



Men's Tennis: Sept. 15 and 16 Truman Invitational
Football: 12 p.m. Saturday Sept. 16 vs. Northwest Missouri State
Men's Soccer: 2 p.m. Sunday Sept. 17 vs. Newman



Volleyball: 7 p.m. Friday Sept. 15 vs. Southwest Baptist
5 p.m. Saturday Sept. 17 vs. Quincy

SPORTS

Bell Game Bonanza

Historic high school rivalry continued Friday night

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Thursday, September 14, 2006

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Helms wins first tournament of career

Victory over Bearcats will change season

Ben Yarnell
Staff Reporter

Jesse Helms suffered a rare two-stroke penalty. Still, a string of birdies helped the senior collect the first win of his career.

Helms fired a three-under-par 139 in the 36-hole tournament, helping the team capture first place at the Quincy University Invitational on Monday and Tuesday.

The team, which shot a one-

under-par 283, defeated runner-up Rockhurst University by 13 shots. The win was the team's first since the Central Fall Invite in 2003.

Helms' individual victory was the first since Austin George tied for first at the Central Missouri State Invite in spring 2004.

Helms said the win, both for the team and for him, felt good.

"It makes me feel like the hard work I put into my game and changes I made have actually paid off," Helms said.

Helms, though, encountered an early problem on the first day. Because of a slight mix-up, Helms' playing partner from Lindenwood University hit Helms' ball, and Helms hit his partner's ball, resulting in a two-stroke penalty for both golfers.

"I really should have probably put up a 68 or 67 [for the first day]," Helms said. "I didn't let the tournament get away from me then, which would have been easy to do."

Still, Helms helped by a birdie on the 13th hole, finished with a 70, two shots back of the leader after day one.

The score broke his personal record of 71 he set at the CMSU Open in 2005.

However, the mark was short-lived after he fired a 69 on day two. The 139 total marked his best 36-hole score by eight shots.

Co-coach Kevin White said Helms' win was not a surprise because he has been solid for the

team.

"When he's on the course, [Helms] just has this arrogance that he is going to get up and down from wherever, and that nothing is going to phase him," White said.

White said it wasn't just Helms' performance that won the tournament for Truman.

"There is unlimited potential for this team," White said. "They are a senior based team; they are expected to do this."

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Saturday yields a simple formula. The Hickory Stick rivalry game represents the most important contest of the Shannon Currier era.

It's simple — lose, and lose badly, and the program takes another step back.

The fans become even more disenchanted with the program and the team — a squad that enjoyed high-end predictions of 5-6 or 6-5 — is facing 0-5 with Central Missouri State University and Missouri Western State College for the next two Saturdays.

Lose against Northwest Missouri State University and the squad drops to 0-3, giving the Currier reign a meager four wins in 25 games. Even a close loss probably won't change the sentiment of many fans and football people who follow the MIAA.

"We need to win, and we are expecting to win," Currier said on Monday afternoon. "We are not going to be happy with anything but a win."

A close loss would mean the Bulldogs are staying competitive — a goal that should have been accomplished in 2004 at the latest.

A close loss also gives everyone the same, awful, pit-of-the-stomach feeling that men's basketball provided for a few years. Once Jack Schrader and Company started winning the close games, they spent nearly the entire year in the national rankings, reached the NCAA Tournament and brought 2,000-plus fans to Pershing Arena.

Football can enjoy the same result. They just need to do one thing: win Saturday.

"A win would be huge," Currier said. "It can create motivation, excitement and confidence that can snowball the rest of the year. Anytime you can beat a ranked team and win the Hickory Stick — that means a lot to the fans and to the entire Bulldog program."

Win — doesn't matter if it's 9-6 or 47-42 — and the program is revived. Everything changes.

A victory against archrival Northwest, the No. 2 team in the country and the same squad that fell about four yards short of a national title last fall, places the Bulldogs back on the map and at the head of the pack in the ultra-competitive MIAA.

A win against Northwest means a lot more than defeating ranked Winona State University in Week 1 of the 2005 year. A victory Saturday comes against the Bearcats, a team picked to win the MIAA championship in the preseason and a squad that has utterly dismantled its first two opponents. They're a team picked to compete for the national title.

And the Bulldogs can halt the Bearcats' run — and start one of their own Saturday. After all, like Albert Pujols competing for the MVP Award

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Connor Nicholl

Reddick swaps positions

Senior linebacker moves from defensive end after new scheme installed

Joe Barker
Assistant Sports Editor

Senior linebacker Darryl Reddick knows how to play defense.

Where he plays is the question. Recruited as a strong safety, Reddick was moved to linebacker during his red-shirt freshman year. Before his sophomore season he switched positions again, this time to the defensive end spot. Now, as a senior he has changed positions once more by moving back to linebacker.

"It just shows that he cares more about the team," junior defensive back James Thabateau said. "He's not just another guy out for his own benefit. He also benefits the other players."

Reddick has been the biggest beneficiary of the new 3-4 defense under first year defensive coordinator Josh Kotelnicki. In two games, he leads the team in total tackles, tackles for loss and sacks.

