



No events scheduled



No events scheduled

SPORTS



Falling short of the tape

Cross-Country teams fail to meet expectations at MIAA meet

See PAGE 16

Thursday, October 27, 2005

www.trumanindex.com

Page 15

NSCAA/Adidas®
Regional Ranks

2005 NCAA Div. II Men Great Lakes

- 1 S. Illinois U., Edwardsville
- 2 Truman State University
- 3 Rockhurst U. (Mo.)
- 4 U. of Wisconsin, Parkside
- 5 (tie) Ashland U. (Ohio)
- 5 (tie) Quincy U. (Ill.)

Soccer wins key games

Men knock off Rockhurst University (Mo.), move up to No. 12 in the nation

Tyler Madsen
Staff Reporter

It was an all-too-familiar situation for the Bulldogs.

Last season, the squad entered a match against Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville sitting just on the verge of the top three in the Great Lakes region and needing a win to give themselves a chance to make the postseason.

They lost 2-1.

This time around, again sitting on the

outside looking in, the team rose to the occasion and knocked off then-No. 11 Rockhurst University (Mo.) by a score of 1-0 in front of 350 eager Rockhurst fans. The win greatly improved the 'Dogs' chance to make the postseason as Rockhurst was ranked second in the region entering the match.

With the win, the 'Dogs jumped from fourth to second in the regional poll, announced by the NCAA on Tuesday afternoon.

Senior forward Sean Birrell tallied the only Bulldog goal in the 75th minute off an assist by senior midfielder Martin Claves.

"Our attack is very tough right now between Gaudreault, Sean [Birrell] and Lars [Pottgeisser] up front, and [Claves is] hav-

ing a great season in the new system we're in," head coach Duke Cochran said. "He can find the ball and do what he wants with it. Right now, our attack's very good, and our defense is shutting teams down."

Junior goalkeeper Nate Gibson and the defense pitched another shutout, as the last goal they allowed was Sept. 30 against Northern Kentucky University.

The rivalry between the 'Dogs and Rockhurst has escalated during the previous years, and that showed on the field Sunday as the teams combined for 46 fouls and five yellow cards.

The purple and white outshot the Hawks 8-4, with five of the Bulldogs' shots coming on goal, while only three shots were

See SOCCER, Page 19

Bulldogs primed for playoffs

After a 3-0 victory against Drury University (Mo.) and former head coach Alf Bilbao, things continue to look a lot brighter for the men's soccer team than they were earlier in the season.

It seemed like only yesterday the 'Dogs were walking off the field after being crushed by the top team in the region, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, 4-0. After the game, the team sat with two losses, both in the region

against other top-tier teams, realizing that nearly every match left was a must-win.

Barring a 1-0 loss at Northern Kentucky University, where the 'Dogs were called for more fouls, issued five more yellow cards and were

on the bad end of a questionable call that resulted in the one NKU goal, one could certainly argue the good guys have played amazing soccer since the matches in early September.

That amazing soccer might just have them playing in mid-November after all, just like everyone expected.

Before we get to how the playoff teams are determined, let's take a crash course regarding the NCAA Div. II and the playoff structure timetable.

Three teams from eight different regions are selected to participate in the playoffs Nov. 7. Those teams travel to the host site, typically the campus of the top team in the region. On either Thursday or Friday, the second- and third-ranked teams play with the winner advancing to play the top team during the weekend.

The Bulldogs are a member of the Great Lakes region, which encompasses teams from Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Many of those teams come from either the Great Lakes Valley Conference or the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletics Conference while others, such as the purple and white, are independent because the MIAA and some other conferences do not sponsor men's soccer.

Kevin White, assistant athletic director for communications and operations at Truman, is the head of the committee that determines the top three teams in the Great Lakes region.

"Regional games are the most important for a team when it comes to selection criteria, but we take a look at all the factors, both regional and non-regional, that go into the team's final record," White said. "It's a combination of who you've played, who you've beat and your regional record."

This past weekend provided a lot of shifting at the top of the polls. Coming into the weekend, SIU-Edwardsville, Rockhurst and Wisconsin-Parkside held the top three spots.

With just two weeks to go before the playoffs are set, the polls now show the top team in the nation, SIUE, still holding the top spot.

But Truman has moved up to second, 12th overall in the nation, with Rockhurst clinging to third and ranked 19th overall in the latest poll.

Both Rockhurst and Wisconsin-Parkside split their matches last weekend. However, Wisconsin-Parkside's loss came at Kentucky Wesleyan University, now 2-18 overall. Think of them as the Kansas City Royals of the Great Lakes Region, which equals a bad loss for the Rangers.

Because the 'Dogs are independent in men's soccer, their season continues as normal until the final Sunday of the season.

Meanwhile, SIUE, Rockhurst University (Mo.) and Wisconsin-Parkside are starting the GLVC tournament, meaning that whichever team is on the outside, currently Wisconsin-Parkside, gets one last chance to show that they belong.

This makes it harder for the selection committee to determine who should or should not make the playoffs.

