

SPORTS



Women's basketball finish its season with a 63-36 loss to No. 1 Washburn

See **WOMEN** Page 16

Bulldogs celebrate selection

For 50 minutes, they waited. Last Sunday night, 27 people – including head coach Jack Schrader, assistant coach Tim Deidrick, the men's basketball team, team assistants and some family and friends – sat next to the big-screen television in the lower level of the Student Union Building.



Conor Nicholl

They watched Selection Sunday – the show where the Bulldogs needed to see their name to earn a trip to the Div. II men's basketball tournament.

The 20-8 Bulldogs enjoyed a 10-6 conference record but finished the year with three straight losses and had tumbled from third to sixth in the recent South Central Regional poll.

"I previously talked to the guys on the committee," Schrader said. "They said the MIAA was going to get four teams in and that we were a lock, ... but you just never know until your name pops up."

For 30 minutes Sunday night, they enjoyed themselves, tossing Starbursts, cracking jokes and watching the Div. II women's basketball selection show.

Then came 9:30 p.m. and the men's program. Senior guard Matt Brock sat on a stool with his hands behind his head, and senior point guard Chip Sodemann bounced up and down in a chair, waiting for the broadcast of the South Central Regional bracket. But the names wouldn't come for a long time. Ten minutes and two regional brackets later, the South Central bracket hadn't been called.

When the commercials started, sophomore forward Nick Certa bounced his plastic coffee cup a few times on a nearby table, trying to free some energy and nervousness.

Finally, 10 minutes later, the broadcaster began calling the names of the last regional – the South Central. No one moved in the room.

Brock and junior guard Austin Kirby looked straight ahead, and junior forward Andy Calmes, Certa and senior forward Derek Lindsey, among others, leaned forward in their chairs, hands clasped over their mouths.

And at 9:51 p.m., in the 31st of 32 overall pairings, two teams came on the screen: No. 3 Central Missouri State University vs. No. 6 Truman. Roars of "Yes!" echoed through the room, and Brock immediately stood up, turned around and high-fived Sodemann.

Certa fell back in his chair, realizing the Bulldogs had a ticket to See **SELECTION**, Page 19

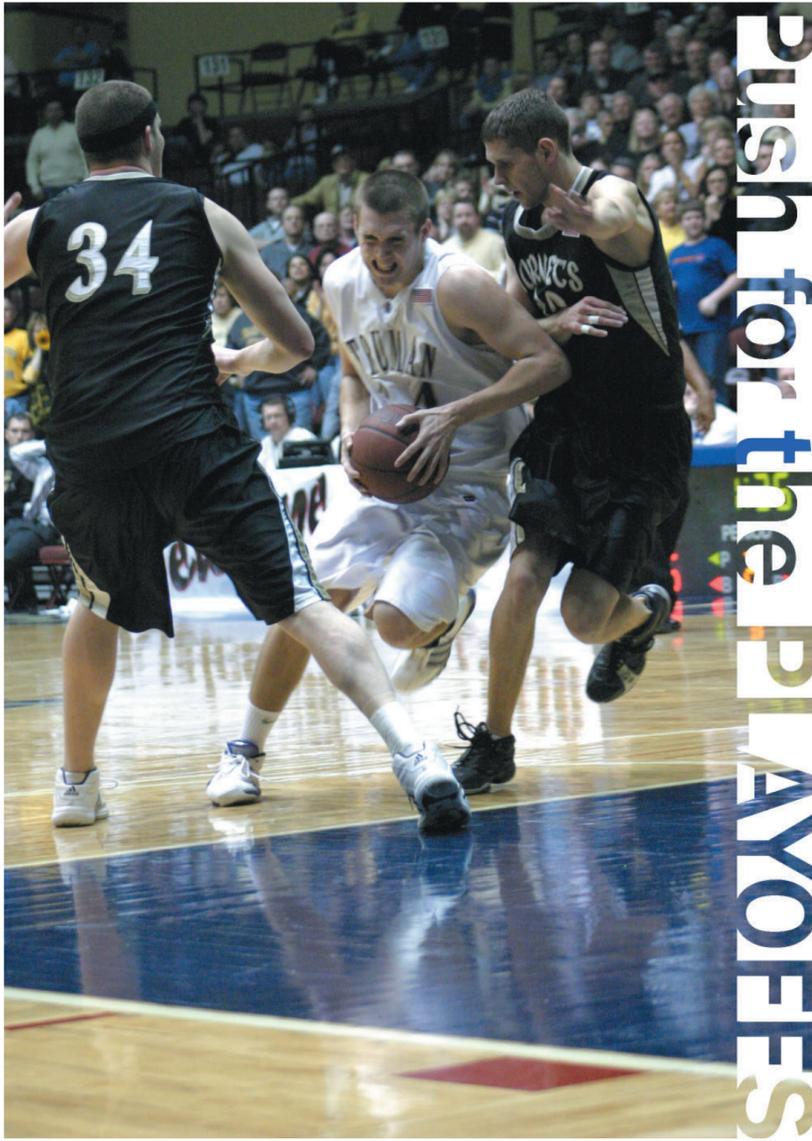


Photo by Chris Tharp, Design by Lindsay Koski/Index
Junior guard Austin Kirby drives against Emporia State University's Shawn Herrmann and Ryan Blevins during the Hornets' 96-90 loss last Friday. The Bulldogs open the Regional this Saturday.

