 21.5.

It's not necessarily been the number of errors but rather where they have occurred in the game.

The 'Dogs should win a lot more games during the rest of the season.

No Scully team has finished with fewer than 10 wins — and this season's version should not be the first — as long as the Bulldogs handle the baseball and continue at that current pace.

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Applications are available outside the Echo office located in the SUB Down Under through the Index Office.

Application Deadline is Friday, April 14th.

* For further information contact Erin Hickman at 785-4450 or by e-mail at echo@truman.edu

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Stop, Thief! Ellie Come Home Stop, Thief! and The Foundry Field Recordings CD Release Show!!!	
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CDs and Advance Tickets Available at The 'Ville (South Side of the Square)	
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