"A team could conceivably play themselves into it, such as Wisconsin-Parkside, should they play all the way to the finals of the tournament," White said. "They could make a case for making the playoffs based on earlier wins, but there is no automatic bid into the playoffs for any conference tournament winner."

Regardless of the outcome of the tournament, the 'Dogs have shifted themselves into a much better spot. If they just keep playing great soccer and continue to compete, then "Selection Monday" should provide the campus with more great soccer in the next few weeks.



Photo Illustration by Chris Waller

Five women swimmers, signifying Truman's five consecutive national championships, spring off the blocks. Whether the sixth swimmer will leap forward remains to be seen. If the 'Dogs win the 2006 National title, they will break Oakland University (Mich.) record with six straight national championships.

Women's swimming springs for six titles

Women hope to set record, Men seek to improve upon last year's 10th place finish

Joseph Barker
Staff Reporter

Some things never change.

The leaves have fallen, the temperature has dropped and the women's swim team is again defending its National Championship.

Just like the year before, and the year before that, and every year since 2001, the women are again looking to add more hardware to the Pershing trophy case.

"They definitely have the talent to do it again," head coach Mark Gole said.

For the women to repeat their success, they will have to overcome some obstacles. Several key contributors to last season's squad, like the graduated trio of Diana Betsworth, Micaela Osborn and Sarah Dance, have left the program. Replacing the three national champions puts the team under more stress.

"I think there is a lot more pressure than in the past years," senior Whitney Jensen said. "We've lost a lot of good seniors, but I think we can definitely pull it out."

Change on the roster isn't the only change for the Bulldogs' swimming program. Last year's head coach and three-time CSCAA National Coach of the Year, Colleen Murphy, and her husband, assistant coach Joe Fanthorp, left the program last spring.

Gole, the former assistant coach at Wayne State University (Mich.) takes the helm along with new assistant coach Karyn Schachinger.

"I like Mark and Karyn a lot," sophomore Jon Strom said. "They seem like they really know what they are talking about and seem to get along pretty well with us as a team. I don't think we will miss a beat from Colleen and Joe. Seeing where we are at already, I think we are still on the same track."

After taking over a men's team that took 10th at nationals, including a five-time national champion, it would seem that Gole and Schachinger wouldn't change anything. Yet they have already changed how the 'Dogs are practicing by including more running and more stroke work than the past regime.

"I think that there have been a lot of

differences so far," Gole said. "Where I came from, my background at least, the training has been more challenging than these swimmers are used to. And they're adjusting to it slightly."

The new training methods already have been on display for the women. They began their quest for six championships in the Pershing Natatorium in a meet against Div. I University of Kansas. Competing against Div. I schools is not something new for the women.

"We swim a lot of Div. I teams, and they obviously don't want to lose to a Div. II team," Jensen said.

In the meet the 'Dogs fell 127-78 to the Jayhawks. However, the women did manage to win three of 11 events. Jensen took home first in the 50- and

See SWIMMING, Page 19

Pitt State tramples over Bulldogs' Homecoming

Gorillas run for 485 yards to demolish Truman 66-14 in its final home game

Josh Sisson
Staff Reporter

The Bulldogs only needed three plays to get the 7-0 jump on Pittsburg State University on Saturday.

The Gorillas, however, rattled off 52 points before the 'Dogs scored again. Pittsburg State rolled up nearly 700 yards of total offense as they poured on the Truman Homecoming parade, 66-14.

Head football coach Shannon Currier said blowouts are tough to handle, regardless of when they happen.

"I wouldn't say Homecoming made it worse," Currier said. "I hate for anybody to have to see that game, but losing's losing no matter what week it is. They all feel the same way. More so when you play poorly, and we played poorly on defense, especially. That's what hurts more than anything else."

Truman did make some plays defensively in the early going. After Pitt State running back Germaine Race galloped

70 yards to the Truman 15, the 'Dogs' defense tightened up and held the Gorillas to a field goal.

True freshman quarterback Michael Long threw an interception on the 'Dogs' next possession, giving the Gorillas a first down on the Truman 18-yard line.

Pitt State came away with nothing, however, as the 'Dogs held on downs. Junior linebacker Larry Giglio wrapped up Pitt State quarterback Andy Majors a yard shy of the first-down marker on fourth-and-two.

The Bulldog defense seemed to wear down, though, as the offense struggled to move the chains. After holding on the fourth-and-two, the offense went three plays and out. Pitt State only needed two Race running plays to capitalize on the short field. Race accumulated 305 yards rushing on 23 carries for the game.

The 'Dogs couldn't sustain their next drive either, and the Gorillas took over at their 20. They moved downfield easily until freshmen defensive tackle Andy Swedenhjelm and linebacker Kyle Glenn tackled Majors for losses on consecutive plays. On third-and-19, a fleet-footed Majors scrambled for

See FOOTBALL, Page 19



Chris Tharp/Index

Senior Jerard Levenson struggles to break free against a Pittsburg State defender. Levenson, along with all other seniors, played in his last home game.