



Mike Snoderly/Index
Junior outside hitter Kelsey Wackerman delivers an attack Sept. 14 at home against Central Missouri State University.

Wackerman leads Bulldog offense

Junior paces No. 1 team and Div. II with six triple-doubles in 2005

Joseph Barker
Staff Reporter

Awards go to hot athletes much the same way a moth goes to a flame, and there is no hotter athlete at the University than junior outside hitter Kelsey Wackerman.

Coming off a week in which she had an unprecedented three triple-doubles, Wackerman has been named the MIAA Conference Player of the Week and Index Athlete of the Week.

"It's a nice reward, and it's really exciting," Wackerman said. "[The conference award] is a big honor considering there are so many good girls in our conference."

Wackerman's hot week started off at home Sept. 14 against Central Missouri State University.

She recorded 21 kills, 31 assists and 10 digs for a triple-double.

In the team's next game at Emporia State University (Kan.), she had 14 kills, 26 assists and

14 doubles. She continued her streak against Washburn University (Kan.) giving her three triple-doubles in three matches.

"It's tough to have a great game, every game," head coach Jason Skoch said. "Against CMSU she was incredible, and I was worried she would have a lull either against Emporia or Washburn and one of the other girls would have to step up, but she was able to sustain that energy."

"She has been doing this consistently the entire year... I think she can keep it up."

Jason Skoch
Head Volleyball Coach

With her three triple-doubles from last week, Wackerman now has a total of six for the year.

That number leads not only the team, the MIAA and the NCAA Div. II, but also the entire nation.

No one in collegiate volleyball has more triple-doubles than Wackerman.

"I don't really play for stats, but it's nice to see that," Wackerman said. "I always have had high expectations of myself. It is exciting to be reaching my goals."

Wackerman said she credits

simple practice for her success. She doesn't do anything drastic like changing her diet or wearing lucky shoes.

"She has just been listening and paying attention, and she's catching on quicker than some of the other players," Skoch said. "The other girls like Sarah [Shearman] and Micaela [Walter] have reputations, and the other blockers cheat that way. But now, that they are focusing on [Wackerman], she has had enough time to adapt and be better prepared."

While all the individual statistics are nice, Wackerman said she knows she would be nowhere without her teammates.

"I think that our team is just playing really well, and that just helps me look better as a setter, which helps get assists," she said. "And, my setters have just done an excellent job of feeding me the ball."

Usually when a player goes on a run like this, it is common to wonder when the hot streak will end.

But Skoch doesn't see any sign of Wackerman's hot play slipping as the season wears on.

"She has been able to do this for not only one whole week, but four matches in a row, and she has been doing it consistently all year," Skoch said. "I think she can keep this up."

Athlete of the Week

Kelsey Wackerman

Sport: Volleyball
Year: Junior
Position: Outside Hitter
Hometown: Camdenton, Mo.

Wackerman notched two straight kill-assist-dig triple-doubles last weekend against MIAA rivals Emporia State University and Washburn University en route to MIAA Hitter of the Week honors. It was the first time she has won the award in her career.

On the campaign, she is second on the No. 1 team in kills and assists.

RUGBY'S

OPENING

Women

Kansas
26-7 L
Benedictine
41-5 W

WEEKEND RESULTS

MEN

Mizzou
28-14 L

Designed by Mark Hylton/Index

Men and women's rugby open 2005 fall season on the road

Women wind up 1-1, men fall 28-14 against University of Missouri

Billy Drazen
Staff Reporter

Freshman Patricia Hobson couldn't believe it happened. She had just scored the first try of her collegiate career last weekend.

"It was pretty intense," she said. "I didn't think that I would get a try out of it. I got the ball in a good position to make a move, and I maneuvered around a couple of women and somehow was able to score."

Hobson was one of several players to score for the Bullets' rugby squad. Senior Jamie Mucho enjoyed

a hat-trick and sophomore Libby Hicks and seniors Krista Kastler and Michaela Levy all added tries in the Bullets' 41-5 victory against Benedictine College (Kan.).

The previous day, the Bullets dropped their first match of the 2005 fall campaign, 26-7, to a makeshift University of Kansas team composed of club team players and alumni.

In this contest, the women from Kirksville encountered a rocky start. During pregame, Kansas informed junior head coach/player Natalie Gerhart that they would not be able to host the three-game event in Lawrence because they did not have a field to play on or refs to officiate the game. At the last second, Benedictine agreed to host the tournament and the three-match tourna-

ment played out.

The next test for the Bullets comes this Saturday at Des Moines. The team will be without leaders Gerhart, Kastler, Hicks, and freshman Mary Stalker, whom the Heart of America U-23 All-Stars selected to their team this week.

The Heart of America Rugby Football Union chooses a select few members to play on their team. The four members from the Bullets will go to Norman, Okla. to play instead.

"We look at it as an opportunity for our girls to go and gain some knowledge from other coaches who have been around the game longer and know more about it than Krista or I," Gerhart said. "We definitely encourage our girls to take advantage of that opportunity if they are able to

go play with the national team."

On the other hand, the Bulls rugby team had to swallow a tough loss to the University of Missouri Tigers on Sept. 17, falling 28-14.

Bulls head coach Bill Sexton said he wasn't pleased with the officiating in the game. It was not a league game and the referee was from the Columbia area. Despite the poor officiating, Sexton said he still thought his team did not play up to its potential.

"The defensive breakdowns hurt us," Sexton said. "But our fitness is one thing I noticed in the first game. We were not as fit. We also graduated a lot of seniors and some of our older guys didn't come back."

Mizzou already had played five matches including a third place fin-

ish at the Royals' Tournament in St. Louis the week before. In spite of it all, Sexton said the Tigers' program is progressively getting better. He wasn't shocked by the Tigers' strong performance.

The next contest for the men's rugby team is Saturday in Lincoln, against the University of Nebraska. There are many things the team must work on, but senior Sean Foley did not see his team collapse. He thought there were individual plays that did not get made because of bad mechanics.

"We need to work on a lot of technical aspects of the game," Foley said. "We were weak going into the tackle. Tackles are half mindset, half technique. We have to work on our technique."

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