

# Baseball finishes road series 1-2

**Baseball team is 3-6 overall, walks hurt team against Mo. Western**

**John Weeks**  
Staff Reporter

So far, the offense has been there for the baseball team. Unfortunately for them, hitting isn't what wins games, or at least not all of them.

Two days after four pitchers held Westminster College (Mo.) to only two runs in Sunday's 3-2 win, the pitching staff could have been labeled as wild Tuesday afternoon. It was the Bulldogs' first conference game, and poor pitching led to a 10-8 loss against Missouri Western State University.

Head coach Lawrence Scully said that any time a team scores eight runs in a conference game, it should win.

"[Senior] Denny [Foster] just didn't have very good control," Scully said. "Five walks, three hit by pitches. Basically what you're doing is, a batter comes to the plate, and you say, 'Hey, just go to first base.' That's basically what it is, and he did it eight times. ... [Altogether] we had 12 Missouri Western runners who were allowed to go to first base."

Sophomore catcher Matt Over threw out three runners in the game and jacked an 0-1 change-up for a three-run homer in the fifth to cut the lead to 10-8, but no more 'Dogs would cross home plate.

Over said the team should be prepared to play every game, but it is not rolling on all cylinders.

"I think we've given ourselves every chance in the off-season in all of our preparations to be ready," Over said. "We're just misfiring a little bit. We just need to execute a little more cleanly, and we'll be there."

Sophomore starting pitcher AJ Barton said he thinks it'll take some time before the pitching staff finds its groove.

"Well, the pitching is there," Barton said. "It's just like last year. It just takes a little time to get in the swing of things, get the arms at full



Senior outfielder Josh Rubin lines a ball in practice earlier this season. Rubin has started all nine games for the 'Dogs and has a .313 batting average. He leads the team with two triples.

Chris Waller/Index

strength. You know, just a couple more bullpens, a couple more starts, and I think we'll be there."

Five of the team's six losses have been by three runs or fewer. Senior

designated hitter and pitcher Randy Beilsmith, who hit a two-run homer in the loss to Missouri Western, said the 'Dogs have struggled to have a solid game all around.

"It's kind of been our problem," Beilsmith said. "With most of these games we've kind of had one thing working. Today the pitching was not as good as it

should have been early on, as well as the defense, but it's definitely nice to get the hitting going."

At 3-6, the 'Dogs both score and allow an average of nearly six runs

per game. Truman and its opponents have scored 53 runs on the year.

The purple and white look to have better control on the mound today as they play Central Methodist University (Mo.), weather permitting. Last week they lost 9-8 and 10-9 to the Eagles.

Over said the team needs to take Scully's advice.

"Scully always uses the phrase: 'If you get beat in a close game, it's like getting punched in the face. You can either turn your back and run, or you can come back and hit them right back,'" Over said.

Beilsmith said the pitching staff has something to prove against Central Methodist.

"I think it's going to be a big test of whether our pitchers can go out and shut them down in the early innings, like the last time we played them," he said. "... So I think it's going to be getting ahead of them like we've been doing and just shutting them down pitching-wise and not making any mistakes defensively."

The 'Dogs also play a rescheduled conference game tomorrow at noon against Missouri Western, and next week the team packs up for its spring break trip to Joplin, Mo.

Barton said he'd like to see everyone mentally prepared from here on out.

"We are in the hardest conference in Div. II ...," Barton said. "I would like to see us going out there every day and give 100 percent and not, you know, taking a day off. Just going out there ready to win and improving game after game."

Scully said that even though the pitching isn't where he'd like it to be, the hitting has made him smile lately.

"It's good not just talent-wise, but our kids can make adjustments," Scully said. "That's what's good about our hitting. It's not just that we have four or five guys hitting over .300, it's that we have a group of young guys that understand what adjustments need to be made."

# Four wrestlers prepare for upcoming national tourney

**All four wrestlers have shot at national title, Coach Schutter says**

**Josh Sisson**  
Staff Reporter

It's the last chance for three senior wrestlers and the first chance for one freshman.

Seniors Dustin Teeman and Gregg Nurrenbern look to improve on previous national finishes when they travel to Findlay, Ohio for the 2006 NCAA Div. II championship tournament. Teeman placed sixth last year at the 157-pound weight class, and Nurrenbern finished seventh two years ago.

Meanwhile, senior 125-pounder Allen Stokes and freshman 165-pounder Blake Peterson will get their first tastes of nationals Friday and Saturday.

The wrestlers took different roads to the national tournament. Stokes and Teeman both qualified by placing fourth at the South Central Regional. Peterson and Nurrenbern won the regional championships in their respective weight classes.

Although their journeys to the tournament were unique, the wrestlers' goals are the same now that they have reached their

destination.

"We expect everyone to do the best they can there," Teeman said. "We could end up with four national champions, so that's what we're going in expecting."

Head wrestling coach Dave Schutter said he knows his wrestlers can't take anything for granted, though.

"When you look at it year after year, there are few champions or returning champions who win the tournament," Schutter said. "Basically, it's a whole new season, a two-day tournament, and it's a matter of who's ready those two days."

