



Basketball: 7:30 p.m.
Monday vs. Quincy (Ill.)



Basketball: 7:30 p.m.
tonight vs. Harris-Stowe (Mo.)
1:30 p.m. Thursday vs. Lincoln (Mo.)
7:30 p.m. Tuesday vs. Central Methodist (Mo.)

SPORTS



Taking Off
Both basketball teams dominate in home openers

SEE Page 19

Thursday, November 17, 2005

www.trumanindex.com

Page 17

Bulldogs played with heart in '05

Nobody talked. Nobody made a sound.

After playing 110 minutes of stalemate soccer against No. 4 ranked Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville last Saturday at SIUE's pitch, the Bulldogs lost a spot in the Elite Eight after falling 4-2 in a shootout.

And for the last time this autumn, the purple and white gathered their bags.



As fans looked on, senior forward Lars Pottgeisser gave a friend an emotional hug. Sophomore back Dan Gajewski slowly put on his sweats.

Seniors Sean Birrell and Marty Clayes sat on the bench, barely moving, unable to believe the season and their careers were over.

Starting junior goalie Nate Gibson was one of the first to leave to walk off the pitch, followed soon after by captain and starting senior back Jared Atwood.

"For 110 minutes we played our hearts out," Atwood said, emotion showing in his voice. "Those 28 guys are my brothers. I would die for them. They came out tonight and left their hearts on the field."

In front of 1,000 fans at SIUE's home pitch on a cold and windy Saturday night, the 'Dogs played one of the closest soccer matches in Div. II history.

The two teams were identical in many categories - each had 13 shots and three shots on goal - and a shootout had to decide the winner. SIUE won, but that shouldn't diminish what the purple and white accomplished this fall.

"I told them to be proud and to hold their heads high," Cochran

See NICHOLL, Page 21

Women could win nationals

I am a pessimist by nature.

I like to always think the worst. That way, if something doesn't turn out in my favor, I'm not as disappointed as I would be if I expected the best. And if the best does happen, I like to think of it as one of life's little gifts.



But this year, I'm going to branch out. I saw the women's volleyball

team dominate No. 13 Central Missouri State University 3-0 and read about the 3-1 victory against No. 8 Washburn University in the MIAA Tournament. I'm going to say it.

If the women keep on playing like they have been in the past week, if their momentum continues, I believe this year could end with a national crown.

Whew, that was really tough.

OK, I'm not pulling a Joe Namath. I'm not going to guarantee the Bulldogs are going to bring back hardware from the national tournament or even from Florence, Ala., the location of the South Central Regional. In college volleyball, so many things can go wrong. I know this firsthand. I was there when senior middle hitter Micaela Walter came down funny on her ankle and when junior opposite hitter Kelsey Wackerman was sick.

I'm just saying that if everything goes our way, we can win this year. Here are five things to look for during the postseason.

1. It's tournament time, baby!

Last Thursday night against the Jennies was the best I've seen Truman play this entire year.

The 'Dogs hit .354 in the final game - the season average is .256. The 'Dogs averaged about 26.7 digs per game - the season average

See HOUSTON, Page 21

Men fall to SIUE in Sweet 16

SIUE wins shootout 4-2 to advance to Div. II Elite Eight next weekend

Tyler Madsen
Staff Reporter

The whistle blew to signal that 110 minutes of game time had concluded.

The soccer players headed back to their benches gasping for breath and trying to prepare mentally

for what was to come. Fans who screamed and hollered at the officials, coaches and even each other only could stare in silence, their guts writhing with a nervousness that no amount of Tums could cure.

After watching two teams give everything they had for the past three months, the fate of both squads came down to one thing.

A shootout.

After playing to a scoreless tie during 90 minutes of regulation and 20 minutes of overtime, the

No. 4-ranked Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville men's soccer team was able to escape with a 4-2 advantage in penalty shots, securing a spot in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Div. II National Tournament. For the No. 11 Bulldogs, it meant the end of the line.

"It was a tough game that could have gone either way," junior midfielder Wes Frevert said. "We tried everything we could to get one in. It's been a great year, and this is just what happens sometimes."

The teams played an even match, battling a rocky field and extremely windy conditions. Both teams fired 13 shots, with three apiece coming on goal. SIUE used the wind to its advantage in the first half, garnering seven corner kicks to just one for the 'Dogs. In the second half, however, the purple and white played with the wind and put together strong scoring chances.

Unfortunately, SIUE sophomore goalkeeper Greg Crook was solid in the net, denying shots by Frevert and

senior forward Lars Pottgeisser.

