

Women perfect on road

Men's and women's tennis teams destroy Westminster College

John Scognamiglio
Staff Reporter

For the first time this season, the Bulldog tennis teams had a dual match that wasn't postponed.

Tuesday the team traveled to Fulton, Mo. to take on Westminster College. The women's team was flawless on the afternoon, going 9-0 to obtain an easy victory.

Senior Becky Dinsick returned to form after a shaky Truman Invitational, capturing both her doubles match 8-0 and singles match by scores of 6-2, 6-0 against the Blue Jays.

The freshman combination of Lindsay Blair and Courtney Walther continued their triumphant ways as they won their doubles match and their respective singles matches.

Head coach Pete Kendall said he wasn't surprised at the results of the dual event.

"It was an easy match," he said. "You can't judge play when you're playing women that are obviously not nearly as good as our girls."

Senior Kristine Grajo said despite the team's lack of practice because of rainouts and the men's Truman invitational, they performed well.

"Because we didn't have practice, we pretty much used them as a hitting partner since they were a really weak team," she said.

The men's team, fresh off the Truman Invitational, also journeyed to Westminster and defeated the Blue Jays 8-1. Junior Ryan Cope defeated the Blue Jays in both his singles matches 6-1, 6-0 and doubles match 8-1.

Freshman Devin Williams won a doubles match with sophomore Cody Pusateri and a singles match.

The lone blemish was senior Tyler Wood, who lost his singles match in three games. After dropping the first set 0-6, Wood roared back to claim the

second set 6-3. The final set was evenly played, but Wood couldn't hold on and lost 10-8.

Wood said the match was a good opportunity for the men's team to see action against a great Div. III team.

"Everyone played well," he said. "It was just good to get a dual match in since Quincy was rained out. We got to see the complete package. It was one of those matches where everyone played the level of tennis that they should."

Last Friday and Saturday, the men's tennis team held its version of the Truman Invitational.

Cope was the top finisher for the 'Dogs in the four-team Invitational, going 5-1 to pick up a first-place finish in flights three and four. Pusateri also had a solid run, going 4-2 in flights seven and eight to garner a third-place finish.

The women's team is back in action this weekend as it travels to Maryville, Mo. for the ITA Regionals. With a full field of 64 convening on the campus of Northwest Missouri State University, Kendall said he doesn't know how the girls will fare in the open format.

"There will be plenty of good players," he said. "It always has a little bit to do with where you get in the draw."

Grajo said the women's team has a lot of respect for its opponents this weekend.

"The girls in our region are really good," she said. "We do have a really deep team this year. Teams that have to travel for long hours are probably going to be a little tired."

Wood said the men's team is disappointed that it will not play again until its own ITA Regionals, from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 at Washburn University.

"It hurt having Quincy rained out, and it hurt having practices till now," he said. "Freshman tryouts hurt the upperclassmen a little bit, but we have a good work ethic. We push ourselves and push each other, and all we can do is hope to do well and do our best at the ITA. In those games, we make it a lot easier on ourselves."



Chris Waller/Index

Senior Brad Martin prepares to hit a one-handed backhand during practice earlier this month. The men's squad traveled to Fulton, Mo. and beat Westminster College 8-1 on Tuesday.

SPORTS|In Brief

Faust captures MIAA Runner of the Week

For the second week in a row, junior Jacquie Faust won the MIAA Runner of the Week.

Faust recorded a 17:56 5k to finish 16th at the Southern Stampede in Joplin, Mo. Her performance was the best among all MIAA runners and the fourth-best among all Div. II runners.

Alumna Lauren White was the last Truman runner to win MIAA Runner of the Week. She earned the award Sept. 21 and Sept. 28 in 2004.

Wackerman spikes her way to MIAA Hitter of the Week

Junior Kelsey Wackerman was recently awarded the MIAA Hitter of the Week.

Wackerman averages 4.58 points, 7.58 assists and 2.83 digs per game in the past two games against ranked opponents.

Wackerman's two triple-doubles last weekend gives her six on the year, more than any other player in Div. II.

