

# Wrestling trio leads to title

**Bulldogs take home team trophy despite missing several key members**

**Josh Sisson**  
Staff Reporter

Truman came up with the hat trick Saturday in Iowa.

There wasn't any hockey going on, but three Bulldog wrestlers returned from the Simpson Invitational with championship trophies. The dominance of freshman Blake Peterson, senior Gregg Nurrenbern and sophomore Matt Craig led to the Bulldogs capturing the team championship.

The 'Dogs accomplished all this while very short-handed. Senior Allen Stokes sat out with an aggravated shoulder as did junior Gordon Harrison. Junior Adam Vogt couldn't wrestle either because he failed to pass the tournament skin check.

Wrestling coach Dave Schutter said he knows Truman was the best team at Simpson, short-handed or not.

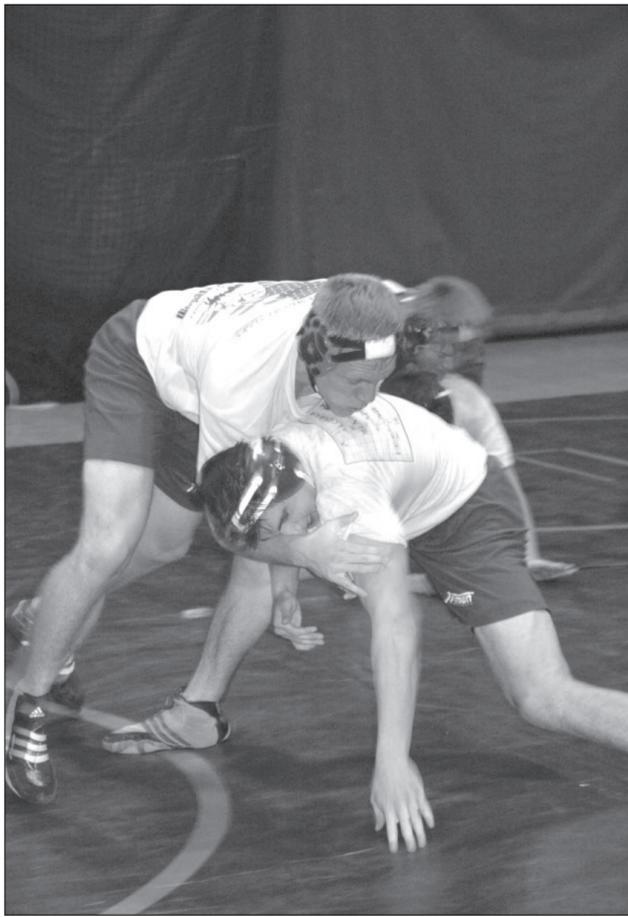
"I expected to win that tournament," Schutter said. "If we had everyone healthy with Stokes in there and Harrison in there and Vogt in there and [Dustin] Teeman healthy, we'd walk right through that tournament. But it was 15 teams, probably about as difficult as our regional tournament, so it shows what we're capable of."

Peterson went 5-0 en route to his championship at the 165-pound weight class. In the finals, Peterson upset the top seed, Brian Daly of Augustana College (S.D.), 8-0.

Peterson used his technique to counteract Daly's physical strength.

"I knew what I was getting into," Peterson said. "I knew he was strong, but he wasn't very technically sound. ... I knew going in that I should beat him, and I guess I succeeded in that."

Schutter said Peterson is getting better at forcing opponents to wrestle



**Chris Waller/Index**  
Two wrestlers square off in a practice earlier this year. Even without three of its usual wrestlers Dec. 3 the team still took home the team championships.

his type of match.

"He wasn't dominating, but he got his hand raised, and that's the key for Blake," Schutter said. "Blake's not a real physical wrestler. He's not going to blow anybody away, and he knows that. If he wrestles his style and wrestles smart, he'll get his hand raised."

The All-American 184-pounder Nurrenbern, who went 4-0 on the day, faced a formidable foe in the finals as well.

Schutter gave Nurrenbern instructions, Nurrenbern carried them out, and Nurrenbern captured a championship.

"That kid [whom Nurrenbern] had in

the finals was a monster," Schutter said. "He was big and real athletic. I told Gregg, 'Go out there, and don't play around. Just jump on this guy quick,' and he did. I was real impressed with the way Nurrenbern wrestled."

Craig went into the tournament as the 197-pound weight class's third seed but came out a champ. He knocked off Josh Porter of Central College (Iowa) 7-1 in the finals.

Craig made the most of his opportunities against Porter.

"I thought it was a pretty good match," Craig said. "The kid was pretty good. He just made a couple of mistakes that I was able to capitalize on. He let me hit a move that put him on his back a couple times, and that gave me enough of a lead that I didn't have much to worry about during the whole match."

Craig wrestled heavyweight last season. He seems to be adjusting to his new home at 197 this year.

Schutter said he sees Craig's progress. "I'm pleased with how he wrestled this tournament," Schutter said. "This guy he had in the finals was really tough, and Matt dominated him. His weight's fine. He's not having any trouble at 197 making weight."

Peterson said the team's confidence is high, knowing it can win a tournament even when it is at less than full strength.

"We all pulled through, and most of us wrestled well," Peterson said. "We're still improving every day, which is the thing I'm the most excited about. We were able to win a tournament without all the people we needed, and we didn't wrestle to our full potential. It's that potential that excites me."

Next up for the 'Dogs is a pair of duals against Simpson College and the Northwest Missouri State University club.

Schutter said he expects Simpson to have revenge on its mind Saturday.

"It's going to be a tough dual because Simpson matches up well with us," Schutter said. "Just because you beat somebody in a tournament, that's not beating them head-to-head in a dual. One of the ways they can get that team title back in their minds is to come down here the very next week and beat Truman."

