



Basketball: 7:30 p.m.  
Today, Venard College



Wrestling: 3 p.m.  
Dec. 10  
Simpson College

No events scheduled

# SPORTS



Road Victory

Bulldogs capture key early season win against Rolla

See BASKETBALL Page 16

Thursday, December 8, 2005

www.trumanindex.com

Page 15

## Despite loss, team fought to the end

Megan Remley nearly turned the volleyball season around.

Facing No. 1 University of Nebraska-Kearney last Thursday night in the Elite Eight, the Bulldogs, down 2-0 in the match and 24-18 in the third set, called timeout. In front of a then-Div. II record 4,412 fans – many of them dressed in UNK blue and white – were on their feet, screaming at the top of their lungs at the UNK Health and Sports Center.



Conor Nicholl

The match appeared out of reach. UNK had won 64 straight matches on their home court and weren't going to let the 'Dogs – the same team that knocked them out last year – make a comeback. The season was nearly finished for the purple and white.

But Remley, a senior middle hitter who delivers more first pumps and emotion than Tiger Woods at the Masters, wasn't about to let this season end.

"She lit into them for hanging their heads," head coach Jason Skoch said. "Her words were a lot more powerful than anything I could have said."

When asked what Remley said, Skoch said, "She just said, 'Let's go get 'em.'"

Motivated by Remley's words, the 'Dogs roared to a 10-4 run, tying the match at 28-all. Three points later, the Lopers had a match point at 30-29, but the 'Dogs again responded to the challenge as senior middle hitter Tiffany Graham slammed home a kill.

Two points later, the 'Dogs – playing in the toughest arena this side of Duke University's Cameron Indoor Stadium – won the third set 32-30.

After the frame, plenty of Lopers fans were shocked by the Bulldogs' comeback. Blue and white faithful murmured everything from: "We all thought it was going to end in three," to, "I thought we had already won the match."

But on this night, the Lopers weren't facing Mesa State University (Ariz.) or Abilene Christian University (Texas). Instead, they faced the 'Dogs, a team that has faced adversity the entire season but always found a way to bounce back.

"We dug ourselves a hole, but we fought back," Skoch said. "We will always fight tenaciously to the last point. That's the way we're trained, and that's the way we are expected to play."

Kearney won the fourth set 30-27 and the match 3-1, but the No. 4-ranked 'Dogs had left an undeniable stamp.

In the postgame press conference, UNK head coach Rick Squires even commented on their opponents' effort.

"It was one of the best matches I have ever seen tonight," he said. "The ability to come back [was amazing]. Both teams played with heart."

And Remley's words – against facing a near sweep – epitomized the 'Dogs. She wasn't the only one who showed unbridled determination in the match.

In the fourth set, Kearney rallied from a 4-0 deficit to pull within one at 11-10.

Then, freshman outside hitter Melissa Keck re-entered the match after nearly missing a full set because of health problems.

The team trainer wanted Keck to sit the rest of the match, but she refused.

"She pretty much told the trainer, 'Shut up, I'm ready to go,'" Skoch said. "It was incredible to see her come back into the match like that."

Keck, who finished with 13 kills and a .294 hitting percentage (both team highs), had three kills in the fourth set to keep the game close.