In both of those contests, head coach Shannon Currier dubbed him the defensive MVP.

"Right now he has been our best and most consistent defensive player this year," Currier said. "No one is more valuable than him at this time."

The Week 2 matchup against Winona State University (Minn.) arguably was Reddick's best game of the young season. In the Bulldogs 24-13 loss to the Warriors, Reddick had eight tackles — five solo — and two sacks. Four of his tackles went for losses totaling 30 yards.

"It's a pretty big deal moving them back," he said. "Sometimes a tackle for loss can get them out of field goal position, things of that nature. It helps out a lot."

Reddick made the switch to linebacker not because of poor play but because his body was more suited for the position.

"His strengths and his abilities fit the outside linebacker spot real well," Currier said. "We knew he was one of our best players, but we just didn't think we had him at the right position before."

Reddick is not new to the outside linebacker spot. He moved back to the position last season when the 'Dogs lined up in the occasional 3-4.

When the team switched to that for-



Senior linebacker Darryl Reddick stares down a teammate during practice Wednesday afternoon. Reddick switched to linebacker this season and has two sacks and leads the team in tackles in two games.

mation full time this year, Reddick figured he would see some action there.

"I knew that I was undersized to be a defensive end in the 3-4, so I was just hoping to find a spot at linebacker that suited me," Reddick said. "I like linebacker a lot

because I played it before ... so I'm pretty familiar with it."

Reddick is one of the teams' two starting outside linebackers and usually lines up over the other team's tight end. His 6 foot, 228-pound frame matches up better

against the other team's big tight ends.

"The outside linebacker spot on the far side really does suit me pretty well because I have to play on the tight end a lot and

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Women's soccer keeps shutout streak

Team has not allowed any goals in last three matches against non-conference foes

Sadye Scott-Hainchek
Staff Reporter

Freshman forward Jessica Wiegert doesn't have an elaborate explanation for her offensive outburst of three goals in the past three games for the women's soccer team.

"I guess I didn't like losing to [University of Nebraska-Omaha], and I just wanted to score some goals so we could win after that game," she said.

Although the Bulldogs began a four game stretch with a 1-0 loss to UNO, they rebounded to win three consecutive shutouts against the University of North Dakota, 2-0, Upper Iowa University, 4-0 and Winona State University, 2-0.

The younger players have helped lead the team to its 5-1 non-conference record and No. 19 overall ranking, a significant improvement on last year's 2-4 mark after six games. Six freshmen have either scored a goal or made an assist, and five of Truman's eight goals came from freshmen.

Senior midfielder Robyn Mortenson said the freshmen made a big difference during the Winona game.

"In the last game, they really stepped it up, and they were definitely contributors to both goals," she said.

Because five of the freshmen play attack-

ing positions, the team's offensive tactics have benefited, head coach Mike Cannon said. He said having five of seven freshmen play attacking positions has been key for the team's offensive tactics.

"The real nice plus has been that added attacking dimension that our freshmen have brought," he said.

Mortenson credited the improved offense to the interplay between team members.

"We've have had a lot of good combinations between forwards and midfielders and even starting from our defense," she said.

The defense saw some changes when sophomore goalkeeper Emily Roark stepped in against UNO.

In the first half of that game, senior goalkeeper Lauren Davis suffered a concussion after a UNO player's leg hit Davis in the head.

"Teams typically like to take care of their keeper, and we like to protect her as much as possible, so it was really frustrating that we let someone get through and get a hit on her," Roark said. "So it kind of rallied us, and we kind of went out with a little bit of attitude like 'you can't just walk all over us.'"

Cannon said that although Roark gave up the deciding goal in that game, she made several good saves and excelled in Davis' absence. Roark credited her teammates, es-

pecially the defense, with helping her.

"I love to contribute all that I can," she said. "It's been awesome to step up and to get those shutouts, but it's definitely a team thing."

Roark, who started one game last year and appeared in six, said she was excited when she realized she was en route to her first shutout, against North Dakota.

"I didn't really realize it until it was getting close to the end of the half, and I was like, 'Oh yeah, they haven't scored, so that's my first shutout,'" she said.

Davis, who has recovered from the concussion, came back in the second half of Sunday's game to record the shutout and win.

With her return, the Bulldogs are back at full strength to begin playing only conference foes. Sunday's game ended nonconference play for the 'Dogs.

Wiegert said finishing those games, especially with wins, is a relief.

"It's good to get some of those games out of the way before our conference games and be confident," she said.

Cannon said the team has adjusted to one other and begun to gel. He said he would now like to see the team tighten its defense even further, he said.

"I'm looking at if we want to be a great team, we need to improve in that area and not stay the same," he said.

"We kind of went out with a little bit of attitude like 'you can't just walk all over us.'"

Emily Roark
Sophomore
Goalkeeper



Freshman forward Jessica Wiegert steals the ball from a Winona State (Minn.) defender during Sunday's match. The 'Dogs beat the Warriors 2-0.

Chris Tharp/Index