Bulldogs face CMSU

The Bulldogs will play Central in first round of Div. II tourney

Tyler Madsen
Staff Reporter

Senior point guard Matt Brock stood and applauded when he, as well as the rest of the men's basketball team, learned they had survived to play another game.

"It's a mixture of relief and excitement," Brock said. "We had felt pretty good about things until this past week, but after dropping those three games, we were a little nervous coming into the announcement [Sunday night]."

That announcement Sunday night produced good news for the team as it learned it would

be heading to Southwest Baptist University for the first three rounds of the NCAA Div. II Tournament this weekend.

"It's a much better trip to SBU than it would have been, having to potentially go all the way to Texas," head coach Jack Schrader said. "SBU did what they needed to in order to hold on, so we're excited not just to be in, but to not have to do a whole lot of extra traveling."

The 'Dogs will kick off the first round of the tournament at noon on Saturday against conference rival Central Missouri State University.

The teams split their two meetings this season, each winning on the other team's home court.

"It's going to be a war," Brock said. "Whichever team executes and plays the best defense is go-

ing to move on, so hopefully we get back to what got us here and play the type of Bulldog defense we know we can play."

That defense didn't make the trip to Kansas City, Mo., as the 'Dogs gave up 96 points in their 96-90 loss to the Emporia State Hornets on Friday night.

The 96 points marked the highest point total allowed since the 2004-05 season opener when Minnesota State-Mankato put up 99 points.

"We don't like to lose, but to me, it is always about how we are playing," Schrader said. "We were a little tentative and tight against Emporia State, but we picked it up and returned to being aggressive in the way that we're capable of playing. We can always control how we perform."

See **PLAYOFFS**, Page 19

Offense doesn't yield a victory

Joseph Barker
Assistant Sports Editor

The men's basketball team cracked the 90-point barrier for the third time this season during Friday night's game against Emporia State University.

This time, however, the Bulldogs didn't win.

The third-seeded 'Dogs fell 96-90 to the sixth-seeded Emporia Hornets in the first round of the MIAA Conference Tournament. With the loss, Truman falls to 20-8 on the season.

The game, easily the highest scoring of the first-round contests, was constant back and forth action. The score was tied 15 times throughout the game with the lead changing 23 times. After the game head coach Jack Schrader joked about the high scores.

"We wanted to keep it in the 60s," Schrader said. "I guess we came pretty close."

Offensive action from both squads started almost immediately after the opening tip. Both teams came out firing and hitting. Each squad more than 50 percent in the first half.

The Bulldogs were 14-27 from the field and 8-13 from long range in the first half. Emporia matched the 'Dogs' hot shooting, opening the contest with 16-28 shooting from the field and 2-6 from behind the arc.

ESU took the advantage on free throws, hitting six more than the 'Dogs to put the Hornets up 46-42 at the half.

Emporia extended its lead early in the second half going up by as much as seven with 15:15 left to play in the half. The 'Dogs then went on a three-shooting binge with senior guard Chip Sodemann, junior guard Austin Kirby and junior center Gar-

ret Grimm knocking down treys.

Those shots, plus two buckets by junior forward Andy Calmes, put the 'Dogs on a 15-4 run and had them up by four with 12:05 left in the game.

With 1:37 remaining in the game, Kirby hit two free throws to tie the score for the 15th time at 87-all.

The Hornets then went on a 9-3 run, highlighted by sophomore guard Wes Book's three pointer with the shot clock winding down and 23 seconds left.

The three put the Hornets up by four and signaled the end of the game.

"It was good to come out on top with our season on the line," Emporia State coach David Moe said. "We got some stops and competed the way we needed to compete."

The 'Dogs couldn't contain senior Shawn Herrman. The Hornets six-foot-six-inch forward knocked down a game-high 26 points and was 10-10 on the night.

"I told the guys I didn't want to go out like we did the last three years when we lost in the first round,"

Herrman said. "I put it on my back that we wouldn't lose. We played well as a team."

Truman had 21 assists and 17 turnovers, well below its season assist-to-turnover ratio of 1.5-to-1. Emporia capitalized on the turnovers, scoring 23 points off of the Bulldogs' mistakes. The 'Dogs had only eight points off the Hornets' seven turnovers.

