

# Bulls conquer Nebraska

**Elizabeth Sandhu**  
for the Index

The Bulls rugby victory in the team's second match of the year proved that it has what it takes to command the season.

After losing 28-14 to University of Missouri-Columbia on Sept. 17 in a non league match, coach Bill Sexton said the Bulls stepped up their training and commitment level to defeat the University of Nebraska 39-12 in their first league match of the campaign Sept. 24.

The team's outstanding performance during the first part of the game caused Nebraska to temporarily give up, junior forward Tony Giubardo said. The score at the end of the first half was 27-0, but Nebraska picked up the pace and tied Truman, both earning 12 points apiece in the second half.

Junior fullback Tim Branch said he attributes part of the team's success to increased physical conditioning. He said that after the Mizzou game, they devoted time after their practices to getting in better shape.

"Fatigue makes cowards of us all, and when players get tired, it's hard to make that extra effort," Sexton said.

In addition to conditioning, Sexton said the team had to focus on how to react to the tackle and retain possession of the ball.

Senior Tom Tajkowski said the dedication in the practices prior to the game paid off when the Bulls faced Nebraska and played more like a team than they had at Mizzou.

Although Nebraska had some good athletes and several larger players, the team did not work well together and seemed unorganized, Giubardo said. The Nebraska team had trouble making tackles, making it easier for the Bulls' runners to break through.

"Against Nebraska, we dictated the pace of the game," Giubardo said.

Sexton named Giubardo man of the match after he scored two tries in a six-minute period. He notched the second and third tries of the match, which put the Bulls firmly ahead.

"As a center, he was devastating," Sexton said. "He broke through for a couple outstanding tries in the latter part of the first half."

Freshman outside center William Holleman and freshman wing Dustin Ralph also contributed to the Bulls' win, both scoring their first collegiate tries.

Sexton said he was very pleased with the level of performance from the new members of the team.

Ralph and Holleman, as well as freshmen Mike Fitzgerald and Peter Swingle, came to the team with prior rugby experience and have already become integral players, Sexton said.

Sexton said two players with no prior rugby experience who stood out in the game were junior lock Tom Jayne and freshman hooker Justin Lacy.

"What's interesting is you've got five or six of the experienced guys, and you surround them with members who are new to the team as well as guys who are new to the game, and you get an enormous performance from all of them," Sexton said.

Experience is also something the Bullets women's rugby team put under their belt after losing 5-0 to Des Moines, Iowa's club team Sept. 24.

The players put their hearts

into the game and played well despite difficult circumstances, senior forward Michaela Levy said. Not only were they missing four key team members selected to play that day in the Heart of America Rugby Football Union game, but some of their other teammates also were absent.

With only 12 women able to attend the game, the team had to borrow three players with little prior experience from the Des Moines team to have the required 15 players.

The three Des Moines women were not the only ones new to the game. Freshman Ashley Goss, one of the three new Bullets members in Saturday's game, had never played a match before Sept. 24. Goss, who had several tackles in the match, said learning was her

main goal that day.

"I was surprised how much my first tackle hurt, but after that I was able to really get in the game and have a lot of fun," Goss said.

Senior flyhalf Stephanie Dettmer said she was pleased with the team's progress and the players' communication with each other greatly improved, as did their tackles and hits. She commended the new players' ability to be thrown into the game and learn quickly. Dettmer said there were some excellent plays, and the team came close to scoring on several occasions before running out of time.

"It would have been nice to win, but I think we tried really hard and held them off for a long time," Dettmer said.

**"Fatigue makes cowards of us all, and when players get tired, it's hard to make that extra effort."**

**Bill Sexton**  
Bulls Head Coach



Members of the Bulls rugby club practice a catching drill last spring. Head coach Bill Sexton said the experienced players are improving the performance of the rookies.



File Photo

Senior Becky Dinsick hits a backhand during practice her sophomore year. As a junior last year, Dinsick missed the entire season due to an injury.

## Dinsick comes back to squad with bang

**Billy Drazen**  
Staff Reporter

After her serve, she heard a pop in her arm as it dropped to her side.

That is how senior Becky Dinsick described the injury that forced her to undergo Tommy John surgery on her elbow last fall. She redshirted last year, and the team missed her.

"We lost a lot of close matches last year," head coach Pete Kendall said. "If you look at the record, there were a lot of 5-4 matches. We would have had a much better chance to win those, more than likely, had she been in the lineup."

Dinsick is back this year and made her presence known last weekend at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regional at Maryville, Mo. She played her way into the quarterfinals in a field of 64 singles players. Going into the tournament, Dinsick said she did not think she would make it that far.

"I have not been playing well since the start of the season," Dinsick said. "I took 12 months off after the surgery. I had been feeling awkward and nothing felt right on the court. I went into [the tournament] just trying not to embarrass myself. Then when I got there, everything started to click."

Dinsick rolled in her first match, winning 6-1, 6-2. She fought hard in the sec-

ond round to pull it out 7-5, 6-4. In round three, Dinsick played what she said was her best match of the tournament against Hannah Lazenby from Rockhurst University. She lost the first set 5-7 and won the second 7-5. The match came down to a super tiebreaker.

Dinsick said she was on a roll and confident that she would take the match. She won easily, defeating Lazenby 10-5 in the tiebreaker.

Dinsick's run finally ended when she faced Northwest Missouri State University's Carolina Amaral and lost 6-1, 6-2. Dinsick said she knew how good Amaral was, and she was not expecting to win. She said she just wanted to give it her all out on the court. Her coach recognized her top-eight finish in the tournament.

"Ninety percent of the top players, maybe even 95 percent of the top players in this region were at the tournament," Kendall said. "So, to get into the final eight, that is pretty good."

Outside of tennis, Dinsick is both an exercise science and psychology major, concentrating on sports psychology. She also is minoring in Spanish. After graduation, Dinsick plans to go to Chicago to get her master's in exercise science.

Dinsick said she will be here for a fifth year, and because she redshirted in 2004, she still will be able to play for the Bulldogs tennis team in her fifth year.

### Athlete of the Week



**Becky Dinsick**

Sport: Tennis

Year: Senior

Hometown: Plainfield, Ill.

Dinsick, after sitting out last season with an elbow injury, made it all the way to the quarterfinals of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regional at Maryville, Mo.

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