See FOCUS, Page 19

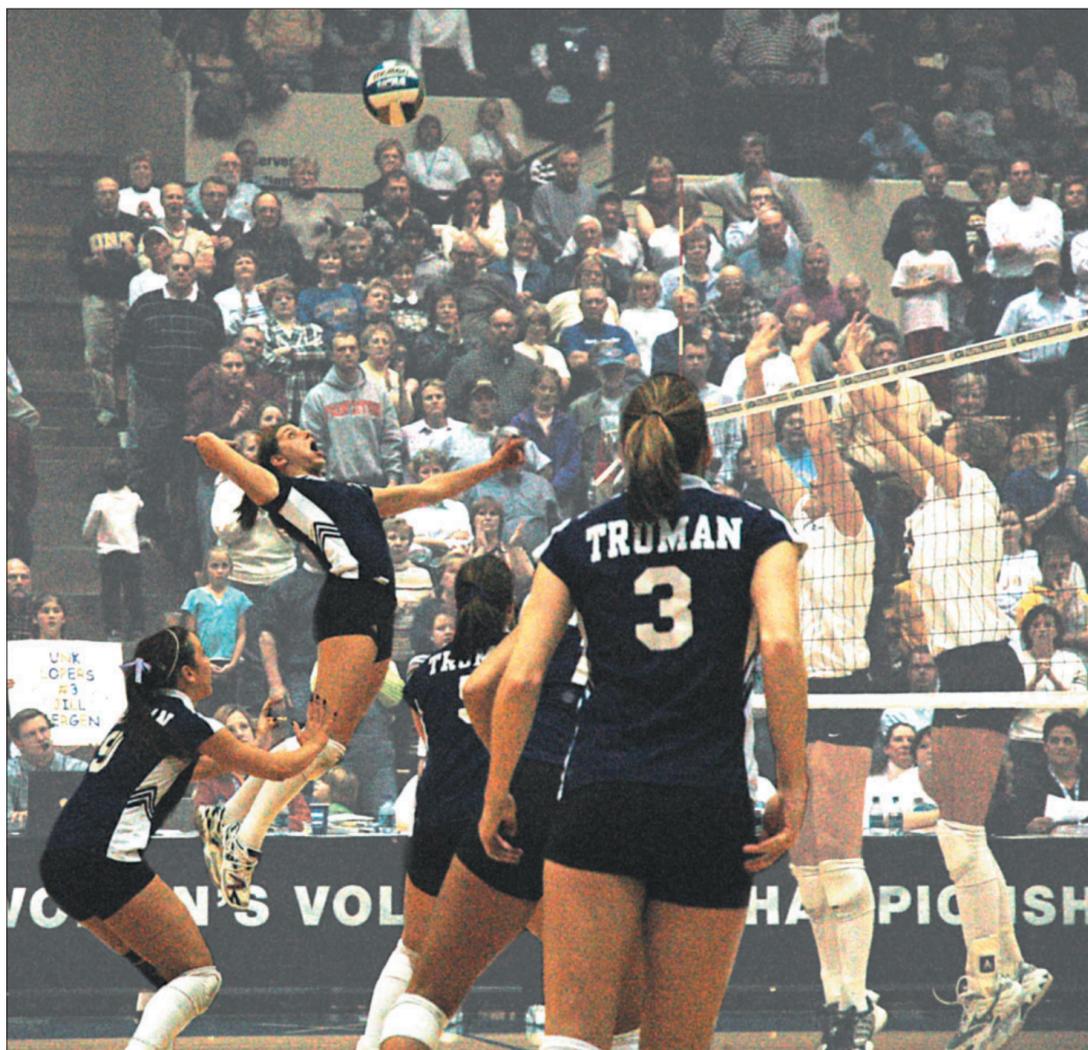


Photo by Adam Kabins/Index, Design by Lindsey Koski  
Junior outside hitter Sarah Shearman slams an attack last Thursday in the Bulldogs' Elite Eight match against the University of Nebraska-Kearney. In front of a then-Div. II volleyball record 4,412 fans, the 'Dogs lost 3-1 and finished the year at a 32-6 mark.

## 'Dogs fall to Lopers

Squad drops match 3-1 against No. 1 Kearney in front of 4,412 fans

Conor Nicholl  
Sports Editor

Junior outside hitter Sarah Shearman walked off the University of Nebraska-Kearney's Health and Sports Center with tears in her eyes.

Senior middle hitter Megan Remley covered her face in her jersey while freshman outside hitter Melissa Keck, drinking a Gatorade, had to stop before entering the tunnel leading to the locker rooms.