The 'Dogs played the last 2:04 without Sodemann on the floor. The senior guard and de facto team captain fouled out, causing Kirby to play out of position as the point guard.

After the game, head coach Jack Schrader said the team missed See **BASKETBALL**, Page 19



Chris Tharp/Index
Senior point guard Chip Sodemann and senior guard Gavin Welker gather their thoughts at the end of Saturday's 96-90 loss.

Roller hockey falls just short of nationals

Bulldogs, ranked No. 10 in the country, miss 16-team national tournament

John Weeks
Staff Reporter

The roller hockey team's hopes and dreams were crushed Monday night.

Out of 16 teams going to nationals in North Carolina, the No. 10-ranked team in the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association isn't one of them.

"It sucks," senior goalie Chris LePage said. "We definitely thought we had a bid ... We beat Wash U. We went 2-1 against SLU. Both of those teams were in the Final Four last year. We lose to UMSL, who has been ranked No. 1 in the country all year long, so those aren't bad losses. We were ranked in the top 10 in the country all season long and then come to the end we're not considered one of the top-16 teams. It's a bunch of bull-----"

Most of the team was hanging out at LePage's apartment Monday night, expecting to hear that they were going to nationals.

Then the news came: Truman didn't make

it. Silence and shock resonated throughout the apartment for several minutes.

Senior forward Chris Radigan and other players sat around in disbelief. Radigan said they felt good about the 'Dogs' chances of making it in before the unexpected announcement.

"Last year, the Great Plains [region] sent three teams to the nationals, and two of them finished in the Final Four," Radigan said. "We proved our dominance as a region last year, and this year we got two bids."

The 'Dogs finished their season 15-6-1. During the weekend at regionals, the 'Dogs went 2-2. In its first game, the team annihilated Southern Illinois University-Carbondale 10-0, but the celebration and scoring success was short-lived as it lost 5-2 in its second game against Washington University in St. Louis.

On Sunday the team beat Southeast Missouri State University 10-2 but lost its Div. II semifinal game 9-2 to the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the NCRHA's No. 1 team.

Freshman forward Drew Vandas said everyone was ready to play before the games started.

"Going into this weekend, we were

Roller Hockey
Overall Record 16-5-1
Final National Rank 10

Season Leaders			
Player	G	A	PTS
Moody	22	16	38
Whittle	16	11	27
Patterson	13	12	25
Dougherty	12	13	25
Gentile	14	10	24
Radigan	13	8	21

all excited," Vandas said. "We all thought we had a really good shot getting into nationals, and we played great. We had a little trouble scoring goals, and I mean that's the reason we lost a couple of games. There's no reason we shouldn't be in nationals right now."

Vandas, who joined the team with about a month left in the season, said he originally made the team last fall but didn't join because he didn't think his schedule would allow for it. The combination of a lighter schedule this semester and missing the competitive sport convinced him to get in on the fun.

"I was surprised at how well they took me in," he said. "I mean, I thought I was going to be the guy who quit

See **HOCKEY**, Page 19

Swimming aims for top finishes at national meet

Joseph Barker
Assistant Sports Editor

A season's worth of dual meets and many of hours spent training all comes down to this meet.

The Bulldog swim teams entered the pool Wednesday to begin the NCAA Div. II National Championship in Indianapolis. The women came into the event as the five-time defending national champions and look to take the top spot once again. Head coach Mark Gole said he is confident that the team can capture national title No. 6.

"I believe that this team is prepared to do it," Gole said. "I told them that all the pieces of the puzzle are set and ready to be plugged in. It's just whether or not we make it happen ourselves."

While the women are looking to take home the title, Gole just wants the men to improve on last year's finish.

"The men finished 12th last year and I would really like to crack top-10," Gole said. "Relays are going to play a crucial role. We have to try to get top-eight in all five relays to score enough points to get top-10."

The women's quest for their sixth-straight national title won't come easy. Drury University (Mo.) – the runner-up

the last five years to the Bulldogs – will be one of three main threats to knock the 'Dogs out of the top spot they have occupied since the 2000-01 season.

Gole said the University of California-San Diego and Westchester University (Penn.) also could pose threats.

"All year long we have been looking at Drury," Gole said. "While at the same time there [are] a few schools ... that have good individuals but not enough depth. I think we're the only team that has 18 swimmers qualified."

All season long, Gole has commented on the depth of the women's team is their biggest strength.

"If we do pull it off, it will be our depth that is going to win," Gole said. "We have to do this as a team – everybody has to do their part. We don't have the absolute swimmer that is going to go win for events. We're just going to try and place as many people top eight and just score as many points as we can."

Sophomore Molly Polette said she agreed with Gole that the team's depth will be a factor at the national meet.

"It's definitely more rare to be so deep as we are," Polette said. "For example, at the conference meet we got first through sixth place at the 200 free. ... We have an

See **SWIMMING**, Page 19