

MEN'S ON CAMPUS No scheduled events.

WOMEN'S ON CAMPUS No scheduled events.

Bulldogs begin track season under one coach

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SPORTS



Thursday, January 26, 2006

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Men upset Northwest

'Dogs use second half surge to capture 60-56 win over No. 18 NWMSU

Tyler Madsen
Staff Reporter

During a three and a half minute stretch, the men's basketball moved to within one game out of first place in the MIAA Conference. Facing No. 18 Northwest Mis-

souri State University last night at Pershing Arena, the Bulldogs were down 10 at 52:42 with 7:53 left in the contest. Three and half minutes and a 10-0 run later, the purple and white tied the game at 52. An 8-4 finish during the final four minutes gave the 'Dogs a 60-56 victory against their rival.

We played the second half the way we needed to," Schrader said. "We know that first shots don't beat you, and down the stretch they were only able to get one shot

on each possession, which proved to be the difference in the end. The entire student body should be proud of this win."

The top two defenses in the conference put on quite the show for the nearly 1,500 in attendance, as the teams each battled through shooting slumps and turnover-laden possessions throughout the night.

The 'Dogs are now 15-4 on the season, 5-3 in the MIAA and only one game back of Southwest Baptist

University and Northwest at 6-2. As a result of splitting their two conference games last week, the 'Dogs dropped out of the Top 25, but were still receiving votes from the committee.

On a more positive note, the 'Dogs were able to move up to sixth in the NCAA South Central regional poll earlier Wednesday, which is where it counts the most at the end of the season as the top eight will head to the national

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Chris Tharp/Index

Bulldogs celebrate during their 60-56 win against Northwest.

Parents reflect on swim careers

Annie Jensen is always smiling, always laughing.

She stood with a group of swim team parents – a group that included athletic director Jerry Wollmering and University President Barbara Dixon – last Saturday, talking, taking pictures and watching the men and women compete against Western Illinois University at their Senior Day meet.



Conor Nicholl

Earlier in the day, she watched her daughter, Whitney Jensen, capture the individual title in the 50-yard freestyle and earn recognition as one of the team's seven seniors.

At the end of the meet, Annie Jensen left the parents to take a picture of her daughter shaking Wollmering's and Dixon's hands for helping the women's team win its fifth straight national title last spring.

When she returned, Annie Jensen paused to look back on her daughter's swimming career – the second time she attended a Truman Senior Day. Her son Jeff Jensen played football for four years during the John Ware era.

"This is the culmination of many years at Truman," she said. "The parents have really enjoyed this. Our daughter received a fabulous education, and the women's team won nationals every year. To get the chance to compete and win nationals every year – Wow! We've spent many, many happy

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Roger Meissen/Index

Junior Tom Applegate touches the wall as sophomore Ryan Ferrell jumps from the block in the 200-yard freestyle relay during Saturday's Senior Day meet against Western Illinois.

Senior Day yields victory against W. Illinois

Swim teams head into key meets this weekend on winning streaks

Joseph Barker
Assistant Sports Editor

The Bulldog swimmers said good-bye to seven seniors Saturday against Div. I Western Illinois University in a winning fashion.

The men defeated the Leathernecks 116-77 while the women

won 123-70 as the squads said farewell to the seniors competing in their last home meet of their careers.

"It was really exciting," senior Katie Funk said. "It's kind of bittersweet in a way because I love swimming, but it's a really happy occasion too. But at the same time we just know that we have so many more things to accomplish than that dual meet."

Of the 22 events at the meet, the Bulldogs won 16. The men

took first place eight times, had five second-place finishes and had five third-place finishes. On the women's side they were able to capture eight firsts, seven seconds and five thirds.

"We did real well," freshman Alex Pippett said. "Everyone had really good swims. It was a great meet."

Head coach Mark Gole said the team had a different strategy at this meet than in past meets. With a weaker opponent on the sched-

ule, Gole allowed his seniors to pick their events and shifted most of his normal swimmers away from their main event.

"[Western Illinois] wasn't the strongest of opponents," Gole said. "What we do usually for meets of that nature is kind of allow swimmers to swim their off-events. Sometimes you swim your same event so often that you just kind of mentally lose focus and have a bad swim, and that bad swim can affect your mindset when you

swim the next time. I liked the opportunity to have the majority of the team swim off events."

Even with the majority of the team in their off events, both squads were able to put up a "W" in the win column. Gole said the victories showed the depths of his squads.

"After our dual meet against Indianapolis, the head coach of Indy was like, 'I never knew you were this deep,'" Gole said. "I

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Shut-down defense provides early success for basketball

Tyler Madsen
Staff Reporter

Michael Hicks entered the Jan. 4 game against the Truman men's basketball team playing red hot.

Hicks, a preseason All-American and the starting guard for then-No. 11 Central Missouri State University, was averaging 28.3 points per game during his past four contests.

Five days before, he exploded for 34 points against Northwest Missouri State University.

And the Bulldogs shut him down.

Hicks managed only 14 points on 4-of-19 shooting. The defense effort helped the purple and white deliver a 77-69 upset victory.

The 'Dogs also contained Pittsburg State University guard Eddie Jackson, holding the preseason All-American to nine points (nearly 11 below his

average), in a 66-58 loss Jan. 14 in Pittsburg.

Throughout the entire year, the squad has constructed one of the MIAA's and nation's stingiest defenses.

Head coach Jack Schrader has used his defensive philosophies to guide the program to the top of MIAA defensive categories throughout his tenure at the school, and this season is no different.

"There are three basic principles to defense," Schrader said. "A player must stay between his man and the basket; stay between his man and the ball; and stay between the ball and the basket."

We like to make sure that the man pressuring the ball can feel free because he knows that he has help from his teammates on both sides."

This season, the team is second in the conference in points allowed (62.4 points/game),

first in field goal defense (39.6 percent) and first in three-point field goal defense (29.9 percent).

However, the team drops to ninth when it comes to steals (4.53 per/game) and ninth for turnovers forced (10.8 per/game).

So why is the Bulldog defense one of the more solid defenses in the conference if they aren't getting many of the so-called "hustle stats"?

"We like to take away the strengths of the other team and try our best to actually use those strengths against them," senior guard Chip Sodemann said. "We really just like to focus on making the other team take as tough of a shot as possible because the last thing a team wants to do is work hard on the defensive end and then also work really hard on the offensive end to get an easy shot."

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ROADBLOCKS

The Bulldog defense is one of the best in the country, shutting down many top-scoring teams.

Team Statistics			
Stat	No.	MIAA Rank	National Rank
Scoring defense	62.4	2	25
Field Goal Pct. Def.	39.6	1	20
3 pt. Field Goal Pct. Def.	29.5	1	N/A

The defense has contained many of the nation's top scorers.

Player	School	Season Scoring Avg.	Pts. Against Truman
Eddie Jackson	Pittsburg St.	19.6	9 (Jan. 14)
Titus Byrd	Lincoln	21.2	10 (Nov. 28)
Byrd	Lincoln	21.2	8 (Dec. 3)
Sheldon Pace	SW Baptist	14.1	12 (Dec. 10)
Michael Hicks	Central Mo.	21.3	14 (Jan. 4)

Designed by Stephen Emlund/Index