## SPORTS | In Brief

### Athletes make MIAA commissioner's honor roll

Forty-four members of Truman athletes were named to the MIAA academic commissioner's honor roll.

The men's cross country had 10 members make the list. They were: Bryant England, Laban Kipkurui, Erik McFarlane, Steve Porath, Jason Simpson, Aaron Wells, Kurtis Werner, Daniel Wilhite, Eric Wittrock and David Yonce.

For women's cross country, Sarah Armstrong, Grace DelNero, Samantha Dutrow, Jacquie Faust and Abbie Smith received the award.

Football also made the list with 12 members of the squad getting recognized. Jesse Cooper, Jason Douglas, Steve Holman, Richard Mayson, Tyrone McCormick, Michael Patnode, Tyler Paytas, James Perry, Andrew Pitts, Mike Shelden, Justin Smith and Marcus Yokeley all qualified.

Molly Benson, Maureen Bylina, Lauren Cepicky, Asdis Finnsdottir, Lauren Hawks, Rachel McCarville, Robyn Mortenson, Sara Ramza, Rachael Schmidt, Melissa Snodgrass and Chayil Wiedeman all made the list as representatives from the women's soccer team.

The volleyball team had the following players earn the honor: Alex Baker, Melanie Jones, Marti Joyer, Megan Remley, Sarah Shearman and Micaela Walter.

To qualify for the commissioner's honor roll, a player must meet the following criteria: A cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better; at least two terms of attendance at the member school, excluding summer sessions; must be a sophomore, junior or senior in athletic eligibility; and student-athletes inactive because of redshirt year of hardship qualifications are not eligible.

### NCAA Division II volleyball champion crowned Saturday

In front of 5,025 fans, the largest in Div. II history, the Grand Valley State University (Mich.) Lakers defeated the University of Nebraska-Kearney Lopers in four sets Saturday.

The Lakers won the match 30-18, 30-27, 25-30 and 30-24.

The win was the first ever for a women's sport in Lakers history.

# Women finish second at Notre Dame, men capture fifth

**Joseph Barker**  
Staff Reporter

Before the Notre Dame Invitational, swimming head coach Mark Gole had several goals in mind for his team. After returning home from the three-day meet, Gole said he was pleased.

"I think that it went almost as well as it possibly could," Gole said. "I would probably just say, 'Mission accomplished.'"

Fresh off an 18-day layoff between meets, the Bulldogs swim teams headed north to Notre Dame, Ind., for their biggest meet thus far this season. At the invitational, the women again matched up with multiple Div. I schools and again showed they can compete with them. They took second out of 11 teams, losing to first-place Notre

Dame by 178 points.

The Fighting Irish's sizable margin of victory was created mainly through points earned in the diving competition — something the Bulldogs don't have.

"For us to get second out of the majority of schools who were D-I it was very good," Gole said. "I was very pleased. We really stuck it to the other Div. I teams."

After winning the Invitational last year, the women did not know what would happen at this year's meet. With Div. I power Notre Dame in the field, first place seemed out of the question. But the Bulldogs had high hopes.

"I don't know if we expected to finish second, but we expected to finish high," sophomore Catherine Sonnichsen said.

Before the meet, Gole said he

wanted to qualify as many women in Notre Dame as he could for nationals. The women complied, and 16 of the 18 nationals slots were filled. The list of individual national qualifiers now includes freshman Jacqui Dempsey; sophomores Emily Greenwood, Molly Polette, Katie Welsh and Whitney Anderson; juniors Brittany Anderson, Katie Funk, Lija Kaleps-Clark and Lindsay Vaughan; and senior Whitney Jensen.

Also qualified through their places on relay teams are freshman Erica Anderson; sophomores Laura Harp, Emily Puffall and Catherine Sonnichsen; junior Brigit Brunsman and senior Aimee Gregor.

"I think just, as a whole, our team swam well," Gregor said. "There were a few girls that swam

exceptionally well. I think the depth of our team helps out in how we finish in the end."

Gole said the women's team will try to fill the two remaining holes in the remaining meets.

The men didn't fare quite as well as the women, but Gole still was pleased by their finish. They finished fifth out of nine teams, beating Div. II rival University of Indianapolis and Div. I Saint Louis University in the process.

"The men finishing fifth — I was very pleased with that," Gole said. "I think that's higher than they finished last year. We did really well. A majority of guys swam better at this meet than they did last year."

Several members of the men's squad will join the women in Indianapolis for nationals. Senior Josh Otis and the other members of the

200-yard medley relay team — junior Robert Fletcher, senior Chris Brammer and sophomore Ryan Ferrell — all made their 'A' cuts at the meet.

"I feel that we all did well," freshman Andrew Berdine said. "We got a couple of 'A' cuts, a lot of 'B' cuts and a lot of best times."

Otis also qualified in the 200-yard individual medley race, beating seven Notre Dame swimmers in the finals with a time of 1:52.56.

The time was not only good enough for first at the meet, but it also set a new school record, breaking one previously held by Otis.

"The championship final on the men side, there were seven guys for Notre Dame and Josh, and Josh won it," Gole said. "It was an entertaining race for us."

Before the meet, Gole said the

race would help prepare his teams, especially the women, for the nationals races because the race was the same format. After the meet, Gole said he was more confident in the team's national chances than he was before it left.

"I think we swam incredible from top to bottom," Gole said. "The girls definitely raced extremely well in finals. It was a great experience for them."

While the rest of the University will be either at home or heading home for winter break, both swim teams will be in the pool in Omaha, Neb. on Dec. 17. There the women will take on the University of Nebraska-Omaha and the University of South Dakota, and the men will take on only South Dakota because UNO doesn't have a men's team.

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