Tennis teams win meets

Women's team remains perfect in dual matches while men finish 2-1

John Scognamiglio
Staff Reporter

The women's tennis team extended its dual match record to a perfect 7-0 this past weekend in Topeka, Kan.

Head coach Pete Kendall said he is pleased with the success of the women's team so far.

"We had two matches where we pretty much just dominated," he said. "Then, we had the really close one. You have to win those close ones in the region. If you lose the close ones, you're out of the national tournament."

The team played three matches from schools within the region this past weekend at Washburn University. Washburn and Northwest Missouri State University also participated, but they did not face the Bulldogs.

The tightest dual match of the day was against Colorado State University-Pueblo. After singles play, the two squads were split 3-3. However, the Bulldogs were able to pull away in the doubles matches, winning two out of those three to capture a 5-4 victory.

Sophomore Whitney Hamilton said the 'Dogs had a pretty good weekend in the regional outing.

"Everyone played really well," she said. "We were able to win a close game which will help us in our region with rankings."

Leading the way for the 'Dogs were their two key freshmen: Lindsy Blair and Courtney Walther. They each posted singles victories, and their doubles team captured an 8-1 victory that kept the team in the match.

Also on Saturday, the 'Dogs posted a 9-0 victory against Metropolitan State College of Denver and a 7-2 score against Winona State University (Minn.). Junior Jessica Krause won all three of her singles matches to be one of four Bulldogs to end Saturday without a blemish. Sophomore Hannah Wittmer, who competed in doubles matches, along with Blair, Walther and Krause finished the day with a perfect record.

> "We were able to win a close game, which will help us with our regional ranking."
>
> **Whitney Hamilton**
> Sophomore

The men's tennis team encountered its first blemish of the season this weekend in Topeka, Kan., with a 5-3 setback against Winona State.

The No. 1 doubles team of senior Tyler Wood and junior Ryan Cope captured one of the three Bulldog victories in the match. Cope also won his singles match against Winona State.

Junior Ryan Cope said the team did all right this past weekend.

"We lost a match 5-3 that we should have won," he said. "Our No. 3 doubles team had a couple of good wins."

Kendall said he would have liked to win against Winona State.

"It's obviously disappointing," he said. "I still think we are in good shape. We play them again, so we'll get another shot to turn that around. We had that 5-4 win against Metro State. The Winona men's team has certainly improved over last year."

The Bulldogs also outlasted Metro State 5-4. The 'Dogs won four out of the six singles matches, and the freshman doubles team of Devin Williams and Mark Marifian won their match to seal the Bulldog victory. The men's team also defeated Colorado State-Pueblo 8-1, the only setback going to senior Tyler Wood.

Both teams are off until March 22 when they have their spring home opener against the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Cope said the match against UMSL is one of the important matches of the year.

"They are a team that has pretty much the same ability as us," he said. "It's a match we need to win to stay decent in our region."

Hamilton said she is looking forward to seeing how the rest of the season plays out.

"We are going to have some tough conference matches," she said. "But I'll think we'll have a pretty good season."

Chris Waller/Index
Senior Brad Martin returns a serve in a practice match earlier this season. The men's team went 2-1 during its weekend matches.

SPORTS | In Brief

NCAA announces region tournament schedules

The Div. II men's and women's basketball tournament brackets were released Sunday night. The men's bracket, consisting of 64 teams in eight regions, includes four MIAA teams in the South Central Regional, three from the Lone Star Conference and one from the Heartland. Southwest Baptist University will host the tournament.

The Bulldogs will play No. 3 seed and conference rival Central Missouri State University at noon Saturday in Bolivar, Mo. The 2:30 p.m. matchup will be No. 2 seed Tarleton State (Texas) and No. 7 Central Oklahoma. No. 4 seed Northwest Missouri State kicks off the night games when it takes on West Texas A&M at 6 p.m. No. 1 seed, host university SBU plays St. Edwards (Texas) at 8:30 p.m.

On the women's side, No. 1 seed Washburn University, who knocked the Bulldog women out of the conference tournament, is the favorite to win it all. The Lady Blues enter the tournament on a 49-game win streak that ties the Div. II record.

Women's frisbee kicks off season in Louisiana

The TSUnami ultimate frisbee team kicked off its 2006 season at the Mardi Gras tournament in Baton Rouge. The women's squad finished in a tie for fifth place out of 28 teams in attendance.

In its next action, the team competed at a tournament at Missouri State University, where they finished second out of eight schools. The team next plays at the Huck Finn tournament March 25 to 26 in St. Louis..

Women's basketball ends season with loss to Washburn

John Scognamiglio
Staff Reporter

If the Bulldogs were going to pull an upset, they needed to stop Jennifer Harris.

Last Thursday, the women's basketball team fell to No. 1 Washburn University in the quarterfinals of the MIAA Postseason tournament 63-36, as Harris, the MIAA MVP, finished with 15 points. The 'Dogs finished the year 12-16, the most wins since 2001-02, when they had with 14 wins.

Freshman forward Georgia Mueller said the team was disappointed following the loss to Washburn.

"It never occurred to us that we wouldn't win the game," she said.

Freshman forward Jennifer Franklin said the experience of going to Kansas City will help the team in the future.

"The best part was the experience of going," she said. "We won't be as surprised when we go next year."

The team was unable to capitalize on Washburn's lack of offense for most of the day. A three-pointer by junior forward Natalie Schupbach cut the Lady Blues' lead to three with almost 14 and a half minutes to play in the first half, but that's the closest the purple and white got all day. The Lady Blues outscored the 'Dogs 34-15 the rest of the way to take a 22-point lead at halftime.

The second half was downright frigid at the Municipal Auditorium as both teams struggled to find an offensive rhythm. The Bulldog defense held Washburn to only eight field goals made in the half, but the offense was only able to connect on four shots of its own as Washburn cruised its way into the semifinals.

Mueller and Franklin combined to score 20 of the 'Dogs' 36 points in the contest. In fact, only five players scored in the contest. Sophomore guard Candace McGee added one more three-pointer to her season output, giving her 75 on the year, one behind Susan Theroff's school-record 76 in 1989-90.

Overall, McGee has sunk 105 three-pointers, which puts her fifth all-time on career three-pointers made with two seasons to go to add to her record.

Thursday's game saw the end of the career of guard Ali Long. Long, the lone senior, has been a longtime starter for the Bulldogs.

Long had the two biggest games of her career this year, the last one coming in the victory against Southwest Baptist University that got the Bulldogs to Kansas City. She ended her season scoring 5.1 points per game and averaging more than 29 minutes per game.

Franklin said Long will be missed by her teammates.

"We are all going to miss Ali [Long] a lot," she said. "She was a great captain, and she did the little things to help us out."

Now that the season is finished, many of the Bulldogs have some off-season goals they wish to accomplish.

Mueller said one of her goals is to learn how to be more physical.

"I have played this year with an upper-level ability," she said. "I need to get a little stronger underneath, maybe learn to step out more and shoot, and get better on defense. I just hope to make myself more well rounded."

Franklin said she is will work exceptionally hard in the offseason.

"We're fortunate to have had the year we've had, because now we can expand on our goals for next year," she said. "We will improve our defense and hopefully that will bump up our standing in the conference."

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Wednesday
Carved Roast Beef $2.75/$4.05
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Thursday
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