

WOMEN | 'Dogs rank last in the MIAA preseason poll

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School in Iowa and helped lead her team to a 22-3 mark last season. Franklin was an all-conference forward last season for Shawnee Mission East High School in Kansas.

Sloop said the most prepared of the three freshmen interior players is Mueller. Mueller was an all-state forward for Springfield (Ill.) High School.

She left her high school as the all-time leading scorer, and she averaged 20.2 points per game her senior season.

"Of the three, Georgia [Mueller] has probably adapted the quickest to the college game," he said. "She is also the most physically prepared coming in because of her strength."

So far this preseason, the Bulldogs have hosted two scrimmages. The first scrimmage was last Thursday against North Central Missouri College, while the second one was played Sunday against Illinois Central College.

Although no official scores or stats were kept, Sloop said he was pleasantly surprised with the way the 'Dogs played.

"We did a pretty good job of taking care of the ball," he said. "Illinois Central pressed us for 36 minutes on Sunday, and in a 48-minute scrimmage, we only had like 14 turnovers. Last year when we went over there, we had almost as twice as many."

Freshman guard Liz Dougherty said the hardest thing about college basketball is adapting to it.

"The [college] game is more physical and faster-paced," she said. "The style of play here is so different than from high school."

Fowler said the freshmen have had no trouble so far adapting to the Bulldog style of basketball.

"They are very talented and smart at basketball," she said.

The regular season tips off Tuesday, Nov. 15 with a game against Stephens College (Mo.). Five of the team's first six games at home.

The MIAA slate begins Saturday, Dec. 10 against Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

Last year, the 'Dogs finished 2-16 in the MIAA.



Chris Tharp/Index

Junior guard Jennifer Wriedt takes a shot during Tuesday's practice, as head coach John Sloop stands in the background. The women return two starters this season to a squad that went 9-18 last winter.

Women's Basketball

Key Returning Players

Yr./Pos.	Name	Key Stat
Sr. Guard	Ali Long	Team co-captain
Jr. Guard/Fwd.	Natalie Schubach	8.3 points/game
So. Guard	Candace McGee	5.7 points/game
So. Guard	Katie Fowler	39 assists

Men's Basketball

Key Returning Players

Yr./Pos.	Name	Key Stat
Jr. Forward	Andy Calmes	16.8 PPG, 11.7 RPG (last 10 games)
Sr. Guard	Chip Sodemann	12.7 PPG, 43.4 3FG%
Jr. Guard	Austin Kirby	12.3 PPG, 87.9FT%
Sr. Guard	Derek Lindsey	9.8 PPG, 49.0 FG%
Jr. Forward	Grant Agbo	8.3 PPG, 4.7 RPG

MEN | Bulldogs return all five starters and 93 percent of scoring to a squad that finished 8-19 overall and 4-14 in the MIAA conference

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Andy Calmes, a junior from Forsyth, Ill., returns after putting together a stellar second half last season. Calmes closed out the 2004-05 campaign strongly to raise his final averages to more than 12 points and nearly nine rebounds a game.

"I really lifted hard over the off-season, and I worked on my outside shot so that opposing coaches can't say that I'm just an inside player," Calmes said. "Hopefully now they'll have to come out more, which will free up more space underneath."

Who will join Calmes, at least at the start of the season, remains unsettled.

Junior forward Grant Agbo, who started 17 games last season, currently is sidelined with an injury, meaning junior Garret Grimm, who redshirted last year, will likely see a lot of minutes at the start. The 'Dogs also will look to seniors Gavin and Ryan Welker as well as walk-on redshirt freshman Ryan Robinson to help gather rebounds and put some additional points on the board.

Bulldog fans likely breathed a collective sigh of relief when they saw this year's non-conference schedule. Last year, the 'Dogs faced four teams that went on to make the Div. II national tournament. The team also took on Div. I member Illinois State University during

the non-conference slate of its schedule. This season's schedule, designed to give the 'Dogs a chance to win some games before entering MIAA play, might offer an easier road.

"This year's schedule is easier, but we still do have a solid schedule that will test us," Schrader said. "We typically play the toughest non-conference schedule in the conference, but I wouldn't say that this one is because we want to play some home games and get some momentum."

The team plays one conference game in mid-December before getting back to the rest of the conference schedule later in the month. Last season, Central Mis-

souri State University won the conference regular season title and the MIAA postseason tournament before bowing out in the first round of the national tournament.

Whereas last season the conference produced three or four very strong teams, this year's conference is harder to predict because of graduation and transfers.

Central Missouri State University, Southwest Baptist University and Pittsburg State University are the front-runners on paper, but no one really knows how the standings will end up.

"It's hard to tell until teams have played because you don't know who they've got or what they can do,"

Schrader said. "There's no doubt in my mind, though, that we can compete with anyone in the conference. It's just a matter as to how many times we can beat them."

Considering the combination of capable returning players, the close games that could have gone the 'Dogs' way last season, the parity of the conference and the new class of freshman talent, many fans anticipate a thrilling season of Bulldog basketball.

"We're looking forward to it because it's a last run for a lot of these guys," Sodemann said. "Our hopes are high, and things look optimistic, so we're ready to go."

SOCCER | Sean Birrell enjoys two goals and an assist as the Bulldogs go 1-0-1, Senior Day is noon Sunday against Western Illinois University

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by Novelly early in the second half, but Buccaneer freshman forward Rashaq Kuteyi scored in the 76th minute to give the host team a late lead.

With just 49 seconds remaining, Birrell scored again, his team-leading ninth goal of the season and sixth in the last five matches, off a pass from junior back Matt

McCarthy to tie the match and send the game to overtime.

Neither team struck gold in the sudden death periods, but both had their chances as a total of seven shots were attempted between the two teams.

The 'Dogs are now 15-3-1, up one spot to No. 11 in the nation, and will close out the regular season next weekend

at home against Div. I Western Illinois University.

Senior Day, possibly the last home game of the season, certainly will be busy and full of emotion as 10 players are listed as seniors on the Bulldog roster.

Then the waiting begins for the selection committee to release their choices for this year's tournament on Monday, Nov. 7.

"I'd just like to see a day clean of any cards," Cochran said. "It's tentatively the last home game, and we want to make sure that we're ready for the playoffs."

We just need to play a great first half, play clean and keep our mouths shut before we can make some changes during the game and get ready for the next week."

Great Lakes Region Nov. 1 Poll

School	Overall Record
1. SIUE	15-1-2
2. Truman	15-3-1
3. Rockhurst	13-4-1
4. Wisc.-Parkside	13-4-1
5. Quincy	11-4-4




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