Their chance at a long-awaited national title was finished.

Last Thursday, UNK defeated the Bulldogs 3-1 (30-25, 30-28, 30-32, 30-27) in the Elite Eight to advance to the Final Four.

The 'Dogs finished at 32-6 while Kearney lost the national title game to Grand Valley State University (Mich.) on Saturday night.

"They played incredible and deserved to win," head coach Jason Skoch said while sitting next to a red-faced Shearman and a quiet junior outside hitter/setter Kelsey Wackerman in the postmatch news conference. "Whenever we would make a run, they would start to hang their heads, but the crowd would start to cheer. The crowd had a say in things tonight."

The crowd – a then-Div. II volleyball record 4,412 fans – was

very pro-Kearney throughout the entire match, as nearly the entire fieldhouse was draped in blue and white.

The Lopers, winners of 64 straight home matches, brought their band, cheerleaders and a student section unlike any the Bulldogs had seen this year.

And UNK brought Erin Gudmundson. Gudmundson, the Lopers' senior middle hitter, who had recently earned the National Player of the Year award, led both teams with 27 kills (12 more than any player on either squad) and hit a match-high .356.

Her performance helped key a victory they had wanted since last year. In the 2004 Final Four, the No. 2 Bulldogs defeated the No. 1-ranked Lopers 3-0 to advance to

the national title.

When asked if this match was about revenge, Gudmundson looked straight at the attended media and said, "Yes."

Junior setter Rachel Gerdes echoed similar sentiments.

"It was an absolutely horrible feeling after they beat us last year," she said. "It was a great feeling to beat them in our house this [season]."

The 'Dogs took an early 10-9 lead in the opening set, but the Lopers, led by two Gudmundson kills and three Bulldog attack errors, captured a 21-14 lead. Kearney halted a Bulldog comeback, winning the first set 30-25.

In the second set, boosted by four Gudmundson kills, UNK See VOLLEYBALL, Page 19

## Men's basketball launches to a 5-1 record

Tyler Madsen  
Staff Reporter

As the old adage says, a good team has to win almost all of their games at home and at least split their games on the road.

The men's basketball team is following that saying to the point, and so far it's working quite well.

Senior guard Chip Sodemann scored 14 points and two other 'Dogs scored in double figures in Saturday's 62-53 road victory against Lincoln University (Mo.). The game completed a home-and-home series between the teams, as the purple and white were victorious 89-71 earlier in the week against the same Blue Tigers.

"They adjusted really well and guarded us a lot tighter," senior guard Matt Brock said. "We didn't change a lot from the first time and [senior guard] Derek [Lindsey] did a great job shutting down their best player."

Once again, the 'Dogs relied on their defense to propel themselves to the win. After taking a six point lead into the locker room at halftime, the team was able to extend that lead to

13 on a pair of free throws by junior forward Andy Calmes with just over 14 minutes remaining in the second half.

A cluster of free throws by the Blue Tigers cut the Bulldog lead to 51-48 with 4:36 to play, but a pair of free throws and a three-pointer by Lindsey pushed the lead back to a more comfortable eight points.

"Derek has stepped up at a couple key times this year," head coach Jack Schrader said. "The free throws came on a hard drive to the basket, which is important in close games because getting to the free throw line can stretch games out."

But again, the Blue Tigers clawed back and made it a three-point game with 2:02 left. However, that was all the 'Dogs' defense would allow, as the Blue Tigers were 0-for-6 from the field

in the final two minutes. In addition to Sodemann's 14 points, Calmes added 12 while Lindsey put in 11 points of his own. Junior guard Austin Kirby and junior center Garrett Grimm each tacked on eight points, and fellow junior forward Grant Agbo added six.

See BASKETBALL, Page 19



Chris Waller/Index  
Sophomore forward Nick Certa launches a right-handed shot against Lincoln University (Mo.) on Nov. 28. He chalked up a career high 21 points in the 89-71 victory.