Baseball has first ever Alumni Game

Saturday the Truman baseball team will play some of its former members in the First Annual Alumni Baseball Game.

The squads will play one 9-inning game at 11:30 a.m. at the Truman baseball field. The cost for the event is \$50 per alumnus in an effort to fundraise for Truman's baseball program.

Men's golf takes fourth at Bulldog Classic

Sophomore Michael Spaulding and freshman Andrew Clatterback finished tied for 9th in the Bulldog's 4th place finish at the Kirksville Country Club Wednesday.

Missouri Western won the tournament with a final team score of 571. The 'Dogs' 596 tied them with Central Missouri and barely edged out Missouri Southern.

Faust finishes 16th in Stampede

Lauren Jackson
for the Index

Last week, junior Jacquie Faust was the MIAA Runner of the Week after posting a time of 18:11 at the Bradley Open. This week, Faust led the Bulldogs with a time of 17:56 at the Southern Stampede, again winning the MIAA Runner of the Week. Faust's performance kick-started a sixth place finish for the Bulldogs.

The women's cross country team traveled to Joplin, Mo. to compete against 34 other teams at Missouri Southern's Southern Stampede. The men's cross-country team traveled to Lincoln, Neb. to compete against 29 other teams at the Woody Greeno/Nebraska Invitational.

"Actually, we did OK," women's head coach John Cochrane said. "The teams that beat us probably should beat us."

Faust was the first to cross the line for Truman in 16th place overall, followed by freshman Dana Kelly in 37th place with a time of 18:39, junior Meg Robertson in 56th, sophomore Grace

DeNero in 70th and senior Sarah Armstrong in 77th overall.

Although it placed 6th at the meet on Saturday, the women's team sees where it needs to show improvement.

"We wanted runners one through five to be a little closer," Robertson said. "We kind of want to run more as a team and a pack instead of getting spread out."

However, it was evident to Armstrong that they had already improved in some areas.

"We achieved our goal, which was to beat all our teams in the conference," Armstrong said. "But we didn't do it with very much authority, so we know we have a lot more to work on."

Cochrane said that although it is nice to beat another team at a regular-season meet, it doesn't mean anything in the long run. But in sports like football and soccer, where every game counts, in cross country, it comes down to the conference.

"Nothing really carries over to the next time you beat them," he said.

Senior Eli Klimek led the men's

team, placing 30th overall with a time of 26:30, followed by senior Aaron Wells in 34th at 26:42, junior Dan Wilhite in 58th, sophomore Bryant England in 98th, and junior Steve Porath coming in 111th overall.

However, apparently one runner, junior Jason Simpson, who would have been the third Truman runner over the finish line, was left out because of a glitch in the chip timing, which is used to time each runner as they cross the finish line. It's as if he never ran the race at all.

If it weren't for the glitch, Truman might have been able to place higher in the standings.

"He was bummed," England said. "He ran a really good race, too. But it didn't bother him too much. He knew he ran a good time."

Besides competing at regular-season meets, the team also practices with one hard day, then one easy day. This helps the team recover from the training without hurting its bodies.

"You have to do that," Cochrane said. "Otherwise you destroy everybody."

Armstrong agreed.

"Especially with female athletes, it's very easy to get injured by over-training," he said. "It's important to go out there and listen to your body and take care of yourself."

England said he can relate to what Armstrong said.

"I had patellar tendonitis all summer and all fall so far," he said. "Because of that, I am only able to run once a day."

Even though injuries can cause runners to miss a race or two, England said it's still important that a person has goals going in to a race or practice.

"You have to have goals for both short term and for long term," England said. "And you have to really focus on meeting your short term goals, but always have in the back of your mind what you want to get in the long term."

And both teams will hope to be at full strength for their upcoming meets. The men's team will compete at the Notre Dame Invitational on Sept. 30, where it placed 17th last year. The women will be competing in the ESU Jock's Nitch Invitational in Emporia, Kan.



Chris Waller/Index

Members of the men's cross-country team stretch prior to beginning a workout during practice last week.



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