Stokes won't take anything for granted. He needed an overtime win and some good fortune to stave off elimination and make the true fourth match at regionals.

"I guess, in a way, I really didn't realize how much I wanted to be there until I really felt that I wasn't going to be there," Stokes said. "It's a very big deal to me and my family, and I'm really pumped up about the opportunity."

Schutter said he expects Stokes' experience in must-win matches at regionals to pay off on the national stage.

"I think it's definitely go-

ing to help him that he was in such a high-pressure situation," Schutter said. "At nationals he's going to be a little more loose, able to open it up. Stokes is on the upswing, too. The last two or three weeks before regionals he was kind of on the low end of it, but he's stepped it up a little bit, and I definitely think he can do well at nationals."

Stokes will take on Cody Garcia of the University of Nebraska-Omaha tomorrow in the first round. Garcia is the second-ranked wrestler in the country at 125 pounds.

Stokes said he doesn't need a national rank to feel confident about his chances.

"It's obvious no one's really looking at me," Stokes said. "... Most people don't expect me to give [Garcia] a match, but I really don't care. It doesn't really matter who believes in me. It's a matter of, if you believe in yourself, and I know that on my best day nobody at 125 pounds can beat me. Hopefully, I'll have two

of those days in a row."

Teeman knows what it takes to win a national title. He won the NAIA championship as a freshman at Lindenwood Uni-

versity before transferring to Truman. This also will be his second consecutive nationals appearance. Teeman thinks his experience is beneficial.

"It calms your nerves a little bit, going in there and kind of knowing what to expect," Teeman said. "You're not surprised by anything, so in that aspect it helps you. Overall though, it's just got to be your day."

**Dustin Teeman**  
Senior

Teeman's first-round match is against Will Tedder of Mercyhurst College (Penn.), the No. 7 wrestler at 157. Teeman has a strong track record against ranked opponents, though. Just two weeks ago he eliminated last year's runner-up,

Angelo Vettesse of Findlay.

In the past, Teeman has defeated Mathias Bitz of the University of Minnesota-Mankato, who currently is ranked third.

Schutter said he likes Teeman's chances this year.

"If I was putting odds on someone to win the national tournament, I'd put some odds on [Teeman]," Schutter said. "He's got a lot of potential, he's got a lot of experience, and this is his last go-around. He's definitely someone you'd think could get it done."

Nurrenbern enters the national tournament as the top-ranked wrestler at 184 pounds.

He said he isn't the same wrestler he was when he finished seventh two years ago.

"I definitely feel like I've improved in almost every area," Nurrenbern said. "I'm feeling very confident in myself right now, and I'm ready to go out there and show Div. II."

Schutter said the No. 1 ranking means nothing at the national tournament.

"There's 15 guys that have a chance to beat Gregg," Schutter said. "There's no doubt about that. It's any given day. If Gregg goes out and wrestles his style and wins matches, he could win the national tournament, but if

he has one bad match, it could be over."

For the second straight year Truman is sending a redshirt freshman to nationals. Peterson is ranked third at the 165-pound weight class.

Peterson's first match will be against Evan Copeland of Adams State College (Colo.), who placed third in the nation last season.

Peterson said he thinks his style will give him the advantage against Copeland and any other opponents who are unfamiliar with his dominance from the top.

Schutter said every wrestler at nationals has his own style, and it's just a matter of how those styles match up on the mat.

Peterson's outlook is no different from that of the seniors despite his youth.

"I need to look at it like Gregg's looking at this year," Peterson said. "It's his very last chance to win a national title, and this is my very last chance to be a four-time national champion. That mentality's the kind of mentality you have to have going into it."

The national tournament is this Friday and Saturday at Findlay University.

Want you all to think for yourself for a second...how many of you are affected by anxiety? How about depression? Compulsion? Or what about schizophrenia? While you may not have been affected by that last one, reports, such as sometimes one which is from Psychology Today show that these psychological problems are increasing. The trend is especially evident among college students. In fact, a study of 701 students surveyed at the Boston college showed significant depressive symptoms and at least half of them could qualify as having this major depression. Prozac, Zoloft, Paxil, Celexa, and others with many others are common while drugs used to treat mental issues. What are you going to do about today's mental health? Psychology is something in which I've studied for many years and feel is an important type of treatment. We must understand what causes mental illnesses and how psychologists examines them to help treat them. Want you all to think for yourself for a second...how many of you are affected by anxiety? How about depression? Compulsion? Or what about schizophrenia? While you may not have been affected by that last one, reports, such as sometimes one which is from Psychology Today show that these psychological problems are increasing. The trend is especially evident among college students. In fact, a study of 701 students surveyed at the Boston college showed significant depressive symptoms and at least half of them could qualify as having this major depression. Prozac, Zoloft, Paxil, Celexa, and others with many others are common while drugs used to treat mental issues. What are you going to do about today's mental health? Psychology is something in which I've studied for many years and feel is an important type of treatment. We must understand what causes mental illnesses and how psychologists examines them to help treat them.

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