After the scoreless overtime periods in which the 'Dogs outshot the Cougars 3-0, the teams each lined up a cast of five to take what might have been the biggest penalty shots of their lives.

Senior forward Martin Clayes scored to give the 'Dogs an early 1-0 advantage, but a quick reply by sophomore Cougar forward Ross Beveridge knotted the score. Senior back Jared Atwood converted the

See SOCCER, Page 21

MARCH TO THE TITLE



Middle hitters critical for a trip to Elite Eight

John Scognamiglio
Staff Reporter

Last season, senior middle hitters Micaela Walter and Tiffany Graham entered the MIAA postseason tournament as important catalysts in the Bulldog offensive machine.

They responded with thrilling performances as Walter had 30 kills and hit a team-high .396 in the MIAA tournament, propelling the 'Dogs to a MIAA Conference Tournament victory. Graham was a mark of metronomic consistency, hitting .363 throughout the playoffs. Coupled with the outside attack from senior outside hitter Jessica Sears and then-sophomores Sarah Shearman and Kelsey Wackerman, the purple and white enjoyed arguably the deepest offense in the country.

This season, the 'Dogs went through a recent rough patch where they lost three matches against potential playoff opponents. The offense consisted of Shearman, Wackerman and little else, as Walter and Graham had little-to-no playing time.

Recently, though, the 'Dogs have experienced a resurgence on the offensive front en route to capturing nine of their last 10 matches, including two against Central Missouri State University and Washburn University in the MIAA Conference Tournament. Graham had double-digit kills in both matches while Walter collected a team-leading 18 kills and .361 hitting percentage against then-No. 7 Washburn.

Freshman libero Whitney Boehler said Walter always has been a leader.

"[Walter] doesn't have to say anything," she said. "She just steps onto the floor and takes control."

Graham said Walter was big Saturday.

"She was so amazing," Graham said. "She really stepped up when the game was tight."

Head coach Jason Skoch said Walter has always been a good middle, but she played one of her best matches of the season Saturday.

"She started being very smart about where she hit the balls," he said. "She would tip a lot, then she would hit a lot, so the other team wouldn't know what to do."

Suddenly, the 'Dogs went from a team potentially dropping out of the top four in the South Central Region to a

See MARCH, Page 21

Volleyball wins MIAA conference tourney

John Scognamiglio
Staff Reporter

It appears the Bulldogs finally have caught their stride.

The women's volleyball team captured its third consecutive MIAA tournament championship with wins against two nationally ranked teams, both of whom the 'Dogs could face in the South Central Regional.

Thursday night, Truman welcomed the 13th-ranked Central Missouri State University Jennies to Pershing Arena. Just a month earlier, the 'Dogs fell in three games on the Jennies' home court. This time, the match meant a lot more than

just conference standings.

The Jennies opened up game one of the MIAA semifinal with a huge 10-2 run. However, the Bulldogs fought back, refusing to bow down to the Jennies. The purple and white chipped away and tied the score at 18 apiece. A seesaw battle then ensued as both teams tried to take control. The Truman squad went on to capture the game one victory 30-28.

Head coach Jason Skoch said the subs stepped up in the key game one win.

"The points that [CMSU] got were off of hitting errors," he said. "I didn't wait long. I put some subs in, and those subs took advantage."

The 'Dogs came out firing in game two and built up a 22-11 lead before CMSU attempted its comeback of the night. The Jennies got as close as 29-27, but the purple and white finished what they had started and obtained the game two victory.

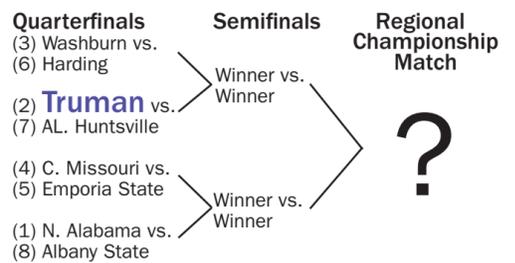
The Bulldogs put together a quality match as they out hit the Jennies .354 to -.052 in the decisive game. The squad built up an early lead of 14-2, causing Jennies' head coach Peggy Martin to burn her timeouts. The 'Dogs went on to win game three 30-12.

Junior opposite hitter Kelsey Wackerman, named MIAA MVP earlier in the day, picked up her

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 21

2005 NCAA South Central Regional Tournament

Nov. 17-19



Design by Lindsay Koski/Index